# The Magazine of Milton of Campsie Parish Church

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Christmas 2023



The Church of Scotland

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# Glance from the manse

Ouch! That was a sore one. Early in September, I badly misjudged a jump on a mountain bike trail in Perth. I sustained a "complex fracture" of the clavicle, bashed ribs and a cut hand. My helmet was smashed. It could have been a lot worse! (Yes, the bike was okay...)

Needless to say, I was very grateful to the fellow biker who stopped to help, the paramedics who attended and my sister, Jenni, for accompanying me to Ninewells Hospital and then driving me home. Thank God for the NHS. Light in darkness.

Immediately a whole host of folks stepped up to the mark to help in very practical ways - driving the kids to their various activities, taking me to appointments, helping me get dressed, bringing chocolate. It was amazing. Thank God for friends and family. Light in darkness.

Sunday services were covered by a variety of folks some who are well used to conducting worship, and others who had their first taste of doing so. Each one did a great job and I enjoyed being in the congregation and, at times, watching online. Light in darkness.

To be honest, the time passed quickly, and before long, I was back to driving, working, swimming ... mind you, at the point I'm writing, I've yet to get back on that bike!



Yet in your dark streets
shining
is everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all
the years
are met in you tonight.

We all walk through times where we might feel that the world is crashing in, or we feel helpless, or despairing. Those valleys might be temporary but, often, the darkness can linger. Grief doesn't "just go away", concerns about health or work or loved can consume us for months...years.

As we see the ravages of war in the Middle East, in Ukraine, in Russia, in Afghanistan, in Myanmar and so many other places ... where is the everlasting light?

As we read of nations devastated by the effects of climate injustice, of natural disaster, of extreme poverty ... where is the everlasting light?

As we pray for those who watch and wait and weep ... where is the everlasting light?

As we witness the ridiculous extravagances of Christmas ... where is the everlasting light?

Christ came. Is with us. In our darkness, He will always shine. May you discover, this Christmas, that all your hopes AND fears, can be taken to Jesus. That He will meet with you. Jesus weeps with those who are weeping. He stands for justice. He is the Prince of Peace.

O come to us, abide with us, our Lord, Emmanuel





### JIGSAW

We have a great enthusiastic bunch of kids coming along to JIGSAW each week where we have lots of fun. We begin in church taking part in the service and leave after family time to head through to another part of the church centre where we continue to learn more of the story we have heard from Julie, doing some crafts, games and quite often there is cake! We are just about to start preparing for our Nativity which will be on the 24th of December - exciting times!

There is always room for youngsters to join with us each Sunday in one of our various groups, Bridge 2-4 years, Jigsaw 4-9 years, we would love to see you! Join us in church at 11 am or contact me (Rhona) on 07950763536 for more information.

We have welcomed a number of new faces this

year, both young people and some new



## **EPIC AND CROSSOVER**

Every Sunday, our P6, 7 and secondary school pupils meet in the Church centre to join in the first part of the service before moving next door to explore the Bible story in more detail.

leaders and it's always a lively discussion as we unpack the Bible story and hear more from our young people. We're experimenting with mixing up the group, helping our newbies and long serving crew to learn from each other as well as supporting young leaders in training. A fantastic position to be in.

We're also exploring a Bible study session for our older teenagers and taking a more in depth look at some of the passages we've been looking at this year. OSS OVER

As we approach this season of Advent, we're praying for those who are looking ahead to prelim exams at school as well as for those getting used





to university life. We're also gearing up to support this year's Nativity and putting our musical and theatrical gifts on show! All welcome, and if you'd like any more information, please reach out to Gillian Murphy (07854 160 757) or Jen Love on (07923 621 223).

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Campsie Boys' Brigade Company

The organisation's work is based on a vision that children and young people experience "life to the full." (John 10:10).



Our prayer and hope is that children and young people experience life to the full through coming to know Jesus for themselves.

Since the start of the session in September the Anchor section have been doing lots of crafts while the Junior section have been learning about the jungle.

Examples of both sections' craft work can be found on the Boys Brigade notice board located in the Elizabeth Elliot.

Both sections have been working on "fit body and fit mind" by doing lots of fun exercises as well as having lots of fun playing games.

The group, meets at Milton of Campsie Parish Church, Locheil Drive, Milton of Campsie, on Friday Evenings 6.15pm and offers activities for

Anchor Section 5 – 8 years olds (P1 – P3) Junior Section 8 – 11 (P4 – P6)

If you're interested in learning more about 2nd Campsie Boys' Brigade, you can contact us by emailing

2campsie@boys-brigade.org.uk

The officers, staff and members wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Lt Jackie Scott Lt Hazel Millar Lt Yvonne Wallace



#### MISSION WORKGROUP

On Sunday 3rd of December there is a GoMad Xtra - 'Mangerama', 4-6 pm, age groups P1-P7. There will be the usual games, puzzle, craft, singing and even Hot Dogs (or an alternative) as a snack!. You can register online or simply come along on the day, we would love to see you there.

Cafe connect is held on a Tuesday morning 9.30 am to 12 noon, come along and enjoy some lovely freshly baked scones, tea, coffee and chat! There is a space for children to play as well as a designated area for folks who would like to work, everyone welcome!

### PASTORAL CARE

The Pastoral Care Christmas Party will be held on Sunday 10th December at 2.30pm. The entertainment will once again be provided by Kilsyth Harmony, whose bright & cheery music will set the tone for a happy afternoon together. Those requiring transport are asked to contact Christine on 319 861.

#### EDUCATION

The Youth Groups meet every Sunday during the Church service and BB meet on Friday. All have healthy numbers.

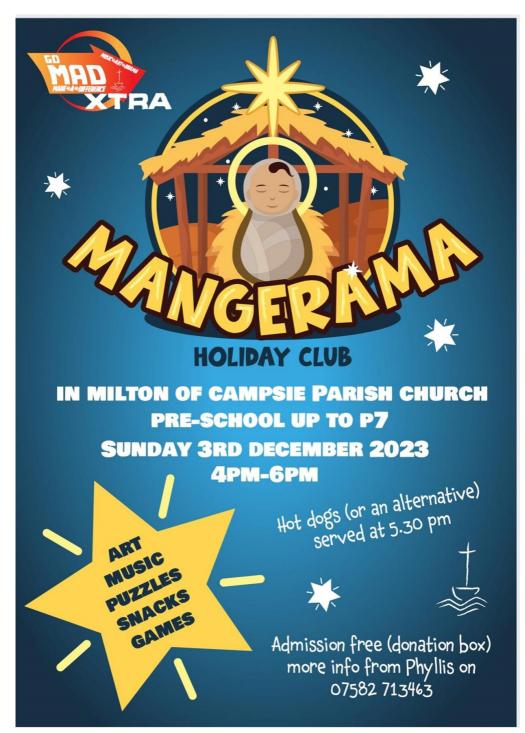
House Groups and TIF(Taking it Further) meet in Church Complex and are mentioned elsewhere.

The Baby and Toddler Group meets on Monday morning from 9.45-11.30am. Some of the children and adults have visited Birdston Care Home where the elderly enjoyed seeing them.

There is a "Fish and Film " night on Wednesday 29th November at 6pm showing "Harriet", enslaved, escaped and helped others to freedom. Numbers are limited and tickets cost £6.30.

Stories around the Christmas Tree will be in David Livingstone from 3.15 to 4pm on Monday 11th December. This allows adults to bring children straight from school to enjoy games, music and a snack. There may also be an opportunity to hear more stories on Facebook or You Tube.







## HOBBIES CLUB

We meet every Monday afternoon 2-4pm in the Stirling Hall.



If you live at the 'Redmoss Rd'. end of the village, walking all the way may be a bit far, but the x85 Campsie Glen bus is at the Redmoss Rd. bus stop at approximately 13.55 which will get to the Village Cross at about 13.59 just along from the Hall so instead of sitting at home alone we would like you to join us. Bring a craft if you have one; we can help you learn, or just come for a chat with friendly folk

Tea and Coffee £1 with biscuits!!

## THE GUILD

The 6th December meeting at 7.30pm is a talk by Joan Darling on her trip to the Baltic, which should be most interesting.



The Guild Christmas Evening is on 13th December, at 2.00pm. This will be the last meeting of the year, and meetings will resume on the 17th January with a talk about Glasgow's bridges.



On 29 October, we said "Welcome back" to Julie on a phased return after a seven week absence. During that time, our "pulpit" was "covered" by an assortment of worship leaders – Elaine from the Scottish Bible Society, Stuart from Ruchill/Maryhill Church, and the final two by "oor ain fowk".

Huge thanks to all the folk who were brave enough to do a reflection or a monologue. Let's hope that some of our folk will go forward for training to be certified Worship Leaders.



**TIF** (**Taking it Further**) meets on the first Sunday of every month from 12.45 till 1.45 pm. It's an opportunity to look back at our services of the previous month. At our November TIF, we praised the efforts of all the Worship Leaders and also praised God for the return of Julie, her splendid reflections and her guitar! We are SO spoiled!

### REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

This is a simple idea! Start the **Reverse Advent Calendar** at the beginning of Advent.

Find a basket or a box and every day leading up to Christmas, add something useful (tinned food, toiletries, sweets, cleaning stuff... whatever you think would be welcome). Note that these won't be available until after Christmas, so don't add "Christmassy" things

Then a few days before Christmas donate the entire basket and contents



to your local Foodbank - or, bring it to church on Christmas Eve (the morning service).

Foodbank Warehouse, 19 Donaldson Cres, G66 1 XF,

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 11am to 4pm

If you would like your box collected and taken to the

Foodbank please contact Margaret Burton (07786 476073)



Merry Christmas!

### A PSALM FOR THE CARE OF CREATION TODAY

Inspired by the Bible Study 'Operation Noah', this piece was written from the view of God, giving us direction in this changing world. Written in the style of a psalm.

Unlock your mind and absorb what is happening in the world around you, look in your back yard, look in your national news, look at your neighbouring countries.

Seek out learning, adapt your mind, gain understanding of how the world is changing, look for every bit of information to expand your mind.

Honor my creation, let me direct your path, become a great caretaker of this planet, become a champion of all nature.

Feel the pain of the lady whose whole village is burned to the ground by wildfires, feel the desperation of the man whose fishing business is lost as the seas are filled with poison, feel the loss of the child whose school has been washed away by a flood.

Use the strength of those emotions to develop passion, a passion for caring, a passion for improving, a passion for change.

Don't just sit there, get up, do something. Let that passion drive you to action.

Pray for inspiration and solutions, wake up with a head full of ideas, throw open your front door with enthusiasm, flip up your laptops ready to target the leaders and changers.

Use your talents, use your skills, work together with other Christians, there is always strength in numbers.

Never forget who created this world, strive for good change every day, never give up.

Do this to honour me and my creation.

Claire Mould, Eco Group



# Fr Jeremy Bath.

'Christmas is a special time for the world to celebrate the birth of a very special baby in Bethlehem...

As we all think and pray for the Palestinian and Israeli families at this traumatic time we seek a recognition that the birth of a baby is a sign of hope for all peoples.

We share a collective will and belief that the Prince of Peace, Jesus of Nazareth be seen as the love of God made manifest.. God bless all our church communities in our collective will to relieve suffering and afford hope through the Gospel message.

Christmas Eve, Sunday 24 December.

Vigil Mass for Christmas St Paul's -5pm

St Machan's-7pm

Masses for Christmas Day: Monday 25 December.

St Paul's - 9.00 a.m.

St Machan's - 10.30 a.m.

(10.00pm Christmas Eve, St Dominic's, Torrance.)

# The Church Eco Group Rehoming Project

The rehoming project has been running for about 5 years, transporting unwanted but still useable household items, clothing, shoes, books and toys from those of us who don't need them any more to new homes where they are very much needed and appreciated. We are busier than ever.

The items are distributed through EDC social work or The Pantry, a community shop in Ruchazie. If you want to donate anything contact Ann on: 07952 838 860 and we will arrange a pick up time that suits you.

Saving so many things from landfill, protecting God's world, helping so many people facing tough times, it's a win win, thank you!





Games! Singing! Quizzes! Puzzles! Bible Stories! Fun! It has been super to welcome so many P5-7 pupils at the SU group in Craighead Primary on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

This term we've been looking at houses Jesus visited and the There are about 40 pupils week by weekpeople whose lives were changed as a result.

We're really enjoying using the Get Reall



# STORIES AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE

MEET WITH SANTA FOR SOME GAMES, JUICE AND FUN. SANTA WILL BE READING A STORY, TOO.

3.15PM ON MONDAY 11TH DECEMBER

MILTON OF CAMPSIE PARISH CHURCH LOCHIEL DRIVE

**WATCH SANTA** Read a Story each day TARTS MONDAY 18TH DECEMBER TUNE IN TO MOC PARISH CHURCH **YOUTUBE CHANNEL** 



We send
Christmas
greetings to all
our friends
(residents & staff)
at KLB (Kintyre,
Lillyburn &
Birdston).

On the third Sunday of every month, they make us welcome, and we enjoy singing

hymns and choruses, reading scripture and praying together.

## FATHER'S SONG GROUP.

Some of you will get this magazine after the event, in which case - sorry!

7.00 p.m. Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November. Father's Song is a group of over 30 men from a number of different churches in and around Glasgow. They are singing for us on Saturday 25th November at 7.00 p.m. in the main Church Complex. There is no charge, but donations can be made towards the work of mission and outreach amongst the young people of our community (primarily through SU camp and GoMAD so please do support generously). There will be light refreshments afterwards.



'Way back in August, the GoMAD CONCERT raised £1000 which was divided among 4 charities:

Christian Aid – Scottish Bible Society – Breast Cancer Now – Strathcarron Hospice

Well done all!





# TIME TO PRAY

**EVERY WEDNESDAY** 7.00-7.40PM IN THE ERIC LIDDELL CAFE

We'd love to see you on a Wednesday evening for Time to Pray. It is a very informal gathering where we use printed prayers and are helped to pray for local, national and international situations. Some people come every week; others when they can. Sometimes people need to leave early (to go to the Guild or Fellowship); other times, people arrive late. The key thing is that they come! Why don't you?

If you would like prayer for a situation, then let Julie know. 07825 001898 or JMoody@churchofscotland.org.uk



Last before Christmas, 12<sup>th</sup> December

> Restarts 9<sup>th</sup> January

Tuesdays 9.30am - noon

All welcome

Warm drink, scone, blether!

Toys & Juice for children.

Work space.

Free Wi-fi.

No charge - just donation!





A SHORT REFLECTIVE SERVICE, FOLLOWED BY TEA & COFFEE, FOR ALL THOSE WHO HAVE KNOWN GRIEF, PAIN, DISAPPOINTMENT AND WORRY IN 2023 - OR AT ANY TIME.

SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER, 5PM, AT THE CHURCH CENTRE.



JESUS SAID, "GOD BLESSES THOSE WHO MOURN, FOR THEY WILL BE COMFORTED."





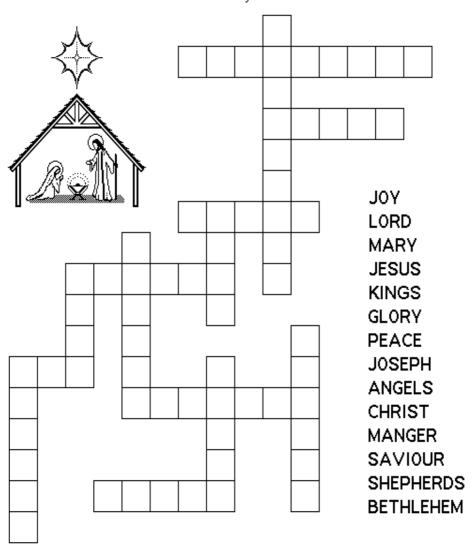
The November **House Groups** met in the Josiah Spiers on three different occasions. The theme was 'Arise shine for your Light has come'. Light gets mentioned a lot in the Bible. You don't need to be at a House Group to think about The Light of the World, the One whose birth we are about to celebrate. And of course Holman Hunt's famous painting reminds us that the Light of the World is knocking on YOUR door. The latch, however, is within you.





# Christmas Crossword

Make all the words fit into this crossword. Each word is only used once.



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# When Jesus Was Born

# A Christmas Word Search Puzzle

SSCASGN JIM B HQKARTEHHKU IRBAGRT DBT I E O H N E G M L NGOLD I H N Y B A SOCEK Y T T MLGNL H O L Y ENAFTBJDHPE SW V D 0 C N S RTHDAYSMYRRHZ



Miracle
Holy Ghost
Nativity
Herod
Mary
Son of God
Nazareth
Gabriel
Blessed
Joseph

Jesus
Baby
Savior
Bethlehem
Stable
Manger
Swaddling Cloths
Shepherds
Wise Men
Star

Angel
Gold
Frankincense
Myrrh
Birthday
Donkeys
Cows
Sheep
Presents
Christmas



# JOIN WITH US FOR WORSHIP!

COME ALONG ON A SUNDAY MORNING.
THIS IS, BY FAR, THE BEST OPTION



WATCH THE LIVESTREAM ON FACEBOOK: MILTON OF CAMPSIE PARISH CHURCH



CLICK THE LINK ON X (TWITTER): @CAMPSIEOF



YOUNG FOLKS MEET FOR EPIC & CROSSOVER EACH SUNDAY @ 11AM DETAILS ON THE EPIC FACEBOOK PAGE.





CRECHE FOR BABIES AND TODDLERS

# NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!!



dae

COME AND JOIN US!
ALL WELCOME.







# Adapting for growth

Milton of Campsie Parish Church has recently adopted a Unitary Constitution - a more streamlined approach to church governance.

We continue to use the 5
Marks of Mission to
structure our outreach and
discipleship, with 'All for
Jesus' as the benchmark
against which all of our
activities are measured.

As we enter 2024, there will be conversations, facilitated by Presbytery, with our friends at Campsie Parish Church. The retirement of the Rev. Dr. Jane Denniston at the beginning of October means we will be moving towards uniting the congregations.

This will be a prayerful and considered journey. We want to get it right!
Want more information?
Have questions? Send an email to sct.mocpc@gmail.com



# DAILY VERSES ON FACEBOOK AND X/TWITTER

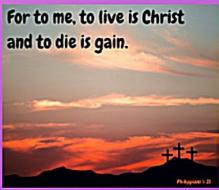
Look for more: @MiltonofCampsieParishChurch / @CampsieOf



This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world.











BECAUSE OF JESUS.

Providing a focus on God's word day by day



## ECO GROUP

# 'How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given.'

...the words from 'O Little Town of Bethlehem'. God's gift of creation, of this world, is given silently. No big fan fair. We are born into God's Creation but don't necessarily notice the gift that is all around us, that is sustaining us, that is supporting us as we grow and learn. It's silently there, around us all the time, just waiting for us to notice. We have such busy lives, rushing from place to place, getting stuff done, concentrating on work, or family, or ourself. Bosses demand deadlines are met, families demand your attention, social media encourages us to focus on our own needs at all times but this planet, our world, the nature around us, is silently waiting for us to notice it, to care for it, to love it. In the silent moments of the day, stop, and look, and think. Use all your senses, feel the air against your skin or the leaves between your fingers, smell the blossom and the mud. Listen to the birds chirping or the rustle of leaves. Taste the fresh seasonal fruits and vegetables. Really see your surroundings, from the Campsies towering over us to the water flowing along the Glazert. God has given us the most wonderful gift. And he does not just save it up for Christmas, he gives it to us everyday, silently, without expectation, without looking for thanks, without any fuss.

So when you are writing thank-you cards this January stop and think in those silent moments, what would you write in a thank-you card to God for the gift of this planet? Should it be a one off thank-you card or a daily prayer of thanks? "how silently the wonderous Gift is giv'n"

**Eco Group Update** During October we hosted a successful bible study about understanding God's creation and how we should look after it. This has inspired many ideas which we hope to bring to fruition over the coming year. One of those ideas is to do more campaigning and challenging those in decision making roles to focus on the environment and how to help it. We are hoping to have a great programme of events in the coming year so look out for information.



# COP28 begins on 1 December.

"At COP21 in 2015, the world agreed to limit global warming to 1.5°C compared to pre-industrial levels by 2050. To remain on target, science

tells us that emissions must be halved by 2030. We only have another seven years to meet that goal. COP28 UAE is a prime opportunity to rethink, reboot, and refocus the climate agenda."

These words were written by the H.E. Dr. Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, President-Designate for COP28 UAE. There have been persistent questions about Al Jaber's suitability for the role as he is chief of UAE's national oil company, Adnoc, the world's 11th largest oil and gas producer. Last year it announced a \$150 billion 'expansion growth strategy'.

Christian Aid writes: "Having an oil baron running the global climate talks is like putting an anti-vax conspiracy theorist in charge of the response to Covid-19. The conflict of interest is obvious and Sultan Al Jaber will have to work hard to prove he's not just using the climate talks to prop up the fossil fuel industry. So far the evidence does not look like he has the best interests of humanity, or even his own people, at heart. After all, it is already baking-hot Gulf countries that face an inhospitable future if we don't tackle climate change."

## so we pray:

We pray for the Church: may we speak and act together as we urgently work towards good stewardship of your creation and your presence in all living things.

We pray for the world; the interdependence of all living things; the beauty and flourishing of the planet plundered and misused for generations by human activity; may we all, through our actions,

help repair the harm we have caused.

We pray for the peoples already facing droughts, floods and storms: that God may grant them strength and hope for the future as they work to adapt to the changing climate.

We pray for our parish and our local community: that through the grace of God we may examine our environmental impact and make choices for the common good.

Lord, in your mercy.... Hear our prayer.

# **Pray for the Middle East**

## Lord, hear us as we pray for peace.

We pray that this crisis will end now, without further loss of life.

We pray for the injured, the suffering and for those who mourn their

loved ones.

We pray for all people who have been displaced, those who have lost their homes and have nowhere safe to go.

We pray for all those in danger at this moment.

We pray for the powerful, the decision-makers, who can choose to act for peace.

May they follow the paths of justice, mercy and compassion.

We pray for recognition of the value of human life

# Lord, hear us as we pray for peace.

We remember that we are all made in the image of God.

# Lord, hear us as we pray for peace.

We pray for those who are most vulnerable.

We remember your call, Lord, to help the bereaved, the stranger, the orphan.

We pray for medical staff and humanitarian workers who continue to serve others, even when they are themselves deeply affected by this conflict.



We pray especially for children caught up in the violence, that they may know safety.

God of peace and justice, hear our prayers. Amen.

Pray not for Arab or Jew, for Palestinian or Israeli, but pray rather for ourselves, that we might not divide them in our prayers but keep them both together in our hearts.

When races fight Peace be amongst us
When neighbours argue Peace be amongst us
When nations disagree Peace be amongst us
Where people struggle for justice Let justice prevail
Where Christ's disciples follow Let peace be our way

Amen.

"I feel like I'm in a movie. I'm part of the cast. It's a bad, bizarre film. And I have no idea - because I haven't heard from any source - what's with my son."



Just two of the 71 boxes that have been filled for Operation Christmas Child. Thank you everyone! Your box is now on its way to bring joy to a child this Christmas.

We seem to have been on a spree of non-stop fundraising....and each time our congregation comes up trumps. Thank you!

Christian Aid Turkey/Syria Emergency - £866

Christian Aid Week (collection & steps) – over £5000 Christian Aid Morocco & Libya Emergency - £620 Christian Aid Harvest Appeal - £855 Christian Aid Middle East Emergency - £907.32

**Well done Phyllis Strachan** who, during the month of September, raised well over £1000 for the Trussell Trust (Food Banks).





# Justice & Peace

The group would like to thank all who donated to the Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoebox Appeal. To date we have collected over 60 shoeboxes and many extras.

Our next project is the card writing exercise called Write for Rights, <a href="https://www.amnesty.org/en/get-involved/write-for-rights">www.amnesty.org/en/get-involved/write-for-rights</a>

Amnesty International's Write for Rights campaign transforms the lives of people whose rights have been wronged.

Write for Rights supporters are united by their desire to make a difference. In recent years, a real change has been seen in people's lives because of this action. From Zimbabwe to Guatemala, activists have been released and justice delivered.

This year's campaign features people from around the world, all connected because their human rights have been violated. Some by their governments, others by the police, or by big corporations. All because of who they are and what they do.

If you'd like to be involved in this, please contact Jean McDonald (01360 311341).

**HUGE THANKS** from Strathcarron Singers who loved visiting MoCPC (especially the delicious home-baking). Their efforts raised £807 + Gift Aid for Strathcarron Hospice.





Remember this painting by 15<sup>th</sup> century Russian painter, Andrei Rublev? He's pointing out that Abraham's three visitors were indeed God Himself, Father, Son & Holy Spirit. As the Celtic Rune of Hospitality puts it:

I saw a stranger yestreen.
I put food in the eating place,
drink in the drinking place,
music in the listening place,
and in the sacred name of the Triune
He blessed myself and my house,
my cattle and my dear ones,
and the lark said in her song
often, often, often,
goes Christ in the stranger's guise.







Talking of "putting food in the eating place" (bottom of p 25), we applaud **Gail and Bert Main** who are in Malawi with the charity Mary's Meals. So far no photos but here's a prayer:

Our Father,

give us this day our daily bread and forgive us for the times when we take more than our share of the

bread that belongs to all. Let us help You fill the starving with good things, not with scraps from our table. Teach us how to share what is not ours to keep.

Clothe us with Your love that we may complete each good work you created us to do. Place in our hearts Your compassion for each starving child and use our little acts of love so that they starve no more. Amen.



By the time this Messenger comes through your letterbox, MANGERAMA may already have happened (on 3 December - see p 6).

The next GoMAD Xtra will be on Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> February 2024 from 1.00 till 3.00 pm.

What shall we call it? Well .... It's just 11 days after Valentine's Day so LOVEARAMA might be appropriate; or, since Lent also begins on 14 February .... How about LENTARAMA?

Whatever it's called, be assured that the children will turn up in great numbers and with tremendous enthusiasm for the music, art and drama that they enjoy so much. We thank God for them. And thank God also for the volunteers who lead these gatherings so faithfully. We call them the "Home Team". They handle all the registration, welcoming tuck & pre-schoolers while our own young folk work very hard on music, art, drama & games, not to mention being great role-models for the kids. They are Jocelyn, Naomi, Isla, Kate, Anton, Ewan, Andrew & Rowan. What a Team!

# Free Bus Travel

Jo puple seeting mythin

A multi-faith partnership charity backed by the Church has welcomed a decision to extend the free bus pass scheme to asylum seekers.

Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees said the policy would have a "transformational" impact on people waiting for their claims to be heard during which time they are forbidden to work and forced to survive on as little as £9.50 a week. A day ticket for bus travel can cost £5.

Please continue to pray for the **Prokhyra** family, Rostislav & Olena (pictured here) and their four children (Katerina, Slavic, Anton and Maksym) as they spend a second Christmas with us. Remember their family & friends back in Ternopil; and pray too for an end to the Ukraine/Russia war:



# Living God,

Creator and giver of life to all people:

We ask that you would hear our prayer for peace amongst the nations and for the ending of conflict in Ukraine.

# Living God,

Who shall judge between the nations: We ask that that you would lead the nations in the paths of peace And that the dividing wall of hostility would be broken down.

## Living God,

Who has inspired faith across the ages: Grant peace in the midst of war,

And bring harmony to the commonwealth of nations.

In your mercy, hear our prayer.





# Facebook: Milton of Campsie Parish Church YouTube: MOC Parish Church



# Milton of Campsie Parish Church Services for Advent and Christmas

You are invited to celebrate Christmas with us, in person, by phone or online.

1st Sunday in Advent	3 <sup>rd</sup> December 11am	Family Gift Service (ASDA & Farrmfoods vouchers, please)
	3 <sup>rd</sup> December 4-6pm	GoMad Xtra Mangerama
2nd Sunday in Advent	10 <sup>th</sup> December 11am 15 <sup>th</sup> December 6.30-7.30pm	Morning Worship Youth Christmas Celebration
3rd Sunday in Advent	17 <sup>th</sup> December 11am 17 <sup>th</sup> December 55,30pm	Morning Worship When Christmas Hurts
	22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2.30pm	Community Carol Singing at the cross
4th Sunday in Advent	24 <sup>th</sup> December 11am	Family Nativity Service
Christmas Eve	24th December 11.15pm	Watch Night Service
Christmas Day	25th December 11am	Bring one of your presents
Hogmanay	31st December 11am	Morning Worship





#### ECD GROUP

How do you look after your most precious possession?

If you had saved up all your hard-earned money and bought the latest, top end, best on the market Ferrari Car, how would you look after it? You would take the best care of it. You would store it in the finest of garages that was clear of clutter. You would wash it and polish it with the best of polishes. You would fill it up with the top end expensive fuel. It would be your 'pride and joy' and everyone would know it.

But we already have the most precious possession. God gave us the Earth. It gives us life, it sustains us, its our home. So why don't we treat it as our 'pride and joy'? Why don't we do everything in our power to look after it? Does the greatest gift not deserve our best love, care and attention?

#### CHRISTMAS VOLICHER APPEAL

If you would like to provide a small gift or Christmas meal to a local family in need, please consider buying an ASDA or Farmfoods Voucher and bring it to our Family Gift Service, or pop it in the church mail box, Lochiel



Drive. Or call Ann on: 07952 838 860 for collection.

The vouchers will be delivered to social work for distribution. Thank you for helping to make a difference this Christmas.



Merry Christmas, and thank you.







