

St. Columba's Congregational Magazine



Summer 2017

**St Columba's Parish Church
Old Aisle Road
Kirkintilloch
G66 3HQ**

Minister: Vacancy

The Church Office is staffed from 09.00 to 12.00
during school terms.

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Dear Friends, "What an Adventure"



I write these words knowing that this is my last letter to you due to the imminent induction of a new minister to the church; in fact you may be reading these words after his induction. It has been a difficult waiting time but I know that God has been there leading us and confirming his will for our future worship.

As I look back on my fourteen months here I rejoice as I recall how God has proved himself to us. We have had an adventure with Jesus, and what an adventure; we have laughed together, we have cried together, we have opened God's word together and we have lifted Jesus high and he has drawn many to himself.

Someone said to me recently that I am not the person that I was when I first came, maybe that is true, but can I bounce that back to you the church members reading this. What about you, are you the same as you were fourteen months ago?

Probably yes and no is the answer to that question. Yes, we have been on this adventure together and we have changed as some have matured and deepened their relationship with God.

Others have found the adventure too hard and have found themselves elsewhere, while others have come and joined us in the adventure and of course we have said a sad goodbye to many faithful members.

There are so many of you that I would like to thank but I don't have the space. So, to all who have been with us on the adventure thank you. Thank you for the warm welcome which was given to Ann and I when we first came through the front door. Thank you for your prayerful support, thank you to the members who have been very encouraging and supportive to me. Thank you for putting up with my preaching, my sometimes warped sense of humour, but also helping to make sure that everyone has shared together.

For me this is all the proof I have needed that God has been hard at work in the background with our church family. Thank you too for the many kind words given to Ann and I, we will always remember you all, and hope we might meet some time in the future.

Well done fellow adventurers, praise the Lord for the way he has led us and transformed us to be more like Jesus. I pray that as we part now, that he will continue to do that same hard work for you all as well as for Ann and I by making each of us more like Jesus.

Love & Blessings to you all,

Stuart

Vacancy Update

On the 12th March Dr. Philip Wright preached as Sole Nominee. After the service, the congregation voted 100% to ask Philip to be our new Minister. We are all delighted that Philip has accepted this and are very much looking forward to Philip, Gill and their family joining us at St Columba's.

As yet we have no date for Phillip's induction and ordination as there are still some matters to be sorted out at Presbytery. We will let you know through announcements at the various services in the church and also via the website when the induction will be.

Work at the manse is making steady progress and is due to be completed in around 4 weeks.

Please continue to pray for all who are helping to keep everything at St Columba's running while we wait for our new Minister to join us. We also pray for Philip and Gill as they eagerly await their new charge.

Anne Inglis,
Session Clerk.

The Church Family



Deaths

The Church Family acknowledges the following deaths:-

Margaret Warner.

Roger Copper, an Elder of St Columba's.

Our thoughts and prayers are with their families.

Thank You

Margaret and Edward Rogerson would like to say a big thank you for all the lovely cards and good wishes received on the occasion of their Golden Wedding. Also thank you to the ladies of The Guild for the beautiful flowers.

The Pastoral Team

Our role is to let the congregation know that their church family cares about each of them. We do this by sending a card, arranging a visit, or by just making a telephone call. However, we can only do this if you let us know when and where there is a need. So please, if you know of anyone who is ill or is having a difficult time please contact me or the church office. We do not need to know details and we respect people's wish for privacy, but it is amazing how uplifting it can be to know that your church family are thinking of you.

Pat Muir (776 5692)

Used Stamps

All used stamps will again be going to the Church of Scotland "World Mission Stamp Project" which is based in Wishaw. Please put your stamp donations into the large box in the church vestibule. Please leave about one centimetre of paper around the stamp when you remove it from its envelope. The support of the congregation has continued to be very generous as we continue to support the work of the World Mission Project. Many thanks to all who have contributed.

Craft Group

We are finishing up for the summer with an outing on the Canal Barge - Craft Daft on a Raft, where we will decorate some object under the tuition of Christine the Captain and hopefully find a use for it when we take it home. Creativity on one's own is limiting; in a group it's inspiring. We will start up again on Monday, 25 September at 1.30 pm in the upstairs lounge.

Margaret Rogerson

Oasis

May saw our final Oasis of the season and the staff have as always appreciated the loyal support of all their customers. This has meant that we will again be able to donate a goodly sum towards the Manse Renovation Fund.

Ian and Marilyn Gibb.

Friendship Club

Recently the young people have been learning about Moses and the Ten Commandments as can be seen from our visual aid display on the story wall in the small hall. Two girls and one of our staff members also enjoyed a weekend residential stay at Tulliallan as part of Prospects' Celebration with groups from all over Scotland. It is always a busy but fun time sharing the Christian message through drama, dance, music, games and craftwork.

We are all looking forward to our final meeting of the session with an evening sail along the canal with The Seagull Trust and, of course, our fish suppers.

Please Note: The Friendship Club meeting at the end of May is going to be an Open Night for parents, friends and supporters of the group.

Marilyn Gibb

THE GUILD

We finished the session with our AGM and a lovely programme of the music and memories of Rhona Hughes who sang in Scottish ballrooms and theatres.

We look forward to recommencing on Tuesday, 19 September and meeting up again with all our friends after the summer break. A warm invitation is extended to all the ladies in the congregation to join us. Socialising is so beneficial in a caring group.

A date for your diary!

Lenzie Union Guild will be screening the National Gathering on Saturday, 2 September in the New Hall, Moncrieff Avenue. This starts at 10.30am, coffee being served at 10.00am.

Those attending can stay for the morning only, or bring a packed lunch and enjoy the day. A warm invitation is extended from our friends in Lenzie Guild to come along.

Margaret Rogerson

Men's Club

Summer approaches and all the games equipment is tidied away till October.

The end part of our session always entails our competition finals and they were keenly contested.

Ian Gibb and Ronnie McLeod slugged out an intense table tennis final with Ian winning out in the end. The pool and darts finals were between Iain Muir and Allan Hogg with Iain winning at darts and Allan at pool. Iain had a busy night as he played Bill Fowler in the bowls final. After a close start Iain ran out a comfortable winner. In snooker Brian Ashcroft edged out Drew Watson, Drew again losing in the darts final to Frank Bowers.

Our final speaker was Don Martin who gave an interesting talk on the history of the Edinburgh to Glasgow Railway which included a diversion into the history of some of the railway villas in Garngaber Avenue, Lenzie.

We concluded our session with our annual dinner at Kirkintilloch Golf Club.

Following our AGM, we were able to donate £800 towards the manse renovation fund.

Next season starts on Monday 2nd October and we would be delighted to welcome new members. So gents put the date in your diary and at least give us a try.

Edward Rogerson.

Keswick Convention

For several years now various St Columba's members have been attending this Convention which has been held annually for more than 140 years. The Convention has now grown from a small gathering on the lawn at a local church to become a global movement for spiritual renewal and growth which now welcomes more than 12000 Christians every year from across the U.K. and beyond. For some time now the size of the Convention has necessitated using two separate sites in Keswick but an ambitious fundraising initiative is currently underway aiming to raise £5million for the purchase and development of some neighbouring land and the hope is to already have some major improvements in place for this summer's Convention.

The Convention takes place over three separate weeks in July beginning on the 15th and people are welcome to attend for as many or as few days as they wish, while at the same time enjoying a short holiday in the beautiful Lake District. Even just driving down to Keswick for the day is quite possible from Kirkintilloch and would certainly be both beneficial and worthwhile.

Keswick is unique among the U.K.'s biggest Christian events in not charging for admission to any of the numerous events ongoing throughout the day but God's people have constantly provided the money that is needed to run the Convention. We commend it to you wholeheartedly.

Ian & Marilyn Gibb.

The Benefits Of Gift Aid.

St Columba's in common with many other churches and charities throughout the land, benefits considerably from the Government's current Gift Aid scheme, in the form of tax rebate from HMRC (Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs)

St. Columba's has for many years, increased its annual financial position with the majority of its members Gift Aiding their regular weekly or monthly contributions through this Gift Aid scheme.

Currently in excess of 90% of the regular congregational givings are Gift Aided.

The principle is simple. Any person who is a UK taxpayer can, by signing a Gift Aid Declaration, make regular or one off contributions to St. Columba's - which means the church benefits by a further 25% of tax rebate from HMRC.

The annual tax rebate obtained by St. Columba's through this Gift Aid scheme is of considerable importance to our financial well being - particularly at this time of church reconstruction work and extensive Manse renovation.

If you are a UK taxpayer as most of us are, and you wish to assist in furthering the work of the church here in St. Columba's please give consideration to joining our Gift Aid scheme.

Gift Aid Declaration forms are available from Janet in the Church Office, any weekday morning. Should you have questions regarding any aspects of Gift Aid, our Gift Aid Convener, Willie Stewart will be happy to help.

Christian Aid Report Spring 2017

The Spring Fair took place in March this year and although the footfall seemed less than usual the event still made £1,820.00 which was down on previous years but better than expected. The Fair last year (2016) had to be postponed until September due to the work being carried out in Kirkintilloch Main Street. This meant that the Treasurer for the Kirkintilloch & Lenzie churches was able to send £4,150.00 to the Christmas Appeal hopefully in time for the Government to match fund. Mainly as a result of the Spring Fair the Treasurer was also able to send £1,925.00 to the East Africa Famine Appeal. This makes all the hard work that goes into organising these events very worthwhile as it helps some of the most disadvantaged people in the world.

After 15 years faithful service as Treasurer to our local group of churches, Lesley is standing down in October 2017. If anyone reading this article feels that they would be able to take on this position please let me know and Lesley would be delighted to explain what the post entails.

Christian Aid Week this year takes place from 14th to 20th May and by the time you are reading this article I will have distributed collection envelopes at St. Columba's and quite probably have also collected them in. I will put a note of the money we raise both in the Intimation Sheet and also the next Newsletter. This will be the last combined fund raising event of the year but you are still able to make donations directly to Christian Aid via their Website (www.christianaid.org.uk) and also through the collecting boxes in the Church vestibule which are available for you to take home.

More information about the work of Christian Aid is available in the quarterly Christian Aid Newsletter a copy of which is in the magazine rack in the Church Vestibule and there is also a list of forthcoming events on the Church Notice Board.

Geraldine Fox.

Letter From The Editor.

When does summer begin for you? Is it when you can first sit in the garden, enjoy a cup of coffee and listen to the birdsong? Or when you plan your summer holiday? Is it that moment when you bring in the washing which has blown in the warm breeze and it smells so fresh and clean?

For me it is memories of that day in childhood when my mum took me to the Clark's shoe shop in Coatbridge to get my summer sandals. I loved the smell of the leather and the lovely 'newness' of them.

They were always bought just in time for the Sunday School 'trip' to Ayr, Troon or North Berwick - and wearing them with a cotton dress or elastic waisted dirndl skirt and blouse I felt like a princess.

Back then of course I never thought of the amount of effort which went into church life. The work which leaders of all the youth organisations put in during the year to make everything happen every week. The planning it required, the committee meetings, the decisions involved, the sheer effort of turning up week after week to ensure children had fun and were learning what really matters in life.

So often we take the important things for granted.

Now as the church year winds down for summer, perhaps it's time to reflect on what so many people have done over the past year to keep life at St Columba's positive and fruitful.

The guidance, wisdom and service of Stuart Bruce, the dedication of the Vacancy Committee, the work of Session Clerk Anne Inglis, the organisational skills of church secretary Janet Brown, the commitment of Church elders and the enthusiasm and service of the leaders of all the organisations have helped to keep our church functioning smoothly.

What's more important - they've done it with a smile! (OK maybe sometimes the odd moan and groan, whinge and whine) - but we're all human aren't we? It's allowed!

It can't have been the easiest of times - but who can forget that Sunday morning when the congregation gathered to hear Dr. Philip Wright preach as Sole Nominee for St Columba's? There was a palpable feeling of joy and peace in the church that morning. The congregation waited with anticipation to hear what he had to say - and they weren't disappointed. Then we all voted - after a wait, the decision was declared and it was unanimous.

As people left there were smiles of relief - the 'new man' had been found and everyone felt happier knowing the page had been turned and life at St. Columba's would go on.

Sometimes when we're uncertain, overworked, worried about the health of those we love, or experiencing family problems, life seems dark and anxious. But if we trust in God's love and guidance - you know what? The summer sun will shine again.

Whether you're looking forward to a holiday in the UK or travelling abroad or enjoying the peace and the birdsong in your back garden - I hope you have a blessed and relaxing summer and return refreshed to turn a new page in the chapter of St. Columba's story.

Margaret Clayton.



1st Kirkintilloch Company

Anchor Boys

We are now at the end of another successful session. Since the last news letter we have had a busy time. Six of our boys went to the battalion Anchors boy fun day a few weeks ago, which was a visit to the peoples palace and the transport museum on an open top bus. A great day was had by all. The day after that was the battalion parade in this church which was also well attended by our boys.

We have also held our annual parents night, which everyone enjoyed. We had some old favourites on show along with a couple of new games which the boys really enjoy. Awards for the year were presented with the best boy shields this year going as follows.

Primary One - Fraser Swan
Primary Two - Aiden McGill
Primary Three - David Pepler.

The saddest part of the night was saying goodbye to 4 of our boys as they go off to join the juniors and we wish them well and hope they enjoy this next adventure at BBs.

In August we will be taking the boys to Blair Drummond safari park along with the juniors so a fun day will be had by all, we are sure.

Thank you to all the congregation for their help with collecting the Sainsburys active kids vouchers, this years total is standing at over 1700.

After a restful summer we will see the boys back in September. We wish everyone a lovely summer."

Lorna, Margaret, David and Craig.

Junior Section

Yes another session is safely under our belt and hopefully a long hot summer lies ahead of us. By now we have ended with another display finished and a trip to Blair Drummond Safari Park in the planning stages for August. Well I need something to do over the summer.

Our numbers remained steady for the entire session and after some lengthy debates among the staff the following boys came out tops as winners of the four main prizes.

Best 1st year Dillon Faull

Best 2nd year Cameron McNairn

Best 3rd year Liam Ewing

Our other trophy the Endeavour shield is awarded annually to someone who always tries his best but does not quite win the overall prize and this year we are happy to award this to Matthew Ewing who always tries his hardest to achieve. Well done to all the prize winners and for everyone else well done too and there is always next year.

We hope you all have a lovely summer and remember we start back in September so if you know anyone who may be interested in giving the Juniors a try let them know.

ALSO A HUGE THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO COLLECTED THE SAINSBURY VOUCHERS FOR US - NEARLY 2,000 THIS YEAR.

Fraser McCallum.

Company Section

Squad 2 recorded their first win of the session in the Squad Medal competition in January, Squad 1 was back on top in February but Squad 2 triumphed again in March and April. At the end of March the gap between the squads was only 2 points. No one has been told who was in the lead nor the points difference in April so it is still a mystery who the overall winner will be. All will be revealed at our display on 19th May.

Our drill squad finished 6th in the Battalion Drill Competition but we had much more positive outcomes in the PE and Vaulting Competitions where we finished 1st and 2nd respectively. The First Aid competition was won by our team of Jack and Callum S. Well done to everyone who took part in the competitions.

On 7th April, we had an outing to Laser Quest in Kinning Park. Everyone enjoyed the occasion which involves sneaking round a dimly lit room trying to avoid being shot with a laser gun while trying to shoot other people. We rounded off the evening with a trip to McDonalds before depositing the boys back home.

A good number of the Company Section members attended the Battalion Church Parade which was held in St Columba's on Sunday 23 April. The parade assembled in Bedcow View and marched through Oxcgang, attracting a great deal of attention along the way, before arriving at the church where our interim moderator, Sandy Fraser, conducted an excellent service. Thanks to all boys and parents who attended and a special mention for the Colour Party of Mr Hall, Mr Clark, Matthew, David P and Rhys who carried out their duties impeccably.

Matthew, Bradley and Scott all successfully participated in their Queen's Badge Completion course at Carronvale. They have now done all that is required of them and they will receive their badges at the display. Hearty congratulations to all of them.

Our Display will have been held by the time this edition of the newsletter is published so a full list of prize winners will be published in the next edition.

Wishing all our readers a good summer. The Company staff will certainly enjoy their break and will, hopefully, be ready to do it all again from September onwards. If you know of any boys who would like to join the BB Company please let us know or, even better, bring them along any Friday evening. Our 2017-18 session starts on 1st September.

Allan Geekie and George Kidd.

1st Kirkintilloch Company The Boys' Brigade

One of our young officers, Craig Lowe, who works with the Anchor and Company Sections, has been selected to undertake an interesting and perhaps challenging trip later in the year. Here is Craig's initial impression of what he will be doing.

In partnership with the World Mission Fund, Church of Scotland and The Boys' Brigade I will be going to Bangladesh in August 2017. I am going with a young woman called Kalesha from another BB Company.

The aim of our visit is to help the community near where we are being housed by a local Bishop. We are still waiting for more details as to where exactly in Bangladesh we are going and exactly what tasks we will be carrying out. The main objective is to see how the local church is investing money to minimise the effects of climate change. As Bangladesh is a poor country it is more vulnerable to shocks due to adverse weather.

The visit is being funded by the Church of Scotland, for which I am very grateful. Kalesha and I have agreed to try raise some money ourselves for the World Mission Fund and any support would be greatly appreciated. Please keep an eye out for the future updates.

Currently we are in the process of arranging flights and visas for the trip. I will write again with an update as events unfold. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Craig Lowe

FLOWER ROTA

We are grateful to those who donate flowers to beautify the Church Sunday by Sunday and to those who give of their time to deliver them to people in the Congregation who we would wish to assure of our prayers and support.
Thank you all for your part in this two-fold Ministry.

Delivery Rota for the next Four Months

	DONATION	DELIVERY	
June			
11	Coffee Time	Ishbel Thomson	10
18	Mrs R. Powell	Lydia Ramsay	11
25	Mrs M Stewart	Irene Armstrong	12
July			
2	Mrs J Robertson	Janet Brown	1
9	Mr & Mrs E Rogerson	Christine Grant	2
16	Mr & Mrs R McKinlay	Mr & Mrs I Muir	3
23	Mr T Fawcett	Joan Beattie	4
30	Mrs J Connell	Sheena Wright	5
August			
6	Mrs I Kernochan	Moira French	7
13	Sunday Club	Julie Reid	8
20	Mr T Nelson	Glenys Swann	9
27	Mr & Mrs N Bathie	Ishbel Thomson	10
September			
3	Mrs R Innes	Lydia Ramsay	11
10	Mrs I Perry	Irene Armstrong	12

SERVICES

Sunday Worship 10.30

(Creche available)

Senior Friends Service 12.30

(Transport Available)

(Last Sunday of each month)

Midweek Worship: Tuesday 10.00

(In Lounge)

House Group: Monday 19.30

(Fortnightly)

Kirkintilloch: St Columba's Parish Church
"To know Him and make Him known"