

St. Columba's Congregational Magazine



Summer 2017

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

Minister: Rev. Philip Wright

Telephone: 07427 623393
E-mail: pwright@churchofscotland.org.uk

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

Secretary: Miss Janet Brown

Telephone: 0141 578 0016
E-mail: jb99@ntlbusiness.com

Charity No. SC008735

From the Manse

Recently, we had a Youth Service here at St Columba's. We gave thanks to God for the work of The Boys' Brigade, Guides, Friendship Club and Sunday Club over this past year. The children took part in a Lego building project as midway through the service, they went through to the Halls to learn about and then build Lego models of the Bible character Samson – complete with motorised weight-lifting units!

At the same service, we also welcomed three members of a team of 28 young people drawn from churches across Glasgow who are going to Johannesburg from 13th to 23rd July on a building project to help build new homes for families trapped by poverty. (For more details on the trip see www.urbansaints.org/events/545 or Facebook Presbytery of Glasgow - Youth South Africa 2018 Trip).

The Bible describes the church as a building project in progress. The apostle Peter says we are *'like living stones...being built into a spiritual house'* (1 Peter 2:5). Now any building needs to have a firm foundation. Otherwise the building just won't last. As Peter goes on to say, Jesus Christ is the cornerstone and foundation of the church.

We pray for the team going to South Africa. We pray that the houses they build will be of lasting benefit to the families who live in them. Let's pray too that God will build us up as His living stones here at St Columba's. And let's make sure that all we do is built on the only firm foundation there is - Jesus Christ.

***Christ is made the firm foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone,
Chosen of the Lord, and precious,
Binding all the church in one,
Holy Zion's help for ever,
And her confidence alone.***

Your minister and friend,

Philip

Summer Cleaning, Painting and Decorating

There are a number of cleaning, painting and decorating jobs to do around the church building. We are looking for volunteers to help with some of these jobs over five 'work evenings' in July. These will be held from 6pm to 9pm on the Monday evenings of 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th July. There's no need to sign up in advance - please just turn up on any or all of these evening if you're able to help. If you can't make it for 6pm that's fine. Please come when you can and leave when you must!

Singing Group

The Singing Group meets at 7:00pm on Monday 4th and Monday 18th June to learn some new songs to introduce at the Sunday morning service. We are always keen to welcome new members!

Prospects Group for Adults with Learning Disabilities

For a number of years now, we have run a Prospects group for Children with Learning Disabilities here at St Columba's. Prospects is a charitable organisation which develops groups to help people with learning disabilities to hear the good news about Jesus.

We recently met to consider whether we might be able to run a similar group for Adults as there is currently no Prospects group for Adults in Kirkintilloch or Lenzie. Whilst there is certainly interest and there are firm offers of help, more help is needed before we can forward with this venture.

Our hope is to meet once a month on a Wednesday evening. There is much to do including tea making, snack buying, IT help and just being another pair of hands when needed. You will find your faith grow in the company of these happy and enthusiastic people.

If you are interested in helping or finding out more please speak to Pat Muir (776 5692).

There is a further Information Meeting at 7:30pm on Wednesday 20th June. It would be great if you could join us!

The Church Family



Deaths

We are saddened by the death of our longstanding elder, Willie Cuthbert. We extend our sympathy, love and prayers to Willie's family.

With Thanks

For several months I was affected by health issues and have only recently been able to return to worship in St Columba's. Throughout my treatment I had the most incredible support and the care and concern shown by so many was greatly appreciated. There are just so many people that Marilyn and I would like to thank, including all those who repeatedly asked after me, phoned, visited or sent cards. The prayerful support of so many greatly encouraged us. Our thanks also go to the Pastoral Group and to those who delivered the church flowers. A special thank you also to all those who willingly gave of their time to ferry us back and forwards to my treatments. We are blessed indeed to have so many caring friends within the church family.

Ian Gibb

I would like to thank everyone who sent cards and messages during the last year when I have been absent from the church. I also want to say thank you for the church flowers and for the messages of support and prayers received from the Pastoral Team, and from Janette on behalf of the Tuesday Morning Services group. Along with the support from Philip Wright these have all been very encouraging and uplifting.

I was able to attend church recently and it was really nice to be back. I hope to be able to attend more regularly in the future.

Christine Grant

OASIS

Oasis has now completed 9 years of serving light lunches for the community which has enabled us to enjoy fellowship with our customers from various churches who have been very faithful in supporting us. Throughout the years we have been able to use our surplus funds to support St Columba's and our chosen charities.

This has been a difficult year for staffing, however, and unfortunately we are now having to say goodbye to some of our long term helpers whose efforts have all been greatly appreciated. This means we really need some new volunteers, both male and female, which would only involve one Thursday a month, to enable this Christian work to continue after the summer.

Marilyn Gibb

Sunday School

Since the beginning of the term in August the children have been busy learning about Jonah, the Christmas story and Easter. We started by reading the story of Jonah and learning the importance of following God's commands. At the end of each topic we normally create a new storyboard in the large hall to show the congregation what we have been learning, this also helps the children to summarise the story.

We then went on to learn about the birth of Christ at Christmas time and his death at Easter. As leaders we like to place an emphasis on the Easter story considering its importance in God's plan for us. We have planned a storyboard for the Easter story and will complete this in the coming weeks.

Please look out for these storyboards and feel free to quiz the children on the story. The children also thoroughly enjoyed the Lego event earlier in the term where they made a chariot and learned about Joseph and his technicolour dream coat.

We look forward to the next Lego event in the coming weeks.

Scott Inglis

Response

In the last issue of the magazine we asked members of the congregation for contributions about anything they'd read and enjoyed which they might like to share with others.

Quick off the mark was Jim Horne, a former editor of the church magazine whom I worked with some years ago.

At that time he held magazine meetings at his home where we discussed items for the next issue. It was a bit like a newspaper editorial meeting where everyone voices their thoughts and opinions about what they'd like to see in print. The big difference being no delicious cakes, as provided by Jim's wife May, ever featured at any newspaper where I worked!

So this item "The Story of Love" arrived on my computer several weeks ago. The video lasts 18 minutes and is based upon John 3.16 – the story of love.

It has a powerful and moving message. I hope you enjoy it.

Editor

John 3:16 - The Story of Love

"John 3:16 - The Story of Love" tells the story of the close relationship between a bridge operator and his young son and the fateful day when both try to head off an impending rail disaster.

A steam train full of hundreds of passengers are unaware of the danger as they head towards an open drawbridge.

When a desperate young woman witnesses an act of virtue beyond imagination, her life is forever changed. This narration was done at a church conference and its message has spread from America all around the world. If you love what you see, please thumbs up to support us and spread the gospel of love around.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BjSio8jur2Y>

Response : this was followed by a witty email from a well known member of our congregation. I hope it brings a smile to your face.

Subject: Holy email ...

One day God was looking down at earth and saw all of the rascally retirees' behavior that was going on...

So He called His angels and sent one to earth for a time.

When the angel returned, he told God, 'Yes, it is bad on earth; 95% of retirees are misbehaving and only 5% are not.

God thought for a moment and said, 'Maybe I had better send down a second angel to get another opinion.'

So God called another angel and sent her to earth for a time.

When the angel returned, she went to God and said, 'Yes, it's true. The earth is in decline; 95% of retirees are misbehaving, but 5% are being good...'

God was not pleased.

So He decided to e-mail the 5% who were good, because he wanted to encourage them, and give them a little something to help them keep going. Do you know what the e-mail said?

Okay, I was just wondering, because I didn't get one either.

Ian Gibb



1st Kirkintilloch Company

Anchor Boys

The Anchors finished this year with our parents night. Which gave everyone a snap shot of how busy but fun our Fridays can be. Sadly we have said goodbye to 6 of our boys who have moved up to the junior section.

We took 7 of our boys on the battalion fun day. It was a great day out at the transport museum. The highlight was the sun shining allowing us to enjoy the tall ship with out freezing in the process.

We would like to thank everyone for there support over the year.

The Anchors will return on Friday 7 September at 6.15 pm. Any boy in Primary 1 - 3 will be most welcome.

We hope you all have a great summer.

Lorna, Margaret, David, Craig and Lorna

Junior Section

It is hard to believe that another session has come to a close and the last few weeks have been a busy time with the boys finishing off their badge work in time for our parent's night on 18th May.

It was not all-hard work though as the boys joined other Companies from Strathkelvin Battalion on 21st April for a trip to the Transport Museum and Tall Ship. Thankfully it was a good day weather wise, which meant the boys were able to have an outdoor picnic at lunchtime and get up to some high jinks scrubbing the deck of the Tall Ship. (Check out our pictures on Facebook).

Each year we award a shield to the boys in each year group who have shown the most enthusiasm, good behaviour and self-development.

This year we have awarded the shields to:

1st Year Jai Cunningham

2nd Year Dillon Faull

3rd Year Cameron McNairn

Each year we also make another award known as the Endeavour Award, which is given to a boy who has just missed a main award or who has shone in other ways within the Section. This year we have awarded the shield to a boy who has just joined us and due to age went straight into third year. This boy has been a credit to himself and has embraced Junior Section fully in his short time with us. The award went to **Nathan McGhee** and we hope he will move up to Company Section next year.

On the subject of moving up we are sad to lose four boys however our loss will be Company Sections gain. On the bright side we have increased our numbers over the last few weeks with new joiners coming along to see what Juniors are all about and hopefully they will return in September. We are also hoping to welcome the five boys who are due to come up from Anchors

May we wish you all a happy summer and at least one BBQ day before we resume for next session.

**SESSION STARTS BACK ON FRIDAY 7th SEPTEMBER AND
ALL BOYS IN PRIMARY 4-6 WILL BE MADE MOST WELCOME
TO COME ALONG**

Fraser McCallum

O.I.C. Junior Section

Company Section

The last three months have thrown up interesting results in the Squad Competition. In February Squad 2 won a very close contest, Squad 3 fought back in March to regain 1st place but April was a tie between Squads 1 and 3. This means that every Squad has been recorded a win over the course of the session. The overall winner will be announced at our Display on 18th May.

The project to produce new board games concluded successfully with three games designed on paper. As far as we know, no one has attempted to play them yet to see if they are simple enough to use. A job for the young officers, perhaps! We also ran a class in Social Exclusion, which generated a good deal of thought and some interesting discussion.

We finished 4th in the Battalion Drill Competition 3rd in the PT competition and 2nd in the vaulting competition. Well done everyone, boys and officers, who did their best to achieve these results.

The Company Section was represented by a small contingent at the Battalion Church Parade in Cumbernauld Village. A very big thank you to those who made the effort to be there. The small church was almost full to capacity for the very enjoyable short service. Most importantly, the rain held off and we got to the church and back without getting soaked.

Congratulations to Callum S who was a member of the Strathkelvin Battalion junior team at the Scottish Cross-Country Championship. Although he didn't finish among the medals he completed the course and assures us he enjoyed the experience.

Callum W has completed everything that he had to do for his President's Badge, which should be presented at the Display. Well done Callum, we look forward to you gaining your Queen's Badge in a year or two.

By the time you read this our Display will be a distant memory, but a report and all the prize winners will be provided in the next edition of the newsletter.

We hope all the officers and boys have a great summer and return refreshed in September.

We have received a certificate from the BB Scotland Committee to congratulate us for growing our membership this session. Numbers are up in all sections, but we still have room for more. If you know of anyone who would like to join, our 2018-19 session will start on Friday 7th September. Anchors for boys in P1 – P3 meet at 6.15pm, Juniors for boys P4 – P6 meet at 6.45pm and Company and Seniors for Boys P7 – 18 years of age meet at 7.30pm.

Anyone interested in being an officer or helper should contact the Captain or the minister. For more information on the Company visit our web site at www.1kirkintilloch-boys-brigade.btik.com or find us on Facebook.

Allan Geekie



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 marked basket in the church vestibule.

Please leave about one centimetre of paper around the stamp when you remove it from its envelope.

Thank you for your support in this venture.

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)

Men's Club

Our season seemed simply to fly by this year.

Our final speaker was our own Philip Wright who gave us a most interesting talk on his work with lasers at Salisbury Hospital.

Whilst it was fairly technical it gave us a glimpse into the excellent work done behind the scenes with the application of lasers in treatments, especially certain types of cancers. Our competition finals rounded off our season. In the Pool it was a match between our youngest and oldest member with youth triumphing by the narrowest of margins. Philip Wright just edged out Allan Hogg .

Iain Muir had the most success by winning Snooker, Table Tennis and Bowls. John Minelly and Tom Hunter won at Darts and Dominoes respectively.

Allan Hogg was runner up in three competitions. More luck next year Allan !

We rounded off our season with our annual Presentation Dinner at Kirkintilloch Golf Club, a relaxed evening enjoyed by all.

We restart on Monday 1st October at 7.30 when we hope to welcome back Ian Gibb and Ronnie Mc Leod who both missed a large part of the season due to health issues.

We would also be delighted to welcome new members who should come along and enjoy a Monday evening away from the television.

Edward Rogerson

Christian Aid Report Summer 2018

Due to the heavy snowfall at the beginning of March the Christian Aid Fair had to be postponed until Saturday, 21st April this year. This meant that the fundraising for Christian Aid took place in April and May as Christian Aid Week was from 13th to 19th May.

St. Columba's was responsible for the Tea Room at the Fair and many thanks to the people who came along to help on the day and to those who donated baking. The Tea Room was very busy as usual as most of the people attending the Fair come in for their tea/coffee and cakes which are included in the entrance ticket price. The total raised from all the stalls and the tickets was £2,129.67. A cheque for this amount was handed to the Christian Aid Officer who came along to give a talk at the annual service in Hillhead Church on Sunday, 29th April. She thanked the churches in Kirkintilloch and Lenzie for all their support to the charity. Without the support of many churches and individuals the work of Christian Aid with poor and disadvantaged communities throughout the world would not be able to continue. Her talk centred on the book of Ruth from the bible and the fact that famine is nothing new in the world. Naomi and her family had to leave Bethlehem because of severe famine in Judah at that time. Sadly, people are still on the move due to harvests failing, climate change and conflict in different parts of the world.

This year, Christian Aid Week falls within ***Thy Kingdom Come***, an ecumenical global prayer movement throughout the 11 days between Ascension Day and Pentecost. A booklet with an 11-day devotional for Christian Aid Week 2018 is available in the Church vestibule.

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.



50th Anniversary Year of St Columba's Parish Church

On the 16th October 1969, only a few months after humans first set foot on the moon, a Dedication Service marked the opening of St Columba's Parish Church. October 2018 is then the start of our 50th Anniversary Year here at St Columba's.

We plan to hold a 50th Anniversary Service in October 2019. However, it would be good to hold several events during the 50th anniversary year. If you have any good ideas, especially of events that may be of interest to the wider Parish, we'd love to hear about them!

Please do share them with the Minister or your Elder.

The Leprosy Mission

I would like to start this report by thanking everyone who helped at the café which was run at the same time as the Easter Reflection in the Church – the people who helped serve on the Friday evening and Saturday, the bakers who provided delicious home baking and of course everyone who came along and enjoyed a coffee and chat. It was great seeing the Congregation working together and raising the sum of £220.

I'm constantly receiving jars of loose change which people are collecting and this is great, remember every penny counts.

We have recently been able to send a cheque for £350 to the Leprosy Mission which represents all the money received over the past year – thanks for all your efforts in raising this sum.

Finally just to say how pleased we are to see Christine back worshipping with us at Church on Sunday morning following a long period of ill health.

Margaret McCallum

Daily Bible Readings

Aids to a daily schedule of bible readings can be very beneficial and there are several such booklets available. One such publication, which can certainly be recommended, is the interdenominational "Upper Room" which is published in 33 different languages and which features short daily readings and meditations from contributors all around the world. Each issue covers a 4 monthly period.

Sample copies of the May edition, which were placed on the Welcome Table at the back of the church, were soon picked up and, at the time of writing, there is only one left.

The next edition will contain readings from September – December and the intention is to again have copies available on the Welcome Table for people to take home and use. You will find them a very useful aid and the "Upper Room" can be commended to you wholeheartedly.

Ian Gibb

The Guild

As always, we enjoyed our Quiz evening in February, the contents put together by Allan Geekie so willingly each year. A late, heavy snowfall meant we had to cancel our Music and Magic evening in March, so before we knew it, it was time for our AGM. After the business of the evening, it was a pleasure to listen to Stuart Bruce tells us all about his time at Hillington Park Church and of course, we all enjoyed catching up with Ann.

We are all looking forward to the summer months. A fresh syllabus is in the planning and we extend a warm welcome to new members on 18th September.

Margaret Rogerson

Guild Secretary

CRAFT GROUP

The ladies have enjoyed their relaxing Monday afternoons together. Time for a summer break now and thereafter, we will be ready to get together again in September when anyone interested in coming along will be made most welcome.

Margaret Rogerson

Letter From the Editor

Isn't it strange how buzzwords evolve? 'Blue sky thinking' is a phrase, which I suppose has come to mean looking on the bright side of things. After one of the longest, dreariest winters for years, don't we need it?

Thankfully we have finally got flowering gardens, leafy green trees, and some very welcome sunshine.

Some of us have had a difficult winter. Changing circumstances, bereavements, family problems, illness, operations, aching joints, crumbling knees, time spent waiting for hospital appointments.

Not to mention the relentlessly dreary stories on the 24-hour News Channels which with great regularity report doom, gloom and despondency. So perhaps if we try a bit of 'blue sky thinking' in our lives, maybe a tiny bit of the negativity in our world might just curl up in a ball and disappear. How good would that be?

Let's begin with what we know - look at our church. New groups have started up to study the Bible and what its message means in our lives. There's an energy and optimism among the congregation. A sense of - this is our place and we have to work together with our new minister to help create the church we want to have.

The same thing happens in individual lives. Every new day begins with a choice to get up, step out and live fully. .

Whatever we've had to endure, whatever challenges we've had to face, blue skies are above us and we can begin to make life a little brighter in our corner of the world.

It's all about the choices we make in our individual lives - day-by-day, sometimes moment-by-moment.

Perhaps there's a housebound neighbour who needs a bit of shopping? A harassed mum who would welcome an offer to babysit for a few hours? A phone call to make to a relative or friend going through a hard time?

Recently in the supermarket I saw an elderly lady getting flustered and confused at the till point as she tried to pack her shopping, get her money from her purse and the vouchers she couldn't find. "Take your time, no rush," the girl behind the till said cheerfully.

Her warm tone of voice was a big relief to the older woman and that small gesture renewed her confidence. She left the shop with a smile on her face.

It's so easy at times for all of us to feel negative. But if we apply a bit of blue-sky thinking to our days - whether it's at home, at work, with our friends, or at church - this summer could be the sunniest we've ever known.

Margaret Clayton

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

10	Coffee Time	Joan Beattie	4
17	Mrs R Powell	Sheena Wright	5
24	Mrs M Stewart	Moirra French	7

July

1	Mrs J Robertson	Julie Reid	8
8	Mr & Mrs E Rogerson	Glenys Swann	9
15	Mrs P McKinlay	Ishbel Thomson	10
22	Mr T Fawcett	Lydia Ramsay	11
29	Mrs J Connell	Irene Armstrong	12

August

5	Mr T Nelson	Janet Brown	1
12	Mrs I Kernochan	Christine Grant	2
19	Sunday Club	Mr & Mrs I Muir	3
26	Mr & Mrs N Bathie	Joan Beattie	4

September

2	Mrs R Innes	Sheena Wright	5
9	Mrs C Grant	Moirra French	7
16	Mrs I Perry	Julie Reid	8
23	Mrs D Morgan	Glenys Swann	9
30	The Robertson Family	Ishbel Thomson	10

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"