

# St. Columba's Congregational Magazine



**Spring 2017**

"It is the first mild day of March. Each minute sweeter than before ... There is a blessing in the air." by William Wordsworth

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**Charity No. SC008735**

## From the Manse

After a winter with plenty of cold, snow and ice, many of us look forward to the arrival of spring! It's wonderful to see bulbs that have been buried in the dark and frozen earth over the winter now bursting into life as beautiful snowdrops, crocuses, daffodils and other flowers.

During his earthly ministry, Jesus said that he came *"in order that they may have life – and have it to the full"* (John 10:10). It's an amazing claim! However, when Jesus was put to death on a cross and then laid in a tomb it must have seemed unlikely that he could ever carry it out. How can a dead man bring life?

And yet, this is the wonder of Easter! Jesus' death is the way to our life! And his resurrection from death is the guarantee that as we put our trust in him we too will one day rise to new life. As one hymn writer put it,

*O Cross that liftest up my head,*

*I dare not ask to fly from thee;*

*I lay in dust life's glory dead,*

*And from the ground there blossoms red*

*Life that shall endless be.*

It is my prayer that we would all know the fulness of life that is found in Jesus Christ alone – not only as a future hope, but as a present reality.

**Your minister and friend,**

**Philip**

## Christianity Explored

Christianity Explored is a way of sharing the best news ever heard, and gives people space and time to think about the big questions of life. Over 7 sessions in Mark's Gospel, find out more about the life of the person at the heart of the Christian faith - Jesus Christ.

We are currently running a Christianity Explored course at St Columba's on Wednesday evenings.

Some people have mentioned that a daytime course may be better for them. If you would be interested in a daytime Christianity Explored course please speak to Philip as soon as possible.

[www.ceministries.org](http://www.ceministries.org)

## Former Manse Update

The manse at Crossdykes has now been let and tenants moved into the house in mid December.

Thank you to everyone who gave financially and also to those who gave of their time to get us to this stage.

**Anne Inglis**

**Session Clerk**

## The Church Family



### Deaths

We are saddened by the deaths of the following members and friends of St Columba's. We extend our sympathy, love and prayers to their families.

Reba Copper

Archie Faulk

### Baptism

We are delighted to celebrate the baptism of Daniel Wright.

### 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)**

### Lunch with us at "OASIS"

We are open on the last Thursday of each month, serving light lunches, snacks and lovely home baking from 12 noon to 1.30pm.

Since Oasis opened in 2009 we have been able to donate fairly large amounts to charities - local, national and international. We have also purchased some necessary items for church use and contributed £1,000 to the manse fund.

Recently we donated a financial gift to young David White to further his missionary work in Sudan and wish him every blessing for the future.

Thank you all for your support, it's much appreciated.

**Ian & Marilyn Gibb**

## Easter at St Columba's

7:30pm, Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March, Good Friday Service

10:30am, Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April, Easter Sunday Morning Service

7:00pm, Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April, Easter Sunday Evening Service

Services will also be held at 7:30pm every evening during Holy Week in the following locations:

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March                      St Columba's Kirkintilloch

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March                      Hillhead Kirkintilloch

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March                      St David's Kirkintilloch

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March                      St Mary's Kirkintilloch

## Easter Reflection and Easter Café

We are holding an Easter Reflection in the sanctuary on the evening of Friday 9th March (7-9pm) and the morning of Saturday 10th March (10am-12noon). The sanctuary will be set out with around six areas where there will be some verses from the Bible, a short comment on them, and some visual aids to help us reflect on the dying and rising again of Jesus Christ. We are invited to make our way around these at our own pace.

Also, on the evening of Friday 9th March and the morning of Saturday 10th March, there will be an Easter Café, Bookstall and Fairtrade stall. This will be held in the Small Hall.

Donations received at the Café will go towards the Leprosy Mission.

We are grateful for an offer of help from the Boys Brigade to run the Café. Additional help from the congregation to run the Café, Bookstall, Fairtrade Stall and Reflection will also be greatly appreciated.



## **1st Kirkintilloch Company**

### **Anchor Boys**

The Anchor section have had a busy time since Christmas. We started off with a night remembering our lovely Christmas' then went to the Panto with the rest of the Company. A good time was had by all. We all join with the congratulations to Mr Geekie for winning the companies first prize of the year, by way of a cuddly toy in the program raffle.

Over the next few weeks we will continue to work towards the boys badges, which will be presented on Parents Night on 27 April at 6.30 pm. All are warmly invited.

Another couple of dates for the diary are 10th March for he battalion fun run and 20th April for the battalion fun day. More information will be given out for those dates nearer the time.

**Lorna, Margaret, David, Craig and Lorna**

### **Junior Section**

It is hard to believe that we are now into February but the lengthening of the days and the Snowdrops in the garden bear witness to this fact.

Since our visit from the man in the red suit we have been busy with the Kirkie Players Panto on a snowy Friday Night in January. Fortunately the roads were open and everyone who ventured over to Lennoxton had a very enjoyable evening. The highlight being Captain Geekie winning the cuddly toy in the lucky programme draw. (Not sure if we can claim this as our first trophy of 2018)

We have spent the last few weeks practicing for the Juniors Figure Marching & PT competitions and I am pleased to say that we came 3rd in the PT and 4th in the Marching. This was a creditable performance by the boys who were able to attend. We would have done better I am sure but unfortunately the weekend of the event clashed with other things meaning a large number of boys were unable to attend.

Our next big event is the Junior & Anchors fun run in Luggie Park and hopefully we may have some budding Olympians who can win a medal. The run is on 9th March so if anyone is passing the Church please pop in and give us your support.

Our boys are working hard towards their badges and I am pleased to say that all our new recruits have now gained their Target Badges and are well on their way to getting their Bronze badges by the Display. Silver & gold badges are also well on target for awarding at the Display.

Another thing we are looking to do is help out at the Easter Reflection by serving tea & biscuits in aid of the Leprosy Mission. This came about as part of our "Year of Young People 2018" events. When asked what the Boys wanted to do this year a fund raiser for a charity was one of their chosen themes and the Leprosy Mission was then chosen.

As always we appreciate your support in encouraging the staff & boys to continue with company.

May you all have a Blessed & Happy Easter

**Fraser McCallum**

**O.I.C. Junior Section**

## Company Section

Thanks to everyone who used our Christmas Card Delivery Service. We are very grateful for your generous support which contributed £260 to Company funds. All cards were delivered well before Christmas Day to the addresses on the envelopes and, where the address didn't exist, we put a stamp on the envelope and passed the problem to Royal Mail to resolve.

Our end of year outing was to a climbing wall in Glasgow. Everyone, except the real oldies, spent an enjoyable hour clambering up and down various rock faces. On the way home, we stopped off at a McDonalds to replenish some of the calories that had been used up before everyone was returned home safely about 10pm.

Despite the snow and ice, the vast majority of the section managed to get to Lennoxton to see the Kirkie Players annual pantomime, Cinderella. As usual, everyone got involved in the audience participation, especially the Captain who had to get up on stage to collect the prize he won for having the lucky programme.

At present the Squad Competition is being dominated by Squad 3 who recorded wins in November, December and January. Their winning margin is steadily being reduced, however, from 98 points in November to 15 in December and only 1 in January. Can another Squad actually win in February? Only time will tell but look out for the result in the next edition of the newsletter.

Badge classes have resumed following the Christmas and NewYear break.

First Aid is proving popular as is a new venture introduced by the younger officers to get each of the Squads to design a brand-new board game. There are three very different design but as they are still very much work in progress it is impossible to say whether any of them will make it on to the market.

Involvement in the National competitions is over for another year. Our badminton team of Lewis, Liam, Jack and David, put in a great performance but were eliminated from the competition on a tie break. Well done boys, better luck next year. We were due to participate in table tennis and five-a-side football, but the dates selected for the games and the unavailability of our boys meant that we unfortunately had to withdraw.

Practice is underway for the Battalion competitions in Drill and PE & Vaulting which are held before the end of February, results in due course. Callum S has volunteered to run in the National Cross Country and we all hope he is selected to be a member of the Strathkelvin Battalion team.

On 9th February we had a visit from our Link Elders, Graeme Inglis and David Muir. Their presence is always welcomed and not just because they boost the singing of the opening hymn! They took an active interest in all the activities and thoroughly enjoyed their short time with us.

For more information on the Company visit our web site at [www.1kirkintilloch-boys-brigade.btik.com](http://www.1kirkintilloch-boys-brigade.btik.com) or find us on Facebook.

**Allan Geekie**

## **The Leprosy Mission**

As you may be aware, due to ill health, Christine has for the present time stood down from running the Leprosy Mission. As this is such a worthwhile cause and one which the Church has supported for many years, I decided to take this over from her.

Unfortunately we were unable to run the usual design a label competition for the children this year but hopefully this can be done later in the year.

There are still small blue collecting boxes in the vestibule of the Church and if you would like to collect your loose change for the Leprosy Mission please take one of these boxes and, when filled, either give it to myself in Church on a Sunday or place it back in the vestibule with the rest of the boxes and I will uplift it. Alternatively if you have an empty jar you could design your own label fill it with loose change and leave it with the other boxes in the vestibule. Also if you currently collect for the Leprosy Mission but are for any reason unable to get this to the Church please let me know and I will collect it from you.

Finally, on behalf of the Congregation, may I take this opportunity to thank Christine for all the work she has done for the Leprosy Mission for many years and look forward to

## **Men's Club**

Since the last Newsletter we have had a visit from Chryston Men's Club when, as always we enjoyed a Games Night and supper with their members.

In January our speaker was Mr Peter Kay. He spent 40 years as a microbiologist at Yorkhill Children's Hospital and following his retirement researched the background to the many diseases and plagues around the world over the last two millenia. Always very interesting and it made us realise that we are fortunate to live in the 21st century where most diseases have been eradicated.

Our final speaker will be Rev Philip Wright and we look forward to that.

Once again we decided not to swap Christmas cards between members and the money saved enabled us to make a charitable donation of £80 to the Merkland School which will go towards their fund to purchase a new school minibus. A very worthwhile cause.

Our season is flying along and soon it will be time for our competition finals and Annual Dinner at Kirkintilloch Golf Club in mid-April.

Finally, it is with great sadness that one of our members, Archie Faull, died very recently. Archie had suffered from poor health over a number of years but despite that he always had a very positive outlook on life and his cheery presence will be sorely missed at the Club. Our thoughts are very much with Marion and the family at this time.

**Edward Rogerson**

## Request for Volunteer Gardners



We've all been experiencing a lot of rain, sleet and cold winds over the winter months, and it's hard to believe, but, spring is just around the corner!

Are there any women, men or younger people out there who might be willing to assist with the upkeep of the Church gardens? Some fresh volunteers from amongst the members of the congregation or local area, would be very welcome.

Last season, some heavy tasks were undertaken to reinstate areas of grass and to clear other spaces and lay stone chippings and thereby reduce the areas of ground that need maintenance.

We employ a Contractor to deal with grass cutting and weed control on areas of paving and car park surfaces, so in the main, it is the planters and the flower, shrub and rose beds which demand attention. The tubs and beds need to be trimmed, edged and kept weed free and rose bushes and other flowers and shrubs need dead heading and pruning at appropriate intervals.

Volunteers could maybe adopt a patch and maintain this in their own time rather than a set time each week.

If you could spare an hour or so each week, please contact Tom Sinclair, Tel.No.776 6377 or Billy Reid, Tel No.776 7092 or Janet Brown at the Church office.

**Tom Sinclair**

## Friendship Club

At the beginning of our New Session we welcomed three new young people. Our numbers have been good at each meeting. Our theme was 'The Creation' explained using Bible Stories, songs, games and crafts. The group made a colourful

frieze entitled 'God's Wonderful World' which is displayed in the small hall.

We ended with a Christmas Party and a sail on the Seagull Santa Cruise – enjoyed Very much by everyone.

Now we are thinking of the five senses, taking us up to the Easter break.

Thank you for your support and encouragement, you are most welcome to join us at any of our meetings.

## Margaret Blair

### Suggestion from the Editorial Team

We would like to offer a space in the magazine to anyone in the congregation who wants to submit an item for the magazine. This could take the form of an opinion piece, a review of a book you have read and enjoyed, or a comment which you would like to share with others.

In this way we hope to involve the views of the wider congregation.

What do you think?

[mar.clayton@ntlworld.com](mailto:mar.clayton@ntlworld.com)



## **Christian Aid Report Spring 2018**

Here are some dates for your diaries for the Christian Aid events taking place in 2018.

The Spring Fair took place on Saturday, 3rd March 2018 in St. Mary's Church Hall and this year St. Columba's was responsible for the Tea Room.

The annual Christian Aid Service will take place in Hillhead Church on Sunday, 29th April 2018 at 7.00 p.m. All are very welcome to attend.

The Erskine Bridge Cross walk will take place on Saturday, 5th May 2018 at 2.00 p.m. The start place on the North side of the Bridge is Lusset Park Pitches, Station Road, Old Kilpatrick where parking is available. This is a fun afternoon walk for all the family.

I have not yet received a note of the dates for Christian Aid Week this year but it will probably be 13th to 19th May 2018. Envelopes for donations will be handed out prior to these dates and will also be available in the Church vestibule. I will put a note of all these events in the Intimation Sheet closer to the time they are due to take place.

I am pleased to inform you that the Kirkintilloch & Lenzie group to which we belong now have a new Treasurer.

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 forthcoming events on the Church Notice Board.

**Geraldine Fox**

## **The Guild**

We ended 2017 with our Christmas craft night followed a fortnight later by our Festive Lunch held at The Garfield Hotel.

We started off 2018 with a lovely evening of music and song provided by our Minister, Mr Wright, who also gave us an insight into his path into the ministry. He was accompanied by his sister-in-law Laura and their two friends.

Kathleen MacPherson, an old friend to our Guild, entertained us at our next meeting with her star struck connections to the famous faces of Hollywood.

Instead of a Burns Supper this year we had 32 of The Bearsden Fiddlers entertain us on February 6th. This was a happy evening of beautiful melodies, singing, fun and supper and it was good to see the big hall filled to capacity.

We have only two more meetings this session and you are warmly invited to join us.

**Margaret Rogerson**

## **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.

Thank you for your support in this venture.

## Letter From the Editor

### The Tantrums of Technology

Have you ever felt a sneaky little buzz of delight when something you don't like very much goes wrong? OK I confess - sometimes that's me.

At a Sunday morning service some weeks ago the screen, which carries the words of the hymns went on the blink. Within seconds members of the congregation handed out the church hymn books so we could continue singing.

The temporary hiccup made my day. Why? Well I am vertically challenged (some would say short), so if a tall person is in the pew in front of me I cannot see the screen and have to stand on tiptoes to peer round their shoulder.

Plus I admit I'm a technophobe who delights when technology goes wrong and I much prefer singing from a hymn book rather than a gadget.

Now I know that makes me hopelessly old fashioned but the fact is I prefer a book rather than a screen because I can mull over the words, read who wrote it and when.

A small pleasure I know but a bible or a hymn book in your hands is infinitely more enjoyable than relying on the vagaries of technology.

Our world is now so dependant on machines that some day we will be left wondering how to get any information from something so outdated and old fashioned as a the printed word!

Many children today do most of their reading online. They are infinitely more comfortable with Smartphones and I-pads than with books. Mind you, anything which encourages reading is valuable.

Bedtime stories matter and when my grandchildren come for a sleepover they ask to hear stories from the well-thumbed old Ladybird books their mums and dads enjoyed "back in the olden days."

Thankfully libraries and bookshops still exist and they've adapted to modern technology but for me nothing beats the pleasure of browsing among shelves of books searching for something by a favourite author.

I hope the Church of Scotland never forgets we are a "People of the Book."

In the 'Christianity Explored' course, which our minister is leading, the words of Mark's gospel are painting pictures written centuries ago but still alive, pertinent, compelling and relevant to our world today. They are timeless.

Mark writes about human emotions - sadness, joy, failure, hope and conviction and some of the stories are as relevant as the front page of today's newspapers.

We have the privilege in our world of freely reading those words in our bibles, underlining them, memorizing them and going back to them when we need them.

In so many parts of our world that isn't possible and that's why the work of the National Bible Society is so important.

For thousands of people who hunger for truth - owning a copy of the Bible is their most precious possession. We need to do all we can to support the work of getting a copy of the written word to as many people as possible

And unlike technology it won't fail, run out of batteries and will never let them down.

**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        |    |
|--------------|------------------------------|-----------------|----|
| <b>MARCH</b> |                              |                 |    |
| 4            | Mrs J Beattie                | Janet Brown     | 1  |
| 11           | Mr & Mrs T Sinclair          | Christine Grant | 2  |
| 18           | Mrs P McKinlay               | Mr & Mrs I Muir | 3  |
| 25           | Mrs M Boyle                  | Joan Beattie    | 4  |
| <b>APRIL</b> |                              |                 |    |
| 1            | Mrs A Inglis                 | Sheena Wright   | 5  |
| 8            | Tuesday Group                | Moira French    | 7  |
| 15           |                              | Julie Reid      | 8  |
| 22           | Mr & Mrs B Ashcroft          | Glenys Swann    | 9  |
| 29           | Mrs J McCallum               | Ishbel Thomson  | 10 |
| <b>MAY</b>   |                              |                 |    |
| 6            | Mr & Mrs G French            | Lydia Ramsay    | 11 |
| 13           | Mr & Mrs I Muir              | Irene Armstrong | 12 |
| 20           | Mr & Mrs I Gibb              | Janet Brown     | 1  |
| 27           | Mrs J Doyle                  | Christine Grant | 2  |
| <b>JUNE</b>  |                              |                 |    |
| 3            | Miss J Brown/Mr & Mrs G Kidd | Mr & Mrs I Muir | 3  |
| 10           | Coffee Time                  | Joan Beattie    | 4  |
| 17           | Mrs R Powell                 | Sheena Wright   | 5  |
| 24           | Mrs M Stewart                | Moira French    | 7  |

## 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"**