

St. Columba's Congregational Magazine



Winter 2017

"Unto us a Child is born - Unto us a Son is given"

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

One of the striking things about the way the first Christmas is described in the Bible is that unquestionably it is good news! The angel said to the shepherds, *“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord”* (Luke 2:10-11). It is good news for the shepherds! It is good news for all the people!

Sadly, when we hear the news headlines we do not always hear good news. In our own lives too, some of us have heard news this year that we dearly wish we had not. But here is the best news there has ever been. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has come into the world to be its Saviour.

Like the shepherds, we need to receive that good news for ourselves. But, as the angels remind us, it is good news to be passed on to people everywhere.

Christmas is a time when many people who might not normally come to church are happy to come to a Christmas service. Why not pass on the good news as you invite someone – a neighbour or a family member – to one of our Christmas services at St Columba’s this year?

I do wish you a Christmas full of joy and peace and God’s blessing in the New Year.

Your Minister and Friend,

Philip

Former Manse Update

Apart from some snagging, the renovation of the manse at Crossdykes is almost complete and it is looking good!

R&G Lettings in Kirkintilloch are dealing with the letting of the property, which is currently on the rental section of the Rightmove website.

We are hopeful that the property will rent out in the near future.

Anne Inglis

Session Clerk

Senior Members Service

The Senior Members Service takes place on the last Sunday of every month at 12.30pm and lasts approximately half an hour. This is followed by tea and fellowship.

A big Thank You to all the organisations who provide a lovely spread each month. This is very much appreciated by the members

Sadly we have lost several of our members this year so if anyone would like to join us please contact Joan Beattie on 0141-776 -1833. Transport is available.

Last but not least Thank You to the drivers (and reserves) for their continued support over the past year. Without you this service would not be possible.

Joan Beattie

Transport Convenor

The Church Family



Admitted

Elaine Greig was admitted to full membership of St. Columba's. The Church Family extend her a warm welcome to our congregation.

Deaths

The Church Family acknowledges the following deaths:-

Maureen Gardiner

Margaret Anderson

Bob McKinlay, An Elder of St. Columba's.

Our thoughts and prayers are with their families.

Thank You

Pat McKinlay and family would like to thank everybody for their kind wishes and support following Bob's death.

At the Church service on the 9th November the sum of £205 was raised for the work of the Guide Service at Deaf Blind Scotland.

Anne Inglis would like to thank everyone for their prayers, visits, cards and flowers that she received following her accident. She is making good progress with her recovery.

Margaret Sangster's sister Catherine died recently. The Rev Philip Wright conducted her funeral service and was very supportive to the family. Margaret wrote to say.

"Thank you very much for the beautiful flowers we received at this sad time. It was very kind and thoughtful of you to think off us."

Christmas at St Columba's

10:30am, Sunday 17th December, Family Service

7:00pm, Sunday 17th December, Carol Service

11:30pm, Sunday 24th December, Christmas Eve Service

Christianity Explored

What's the best news you've ever heard?

Was it surprising? Did it change the way you think? Or was it something you wanted to be true but didn't dare hope?

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 hoping to run a Christianity Explored course at St Columba's on 7 Wednesday evenings, beginning 24th January 2018.

This will be open to anyone who would like to learn more about the best news ever heard. Please speak to the Minister for more information.

www.ceministries.org



1st Kirkintilloch Company

Anchor Boys

What an excellent start we have had to the new session. Demand was so high for places we had to close for new boys for a few weeks. However thanks to a new leader recruited we are able to take boys again.

We warmly welcome Lorna McFarlane to the team who has come out of Anchor Boy retirement - thanks for taking us on Lorna!

So far we have had lots of art projects - if you have time please check our notice board where we display our work. We have learned all about Joseph and at the time of writing we are getting ready for Christmas.

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year.

Lorna, Margaret, David, Craig and Lorna

Junior Section



Our session started off with our planned trip to Blair Drummond Safari Park along with the Anchors. We were blessed with good weather which enabled everyone to enjoy a picnic lunch and make use of the many outdoor attractions within the park.

The boys even managed to zip wire across the Alligator infested lake. (OK it really was just the boating pond) and take command of the play fort for some climbing & sliding fun.

In true form some 24 very tired boys and 10 even more tired officers arrived safely back at the Church around teatime.

As mentioned in our last newsletter we celebrate the Centenary of Juniors this year and we have been busy doing various challenges and activities to mark this milestone in our history.

At the beginning of October all the Juniors and the three boys who moved up to Company Section at the display joined other sections for a battalion event.

We left Lenzie Old Parish Church on an open top bus and travelled through Glasgow to the National Football Museum at Hampden where the boys were given a grand tour of the stadium and a guided tour of the museum followed by a packed lunch within the stadium before returning to Lenzie for juice & birthday cake.

Sadly this time around the weather was not as warm & sunny however this did not detract from a great day out along with other juniors from Strathkelvin.

Our own birthday celebration was linked to our annual Halloween Party so that the Anchors could help us celebrate. It was the usual SPOOKTAKULAR event with some 24 guests including Dracula & several Darth Vaders enjoying sticky doughnuts, dooked apples and yes even more Birthday cake.

We are also working through a challenge sheet for this year as part of the centenary so if you are in the small hall pop in and have a look at how well we are doing. We doubt if we will make all 100 challenges but we will try our best.

The numbers remain steady at the moment and the attendance has been very good indeed. Our squads are now set and we are starting to practice for the figure marching and early indications are that we may have a good chance in 2018.

Our next big event will be our joint Christmas Party with the Anchors but sadly we ate all the birthday cake at Halloween so we will need to see what other goodies we can find in the cupboard.

On behalf of all the boys & staff may I take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a Blessed & Peaceful Christmas

Fraser McCallum

O.I.C. Junior Section.

Company Section

Our new session is now underway and we are pleased to welcome the new recruits from the Junior Section along with Ben & Josh who have returned after a short absence from the company, they are all enjoying the new opportunities and challenges of the Company Section also Angus who has transferred from a BB company in Aboyne Aberdeenshire, we hope they will continue enjoy their time with us. We have 15 boys on the roll with a regular attendance of 12- 14 boys on a Friday night, this we are pleased to say is an increase on last year's numbers, but there is still plenty of space for any boys in P7 through to S6 who would like to join us.

We are also pleased that Craig Lowe has safely returned from his trip to Bangladesh and that despite a short bout of illness he found the trip enjoyable and enlightening and that although small, there is a flourishing Christian Witness in the area he visited.

Once again we have split the Company into three squads with Callum, Lee and Dean as our Squad Commanders. Our monthly squad competition is now underway, with the medal for October being won by Squad 3, but there still six more months for the other two squads to close the gap.

National Competitions are now underway and we took part in the Masterteam and although our young team didn't win they gave a good account of themselves, scoring a max 10 in one of the rounds, enjoying the experience and especially the buffet at the end and hopefully can put the experience to good use in the Battalion Masterteam. We are waiting to find out our opponents in the second round of both the badminton and Table Tennis in the next few weeks, also the national 5 a side competition in early December. Badge classes are now underway and Battalion Competitions are due to start shortly.

Over the next few weeks we will be practicing for the drill and PE competitions which will be held soon after the Christmas Break.

A number of the officers, helpers and boys from across all sections supported the Poppy Scotland appeal by selling poppies in Kirkintilloch in the lead up to Remembrance Day. This continues to be a very rewarding experience as the two hour sessions flies by as people of all ages always eager to donate to this wonderful charity, this year our collection alone raised £492.06.

We recently were visited by Robbie from the Gideon Society, where he took our God Spot and presented each boy and officer with a Gideon's New Testament Bible embossed with the BB Crest and with the BB prayer inside the front cover.

Once again, with you support, we hope to be delivering Christmas Cards across Kirkintilloch and Lenzie. Our post box will be in the hall vestibule from Friday 24th November to Sunday 10th December, we are asking for a donation of 30p per card.

For more information on the Company visit our web site at www.1kirkintilloch-boys-brigade.btik.com or find us on Facebook.

George Kidd

Girl Guiding

As well as celebrating girls achievements with the presentation of badges and certificates at unit, division and county level, Guiding looks to celebrating adult achievements.

As we grow through Guiding, depending on involvement, the first landmark is an invitation to the Garden Party at Holyrood.

Recently I was very privileged to receive an invitation to Westminster Abbey for a celebration of 40 + years as a leader (47 + in my case.)

The Abbey was beautiful and because of my wheelchair I was given a space right at the front for what was a very moving ceremony. About 2000 Guides and Scouters were there. We are a small world and I was delighted to meet up with a Guide from Aberdeen who now runs Guides in Spain. Guiding is truly international!

A visit to London is not complete without a theatre show - even Murray enjoyed "School of Rock".

It was a lovely weekend which went off without a hitch - travelling by wheelchair was easier than expected.

The whole experience made me feel proud to be part of such a worthwhile organisation as the Girl Guides.

Wilma Scott

Men's Club

At this early stage in the session we have only had games nights **as our first speaker was on an extended holiday.**

We were, therefore, pleased to welcome our own Mrs Rhondda Geekie, suitably refreshed from her holiday, to give us a talk on Local Government and East Dunbartonshire Council.

It was an excellent insight to her work as both a Convenor and then her 10 years as Council Leader.

To say the posts were demanding is a great understatement especially as she was immediately thrown in at the deep end to chair a meeting of 250 men whose jobs were under threat when she was the only woman in the room. A real baptism of fire at the time EDC was being set up after the old Strathclyde Region went out of existence.

We all know that there have been many contentious issues in the area and Rhondda outlined the background and solutions to some of them - many challenging in the extreme.

Overall a most interesting talk spiced with a good bit of humour.

Over the next two months we have our annual get together with Chryston Men's Club and then ten pin bowling with Milton of Campsie Men's Club. Both meetings are most enjoyable and it keeps up our contacts with other clubs.

Edward Rogerson

The Ark.

Following Philips's excellent sermons on Genesis a member of the congregation submitted an amusing article to the Editor, which they first read some years ago. It is on the subject of - 'Where in these troubled times can one find some cheer?' It's just as relevant today and is entitled -

'Why The Floods Came'

The Lord said unto Noah, "Where is this ark which I hast commandeth thee to build?" Noah said unto the Lord, "Verily I have had three carpenters off ill. The gopher wood supplier hath let me down - yea even though the gopher wood hath been on order for nigh upon twelve months. The damp course specialist hath not turned up. What can I do, O Lord?"

God said unto Noah, "I want that ark finished even after seven days and seven nights."

Noah said, "It will be so Lord."

However it was not so.

The Lord said unto Noah, "What seemeth to be the trouble this time?"

Noah said unto the Lord, "Mine subcontractor hath gone bankrupt. The pitch, which Thou commandeth me to put on the outside and on the inside of the ark hath not arrived, also the plumber hath gone on strike."

Noah rent his garments and said. "The glazier departeth on holiday to Majorca - yea, even though I offereth him double time. Shem my son who helpeth me on the ark side of the business hath formed a pop group with his brothers Ham and Japheth. Lord I am undone."

Noah also said unto the Lord. "The gopher wood is definitely in the warehouse but the gopher wood supplier waiteth only upon his servant to find the invoices before he delivereth gopher wood unto me."

The Lord grew angry and said. "What about the animals? Of the fowls after their kind and of every creeping thing after his kind, two of every sort have I ordered to come unto thee to keep them alive. Where for example are the giraffes?"

Noah said unto the Lord "They are expected today."

The Lord said unto Noah "Where are the clean beasts, the male and the female to keep their seed alive upon the face of all the earth?"

Noah said unto the Lord, "The van cometh on Tuesday, yea and yea it will be so."

The Lord said unto Noah. "How about the unicorns?"

Noah wrung his hand and wept, saying "Lord, Lord, they are a discontinued line. Thou canst not get unicorns for love nor money."

God said "Where are the monkeys and the bears, the hippos and the elephants, the zebras two of each kind and the fowls of the air by sevens, the male and the female?"

And Noah said unto the Lord. "They have been delivered unto the wrong address but should arriveth on Friday, all save the fowls of the air which are sold only in half dozens."

Noah kissed the Earth and said, "Lord, Lord, thou knowest in Thy wisdom what it is like with delivery dates."

The Lord in His wisdom said, "Noah my son, I knowest. Why else dost thou think I have caused a flood to descend upon the Earth?"

Lunch with us at "OASIS"

We are open on the last Thursday of each month, the exception being December 14th, serving light lunches, snacks and lovely home baking from 12 noon to 1.30pm.

As reported previously we have an up-to-date pass certificate from Environmental Health which is permanently displayed when we are operating. Also our staff training is ongoing.

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.

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

Ian & Marilyn Gibb

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)

The Guild

We started our session with a lovely programme of music compiled and presented by our own Jean Green and her three talented friends. Every item was thoughtfully chosen and a crowd pleaser. Our next meeting was learning of the work of The Bethany Trust and its efforts to resettle ex-prisoners. A fortnight later Dr Glenda Whyte enlightened us all re the life of David Stow whose legacy has been our Scottish education system. Our next meeting was an interesting talk and slide show of Rhum and Eigg, and our most recent speaker from Feed the Minds, outlined the efforts of the campaign to eradicate the distressing and life wrecking practice of FGM, which is our current Guild Project.

To celebrate Guild Week on Sunday, 19th November, our members donated and served lunch to the Congregation raising the amount of £368.60 for the Guild Project. We thank everyone for their support and generosity.

We have enjoyed the company of some of our menfolk each week. Remember, everyone is welcome.

Margaret Rogerson

Letter From the Editor

Christmas Moment

In all the hustle and bustle of the festive season with cards to write, presents to buy, a tree to be decorated, meals to be planned, food to be cooked, family to visit - we often get so frazzled by the 'busyness' of it all that we lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas.

Sometimes though it's the unexpected moment which reminds us what it's really all about - singing the familiar words of our favourite Christmas carol and remembering all the times we've sung it throughout the years - as children, parents and grandparents.

Or it could be when you attend a Primary school Nativity Play and the story comes alive through the voices of the children. Last year our granddaughter Jamila was chosen to play Mary and we were puffed up with pride as we watched her on stage looking very demure in her blue robe. Joseph forgot his lines, a shepherd was picking his nose and Mary was holding her baby Jesus upside down - but the timeless simplicity of the story was felt by everyone.

Isn't that what Christmas is all about?

Life isn't perfect. Not everything goes according to plan. This may have been the year you lost someone very dear to you or you may be worried about the health of a loved one. Perhaps your job isn't secure or a relationship is going through a difficult time.

We watch the TV News and feel despair at the endless political wrangling. The world seems a troubled, dangerous place where greed, anger and a lust for power appears to prevail.

It was no different when a baby was born in a stable in Bethlehem over 2,000 years ago.

During the Christmas season, God's presence is more palpable than at any other time of the year. It's a glorious, beautiful time and also one in which even the smallest kindness can transform us.

Whether it's a relative with whom you've lost touch, or someone who is spending their first Christmas alone - maybe this is the moment to write that letter, pick up the phone? I read these words recently: "Let's choose love and rest and grace this Christmas."

So instead of rushing around in a frenzy of things to do - let's use our time to create memories with the people we love. Let's honour the simplicity of the birth of Jesus with each choice we make.

We may not achieve the 'perfect' Christmas - but we may discover our own special Christmas moment.

Happy Christmas to all our readers from the magazine editor and her assistant - and thank you for your patience as we learn the job!

Margaret & John 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	
JANUARY			
7	Mr & Mrs W Scott	Sheena Wright	5
14	Mr & Mrs W Reid	Moirra French	7
21	Mr & Mrs F McCallum	Julie Reid	8
28	Mr & Mrs G Smith	Glenys Swann	9
FEBRUARY			
4	Boys Brigade	Ishbel Thomson	10
11	Mrs Lydia Ramsay	Lydia Ramsay	11
18	Mrs A Williamson	Irene Armstrong	12
25	Guides	Guides***	
MARCH			
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
April			
1	Mrs A Inglis	Sheena Wright	5
8	Tuesday Group	Moirra French	7
15		Julie Reid	8
22	Mr & Mrs B Ashcroft	Glenys Swann	9
29	Mrs J McCallum	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"