

St. Columba's Congregational Magazine



Summer 2019

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)

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

From the Manse

One of the striking things about the New Testament church is what a mixture of people there were within it! The Roman world divided: male from female; rich from poor; and free from slave. Yet, the apostle Paul was able to say that in the church, we are “*all one in Christ Jesus*” (Gal 3:28).

In practical terms, that meant for example in the city of Philippi that the businesswoman Lydia worshipped alongside the city jailor and his family – quite possibly in Lydia’s own house. Or in the city of Corinth, a slave owner and his slave were to treat one another as dear brothers.

For us today, part of what being one in Christ Jesus means is that church isn’t just where we meet our old friends. Church is where we make new and perhaps unexpected friends who become dear brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus.

How about sitting somewhere different in church one Sunday morning? Or speaking to someone new at coffee time after the service? Or making an effort with that person you don’t find it the easiest to get on with!?

You might just be surprised by what God does next.

Your minister and friend,

Philip

The Church Family



Death

We are saddened by the death of Joe Kernachan and extend our sympathy, love and prayers to Isobel and the family.

A Big Thank You.

Alan & Dorothy Finnie would like to thank everyone in the congregation for their warm and overwhelming welcome back to us on our return to St. Columba’s after a long spell away. "It has made us feel as if we were coming home", they said. "God bless you all."

June Smith would like to thank everyone for the gifts, cards, flowers and phone calls following the recent death of her much loved sister Ella Brown, aged 94. "It was very much appreciated", she said.

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 U.K. taxpayer can, by signing a Gift Aid Declaration, make regular or one off contributions to St Columba's, by which the Church benefits by a further 25% in 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 and it is prudent that we maximise this benefit.

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 Convenor, Willie Stewart, will be happy to help.

Willie Stewart

Fabric Update

We are continuing to refurbish and upgrade a number of areas in the church halls. It has been great to get the Large Hall refloored and redecorated. We plan too, to have a new heating system in place for the Large Hall before the autumn. Refurbishment of the vestry is now underway and we also hope to get started on the Small Hall during the summer.

Thank you so much to all who help in whatever way with the upkeep of the church buildings. We expect to have some more work days and work evenings (usually on Wednesdays) over the summer. Details of these will be announced in due course. As ever, all help is much appreciated and where possible we will give an indication of what we hope to do on these work days and work evenings in advance.

Sunday Club & Bible Class

In the past few months the Sunday School and Bible Class finished studying Elijah and moved onto the Easter Story. Because the Easter story is such a well-known one we decided to concentrate on the tearing of the temple curtain and Jesus appearing to the travellers on the road to Emmaus. As part of this study we also learned how we should act as Christians in the modern world and some of the difficulties that we may face. We plan on moving on to look at some psalms next as we continue our brief tour of the old testament.

The bible class recently enjoyed an outing to the escape room in Glasgow where we were set the task of escaping a bunker by solving clues. Despite our best efforts we did not escape and in this particular scenario suffocated in a radioactive bunker. Both the Bible Class and Sunday Club look forward to planning more trips and social events leading up to and during the summer holidays.

Scott Inglis

Scripture Union Holidays

Are you in P5 to S6? Or do you know someone who is? Scripture Union Holidays are a great way to get away and enjoy a holiday with others your own age. Activities range from abseiling to music-making, kayaking to crafts – some holidays specialise, others have lots of everything. Great food, good friends, caring leaders and time to explore faith are a feature of every single event.

Scripture Union holiday brochures for the Summer holidays are available from the church office. Please speak to Jackie Ringan for more information.

'Little Fishes' Toddlers Group

The 'little fishes' have been swimming very happily over the last few months! It has been great fun to see the babies growing up. Many of those who started in January are now crawling and walking and we have to monitor the escape routes!

The older children have been really enjoying the sand table and building creations with the duplo blocks. We have settled to a regular group of about 15 families each week which is ideal for being able to have a good chat with everyone. We are delighted to see mums, dads, grans and grandpas and lots of extended family members too.

We do thank Bill Ramsay for creating a fabulous Noah's Ark picture for the wall in the small hall and each week we are making a new animal to go in 'two by two'.

We are very grateful for the ongoing kindness and generosity of different church members and friends giving us money, toys and books and biscuits and snacks. Thank you especially for your prayers.

We do still have a (short) waiting list so if you know of any friends or family who would like to come, do ask them to contact Gill on 07934460752 or Janet in the Church Office and they will be in touch about a starting date.

Singing Group

The Singing Group continue to play a very valuable role in helping us to learn new songs at our Sunday morning services. They also enhance our worship by singing on special occasions such as at the recent Good Friday and Easter Sunday morning services.

Practices are on a relatively occasional basis on Monday evenings. They are always glad to welcome new members! Please speak to Jean Green for more information.

Church Cycle Ride and BBQ

We are planning a church cycle ride and BBQ on the afternoon of Sunday 23rd June.

We hope to cycle along the cycle track to Clachan of Campsie. Alternatively, if you prefer walking, there is the option of walking to Milton of Campsie instead. Both destinations happen to be well-served by tea rooms!

If you'd like to cycle or walk, bring a packed lunch with you to church on the morning of Sunday 23rd June to have after the service and we'll aim to set off at 12:30pm or fairly shortly after.

Later in the day, from around 4pm, there will be a BBQ in the church grounds for the returning cyclists and walkers and for as many of us who are able to be there to welcome them back!

The church cycle ride and BBQ was a great occasion last year. We hope it will prove even more popular this year!

Easter Megabuild

Thank you so much to everyone who helped at, who passed on the word about, or who prayed for our Easter holiday club, *Easter Megabuild*. This ran from the Tuesday to Thursday mornings of the first week of the school Easter holidays. There were all sorts of activities including LEGO building, crafts, games, and quizzes. It was great to be able to teach the children what Easter is all about.

It would be marvellous if we could run an Easter holiday club again next year. Please do speak with Philip if this is something you would like to help with in some way.

Sundays at Seven

Our Sunday evening service series focussing on the book of Daniel is now well underway. These services, running through May and June, are intended for some who may be unable to be present at any or all of the church service on a Sunday morning, as well as for others who may be glad to gather together for worship for a second time on a Sunday. Anyone is very welcome to attend.

The Leprosy Mission

A big thank you to everyone who collected their loose change over the past few months. We were able to send a cheque for £500 to the Leprosy Mission, which was doubled by the Government so a donation of £1,000 was really given to this worthy cause. This is of course an ongoing collection and there are small blue boxes in the vestibule of the Church, which can be used to collect your loose change. The boxes can be left in the vestibule where I will collect them or they can be given to myself on a Sunday. With grateful thanks.
Margaret McCallum

Makaton Workshop

Prospects Across Scotland has organised a Makaton signing workshop in St. Columba's on the morning of 6th June. The cost is £10.00. Anyone interested should contact Pat Muir or Janet Brown as a minimum number is required.

Keswick Convention 2019

This year's international Christian Convention is fast approaching and already some people from St Columba's are planning to attend. There will be meetings and activities throughout each day for all ages but the evening praise meeting in the big tent is particularly memorable sharing in worship with 3000 other people. The Convention almost takes over the town for 3 weeks from 13th July till 2nd August and it is well worth attending for a week or a few days when opportunities can also be taken to enjoy the stunning Lake District scenery. Even a day visit, however, can be recommended as the meeting finishes around 9pm and Keswick is only two and a quarter hours from Kirkintilloch.

Ian Gibb

Friendship Club / Following Jesus Group

It is a great privilege to be part of these groups. Everyone involved attends regularly and is extremely enthusiastic. Five of our members plus two leaders and two carers went to the 'Prospects Across Scotland' weekend at Tulliallan, and two more leaders joined them for the Saturday. The theme this year was "God loves us just the way we are" and our drama was based on Luke 14 verse 12. Attendance at one of our church services is planned and we hope that many of the congregation will join us at our combined open night on 5th June at 7.00 pm. It will be a typical Prospects Celebration and will finish with our usual snack, chat, and closing chorus. The groups are looking forward to welcoming you to this special evening.

Pat Muir

Fairtrade

Thank you for your support over the past year when St. Columba's has hosted a number of Fairtrade stalls selling a variety of products supporting farmers and workers in developing countries being paid a fair price for their goods. Fairtrade guarantees a minimum price for producers, which aims to ensure sustainable production no matter how low market prices fall. Also built into the sales price is an additional premium to be invested in the local infrastructure, such as education and health projects. Fairtrade also ensures safer working conditions, rights for women, greater protection for the environment and no child labour. It is good to know that thanks to your support the lives of so many people could have been improved in so many different ways.

Supported by Kirkintilloch Community Council there is ambition to make Kirkintilloch a Fairtrade Town, which will involve local retailers and restaurants, stocking more Fairtrade products. Anyone interested in joining the group trying to make this happen please let me know.

Scotland is close to becoming one of the first countries in the world to achieve Fair Trade Nation status and this relies largely on the work done by volunteers and activists across the country who have been involved in the organisation of Fairtrade Town groups.

Our choice to keep buying and asking for Fairtrade goods and telling more people about them will make a real difference to the lives of the poorest people in the world.

Rhonda Geekie



50th Anniversary of St Columba's

As part of our celebrations for the 50th Anniversary of St Columba's we are holding several special events between October 2018 and October 2019.

In March, we had a super concert with Christian singer/songwriter Michael McMillan and the Hope Street Band. More recently, we were delighted to welcome Ronnie Robertson and the New Day singers back to St Columba's. Both concerts were well supported with a good number of visitors in attendance.

Our next celebration event during this 50th Anniversary Year is a Big Coffee Morning. This will be held from 10am till 12noon on Friday 28th June. More details to follow!

Please also note in your diary that the Kirkintilloch Male Voice Choir will be coming to St Columba's on the evening of Saturday 5th October. Again, more details to follow!

MEN'S CLUB

In the latter part of our session we welcomed Dr Ivan Ruddock as our final speaker.

Ivan's talk was based on his families' involvement in the WW1 Centenary Celebrations. Both he and his wife are from Ireland and both had family members who served with the British forces in Europe during WW1. They were both fortunate to succeed in the ballot for tickets to attend the various events.

Ivan gave us a most moving and interesting talk about the events in France, Belgium and London, one of which included being in the official party which took part in the ceremony at the Menin Gate (Ypres) and which many of us watched on TV. A superb talk illustrated by photos of the events.

As our season drew to a close we had our competition finals.

Drew Watson was the winner in Bowls and Dominoes, Ronnie Mcleod won table Tennis with Iain Muir. Jim Kennedy and John Minelly winning Darts, Pool and Snooker respectively.

Our final event was the annual Presentation Dinner at Kirkintilloch Golf Club which concluded a season which seemed to pass very quickly.

We resume for the 2019/20 season at 7.30 on Monday 7th October when we trust that some of members who have dealt with health issues will be back to full health and strength.

As always we shall be very happy to welcome any new members to the Club.

Edward Rogerson



1st Kirkintilloch Company

Anchor Boys

As usual the boys have been kept busy on a Friday night. We were doing the Easter story, we did this by reading from the Bible and watching a short film. We did some crafts based on the story and also made some Mother's Day cards too.

Three of our boys took part in the Battalion Fun Run all boys completed the race on a cold Saturday morning and one of them Brodie Mackay came first. They all received a Fun Run badge and the winner received a medal.

We also attended the Battalion Parade in Milton of Campsie and three of our boys did very well marching from St Pauls Roman Catholic Church to Milton Parish Church and back.

We then had a 3 week break due to school holidays and Easter weekend.

On our return we prepared for our parents night on the 3rd May. There was a great turnout of family members and church members who came along for the boys.

Lydia Ramsay, Guild President handed out the boys badges and books based on their years attendance and number of years service.

The 1st, 2nd & 3rd year shields were handed out and the boys who received them were:

1st year boy - Connor MacLaren

2nd year boy - Michael Lyons

3rd year boy - Fraser Swan

All the boys were happy with the awards received.

We have 3 boys leaving us this year to join the Junior Section. We hope you all have a lovely summer and look forward to seeing all the boys return the first Friday in September. If you know anyone that is starting Primary 1 in August please tell them that the Anchor boys meet on a Friday night 6.15pm to 7.15pm.

Thanks again

Lorna, Margaret, Fraser and David.

Junior Section

The session ended with our annual display which was well attended and enjoyed by all.

The boys had a chance to show part of what they do on a Friday night and were presented with the badges they worked hard for throughout the year.

All the boys have been very engaged with our activities this year so it made the presentations for Best Boys difficult to decide, however we finally decided on:

1st year boy Jack Miller

2nd year boy David Pepler

3rd Year boy Kieran McFarlane

Endeavour shield - Joe Beattie.

Sadly, for us, 5 of our boys have left to join Company Section this year. We wish them all the best on the next part of their BB journey.

A few weeks before the end of session some of the boys attended the battalion parade at Milton of Campsie Parish Church. A week later was the joint fun day with the Anchors and the rest of the battalion. Lots of fun was had by everyone who attended.

Congratulations to our officer Mr Harrison who was married on 11th May. We wish the new Mr and Mrs Harrison all the best for the future.

Finally, a big thank you for all the support we have been given over the session. Have a lovely summer.

We look forward to seeing all the boys again at 6.45 pm on Friday 7th September."

Regards

Lorna

Company Section

The monthly Squad Competition is being closely contested. Squad 2 was the winner in February, Squad 1 won in March, but Squad 2 regained the medal in April. The overall winner for the year will be revealed at our parent's night on 24th May.

Strathkelvin Battalion was due to host the National Cross-Country Championship at Colzium House on Saturday 16th April. After his success in the Battalion event over the same course, Callum was poised and ready to compete. Unfortunately, a heavy fall of snow overnight made the course unsafe and potentially difficult driving conditions for those teams travelling from farther afield resulted in the event being cancelled for this year. Hard luck Callum, you'll have to hold fire until next year's event in Buckie.

The Company participated in the PE and Vaulting competitions picking up 2nd place in the Gymnastics and 3rd in the vaulting. Well done to everyone who took part.

We were represented by a small contingent at the Battalion Church Parade in Milton of Campsie. A very big thank you to those who made the effort to be there. The small church was full to capacity, more seats had to be put out to accommodate all the parents and friends who joined us for the excellent service. Once again, the rain held off and we got to the church and back without getting soaked.

Over the school Easter holidays, we continued to meet but, because of the work being undertaken in the church hall, we took the opportunity to go 10 pin bowling and mini golf. Both were fun nights enjoyed by those in attendance.

Badge work continues and we welcomed local councillor, Stewart McDonald, who came along one Friday night so that the boys could 'meet a local politician'. The boys had a list of prepared questions and supplemented these with additional questions on the night. Hardly 'Question Time' and very apolitical but an excellent session.

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

During June we hope to have some less formal meetings including a few outdoor activities, which are best done in the summer.

We hope all the officers and boys have a great summer and return refreshed and eager to get their teeth into the new session, which starts on 6th September.

Allan Geekie & George Kidd

Upper Room

All the May copies of "The Upper Room" daily bible readings and meditations were again quickly snapped up from the table at the back of the sanctuary, although further ones can still be had from the Faith Mission Bookshop in Bothwell St. The next issue is due in September and will take us up to the end of the year. Please let the office know if you would like to sample the booklet then for the first time. We would be more than happy to increase our St Columba's order!

The Guild

We enjoyed a visit in February from Lyn Dunachie who spoke about The Tapestry of Scotland. Lyn had excellent overheads and gave us much background information from this idea of Alexander McCall Smith through to the 160 designs of Andrew Crummy. Over one thousand talented stitchers in many parts of Scotland, in a very short time, completed these one metre panels depicting Scotland's history. It is the longest in the world and hopefully will have a new permanent home in Galashiels in a year or two.

In March, we were delighted to welcome our own Rhondda Geekie, who gave us an insight into her life as a local councillor, recalling at the beginning how difficult it was being a woman in the predominantly male world of councillors. She had to persevere to make her voice heard at meetings. Rhondda shared the highs and lows of her work - her love of meeting people, helping many individuals with their problems, the many projects that have made a difference in the Community and her dislike at having to wear hard hats on the many sites she visited over the years.

We next had our AGM and after the business of the evening were entertained by our organist, Jean Green and her talented friends. As she has done before, Jean selected another lovely programme of music for us and it was an excellent end to our syllabus of 2018/2019. We rounded off our fiftieth celebration year with a 'Guild decorated' cake and certificates of long membership to a number of our ladies. Our evenings are very well attended and we all enjoy the varied programme and time for tea and chat thereafter.

It is great to have a number of men join our evenings and welcome other ladies on occasions which interest them.

On Tuesday, 11th June at 7.30 pm St Columba's will host the Glasgow North Guilds Together for the 'Echoes of Assembly' meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend and learn about what happened at this year's General Assembly.

Some of our members will be travelling to Edinburgh on 21st May to join in the Guild 'Big Sing' at the Assembly Hall, and on Saturday, 7th September we will join with other local Guilds to attend the Guild Annual Gathering at the Caird Hall in Dundee - a day of worship, celebration, friendship and fun. There will also be a video link to local churches of the Annual Gathering. More information about this will appear in the Church Notices.

Till we meet again on Tuesday evenings in the autumn, have a lovely summer break. May the weather be kind to us all.

Margaret Rogerson

50 Years of St Columba's Guild



Members of the Guild receive their Long Service Awards



Oasis

It was a surprisingly emotional time when we had our final Oasis lunch day at the end of March, but after 10 years of service and ministry there was a real feeling of a job well done. The final session was envisaged as including free tea/coffee as a thank you for all our customers but ended up as a “no charge day, just pay what you want”. As a result of the kindness of our customers we then ended up with the highest takings we had ever had – so there must be a lesson in there somewhere!

All profits throughout were used to support charities and over the years we have been able to disburse almost £13,000 as follows :-

Barnabas Fund
Big Red Bus Overseas Mission – Ireland
Crossreach
David White jun.’s work with S.I.M. in Southern Sudan
Deafblind Scotland
Glasgow City Mission
Mary’s Meals
Mission Aviation Fellowship
Prospects Scotland
Strathkelvin Talking Newspaper
Strathkelvin Visually Impaired
The Maggie Centre

Over the years Oasis was also able to donate substantial amounts of money to St Columba’s Church, which included the purchase of a commercial dishwasher and a large fridge. It is anticipated that this year’s final donation will go towards a particular church refurbishment project.

None of this would have been possible without the support of our customers from our own church and from the wider community. Particular thanks, however, must go to the “Campsie Chums” who have loyally supported us from the beginning. Many kind and gracious comments have been received along with some unexpected thank you cards.

One of our regular customers – a lady of 97 years young, commented “My friends and I are very sorry you are stopping your monthly lunches. We always enjoyed them and the food and atmosphere were always very good. I would especially like to thank you for all the attendance and help I always got”. While one of our own members said “You may not miss us, but we will certainly miss our visits to Oasis, the smiles from the staff and the meetings with old and new friends”.

Jesus said “When you did this for the least of these, you did it for me.”

A BIG thanks, too, must go to the large number of men and women who willingly gave of their time and energy over the years in fulfilling a range of roles, either in the kitchen or front of house, to ensure that Oasis performed as successfully as it did.

Ian & Marilyn Gibb.

Letter From the Editor

Storing up Memories

Summer holidays are about more than just 'taking a vacation'. They are about storing up memories. As we look back to our childhood summers, we remember the heady excitement of the start of the school holidays and the freedom of eight long weeks when we could run, play, swim, ride bikes, visit the seaside and spend lots of time with our friends.

The older we get we become more aware of the importance of memories. There comes a day when our family life, as we know it has changed. So while we are caught up in the hurly-burly of running a home, raising a family and holding down a job we have to ask ourselves what are our priorities?

Storing up memories takes time - and how we use our precious time becomes more important with each passing year.

Do we want to be working overtime or should we be taking time out to go on a boat trip or walk through the woods noticing the changing colours of the leaves on the trees and listening to the birdsong?

It's all about choice and making memories with the people we love is never time wasted.

Jesus says in Mathew 6 Verses 19-21 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Happy memories of spending time with the people we love are our most precious treasure.

So who cares if the windows need washed or there's a heap of ironing in the basket or a pile of paper work on the desk?

Maybe even a sermon to write?

If the sun is shining and you want to be enjoying the moment with the people you love why not take time out to make memories?



Church Family Memories

In the Autumn edition of the church magazine I would like to celebrate the 50th anniversary of St Columba's with contributions from members of the congregation who have helped share in the life, work and worship of the church over the years.

I hope that some of the people who have been with us for many years will share their memories of the organisations and what the church has meant to them throughout those years. If you'd like to do this I think we could put together an edition which captures the fundamental nature of our church, and how it has evolved in the past half century.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like to do this. I could either interview you and write it myself or if you'd rather write it, just send it to me. I hope in this way we can capture the essence of St Columba's for our special anniversary edition.

Margaret Clayton, 11 Iona Way, 0141 578 3212,
mar.clayton@ntlworld.com.

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		
2 Miss J Brown/Mr & Mrs G Kidd	Ishbel Thomson	10
9 Coffee Time	Lydia Ramsay	11
16 Mrs R Powell	Irene Armstrong	12
23 Mrs M Stewart	Janet Brown	1
30 Mrs J Robetson	Christine Grant	2
July		
7 Mr & Mrs E Rogerson	Mr & Mrs I Muir	3
14 Mrs P McKinlay	Joan Beattie	4
21 Mr T Fawcett	Sheena Wright	5
28 Mrs J Connell	Moirra French	7
August		
4 Mr T Nelson	Julie Reid	8
11 Mrs I Kernochan	Glenys Swann	9
18 Sunday Club	Ishbel Thomson	10
25 Mr & Mrs N Bathie	Lydia Ramsay	11
September		
1 Mrs R Innes	Irene Armstrong	12
8 Mrs C Grant	Janet Brown	1
15 Mrs I Perry	Christine Grant	2
22 Mrs D Morgan	Mr & Mrs I Muir	3
29	Joan Beattie	4

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