

# St. Columba's Congregational Magazine



**Winter 2018**

**St Columba's Parish Church**  
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**Charity No. SC008735**

## From the Manse

One remarkable thing about the first Christmas is that the Bible prophets describe it in detail hundreds of years beforehand. For example, Micah tells us Jesus will be born in the tiny village of Bethlehem: *“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel...”* (Micah 5:2). Just as with all the other Bible prophecies about Jesus’ birth, life, death and resurrection – this is exactly what happens. As I write, politicians and pundits are discussing the likely outcome of the BREXIT negotiations. One thing is certain amidst so much uncertainty: none of them can predict the future! This is the case for us too as we live our lives. We just don’t know what will happen next.

How reassuring then it is to know that God, who sent his Son Jesus to be born in Bethlehem, is the God of history and is never taken by surprise. Jesus entered our world of change and uncertainty to be Immanuel, *“God with us”*. God with us whatever we face in this world. God with us till the day we see Him face to face in the world to come.

*Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;*

*Hail the incarnate Deity,*

*Pleased as man with man to dwell,*

*Jesus, our Immanuel.*

*Hark! The herald angels sing,*

*“Glory to the new-born King!”*

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

**Your minister and friend,**

**Philip**

**3**

## The Church Family



### Deaths

We are saddened by the deaths of Mary Stevenson and Nancy Smith, both members at St Columba’s. We extend our sympathy, love and prayers to their families.

### Thank you

George Smith would like to thank the members of the Church for their cards and kind thoughts following the loss of his wife Nancy in October. The retiral collection sum of £210.00 was donated to Chest Heart & Stoke Scotland.

### Bereavement Service

There will be a short Bereavement Service at 3pm on Sunday 2nd December 2018. All those who have lost loved ones will be very welcome to attend.

### Special Birthdays

Congratulations to Miss Margaret Black of Woodhead Avenue who will be 93 in December.

Congratulations also to two more recent nonagenarians - Archie Muir of Lammermuir Gardens and Margaret Sutherland of Moray Place.

### Daily Bible Readings

It is intended to again have copies of the January-April issue of "The Upper Room" available at the back of the church this month. These daily bible readings and meditations proved popular last time so hopefully will do so again.

**4**

## Sunday Club & Bible Class

This term we began a Bible Class for those of secondary school age which has run alongside Sunday Club during the morning service. We have been using Scripture Union resources which allow the Bible Class and Sunday Club to look at similar topics but in age-appropriate ways.

After singing together and an introduction to the topic for the day, Bible Class meets in the newly refurbished Committee Room (also known as the Upper Room) and the Sunday Club meets in the Small Hall.

We began the term by looking together at what the Bible says about Creation and we are now learning about God's promises to Abraham.

We enjoyed a 'Light Party' on 31st October where we thought about Jesus, 'the light of the world' while searching for lanterns in the woods next to the manse, toasting marshmallows, and lighting sparklers. We are looking forward to going trampolining in the run up to Christmas

### Christmas - Bring It On! By Sunday Club Members

Andrew Wright. "What I like best about Christmas is all the fun of the build up to Christmas day. I really enjoy the family service at our church too. Christmas Eve is magic and I love Christmas morning when at last I can open my presents"

Rona Thomson. "Now that I'm in fourth year at High school and have a lot of school work, I'm really looking forward to a rest after the Prelim exams. I'll enjoy being with my friends and family. I love getting into the Christmas mood by decorating our house and sometimes other people's houses too! It's fun."

Gail Thomson. "Like my sister I love putting up the decorations at our house for Christmas and doing the same for some of our relatives houses too. It feels like Christmas is about to begin....."  
**Scott Inglis**

## 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.

30 people have now attended some or all of a Christianity Explored course here at St Columba's in 2018.

For details of when the next Christianity Explored course is happening, please speak to Philip.

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

## Discipleship EXPLORED

Discipleship Explored is the sequel to Christianity Explored. It is an eight-session journey through Paul's letter to the Philippians and is ideal for believers at any stage of the Christian life.

Redesigned for 2018, it features brand-new documentary-style films and inspiring real-life stories from around the world. There are also Bible Studies and weekly reading plans.

We have been running two Discipleship Explored groups in recent weeks at St Columba's – a daytime one and an evening one.

If you would be interested in joining the next Discipleship Explored course, please speak to Philip.

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

## **World Mission Stamps Appeal**

This year the appeal is supporting the Giffen Institute of Theology in South Sudan where 75% of the ministers in that country are currently trained. Unfortunately extreme violence in South Sudan has meant that the Institute has had to relocate twice with the consequent loss of many of its facilities and resources. Currently it is based in a refugee camp on the Kenyan side of the border between the two countries and is badly in need of being restocked and replenished.

Since last Christmas St Columba's has donated some 6000 stamps to this worthwhile cause. Christmas cards are a particularly good source for stamps, so please continue to collect your used stamps, remembering to leave a paper border round them, and put them in the basket in the entrance to the church.

**Marilyn Gibb**

## **The Leprosy Mission**

I would like to start my report by thanking everyone who is still collecting money for the Leprosy Mission.

The sum of £200 has been raised since the beginning of May which is quite a lot of loose change to collect. We have been unable to organise a fundraising event for this cause as there are many other things happening in the Church at present. However there are collecting cans in the vestibule of the Church which can be used.

Thank you for your continued support.

**Margaret McCallum**

## **Macmillan Coffee Morning**

This year Macmillan Cancer Support organised its annual "World's Biggest Coffee Morning" and St Columba's decided to join with the other hundreds of groups all throughout the country arranging such an event. As a result of our efforts the Macmillan organisation benefited by £558.50p which was a remarkable total as it was all planned at fairly short notice. Our grateful thanks go to all who attended our venture and supported this very worthwhile organisation but particularly to our bakers, waiters, kitchen staff and all others who rallied round and helped in any way. At the time of writing more than £20 million has been collected with Macmillan still hopeful of receiving further donations.

**Ian & Marilyn Gibb**

## **Christian Aid Report**

The date of the Christian Aid Fair is **Saturday, 2nd March 2019** and as usual will be held in St. Mary's Church Hall from **10.00 a.m. until 1.30 p.m.** St. Columba's will be responsible for the Baking Stall in 2019, so all of you who bake and/or would like to help with the baking stall on the day please put this date in your diaries. I do not have a note of all the other dates for 2019 yet but the annual service usually takes place at the end of April and Christian Aid Week is in May. Details will be available in the Spring Newsletter.

I have placed a copy of the latest Christian Aid Magazine on the table at the back of the church and there is also information about fund raising events and campaigns that are taking place in Scotland throughout the year.

More information on the work of Christian Aid can be found on their website.

**Geraldine Fox**

## Men's Club

So far this session we've had mainly games nights and the start of our competitions.

Our first speakers were Jill Scott and Bill Hicks who were co-authors of the book on the history of the Grand Central Hotel at Central Station in Glasgow.

They treated their talk as a kind of double act, which was both amusing and informative. They recounted tales of the history of the hotel since its opening in 1883 up to the present date. It was a focal point for social events in the city and its guests included a host of famous names such as Winston Churchill, Roy Rogers and Tigger and the Beatles.

It was interesting to learn how many staff spent their entire working life there as part of the 'Central' family and also how a few had their own little earners on the side which perhaps explained why they stayed so long.

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.

Our recent evening of intensive domino playing, saw 21 members vying with each other for the 'Billy Paterson Memorial Cup', which for 2018 was won by Philip Wright with a hearty score of 54 points.

**Edward Rogerson**



## 1st Kirkintilloch Company

Our new session for all sections is now in full swing. Overall our numbers are quite stable, but we still have room for more boys in each section.

We would still like to recruit a couple of adult helpers. No previous experience necessary training will be provided. Anyone interested in becoming an officer or helper should contact the Captain or the Minister.

It was a privilege for all sections, along with 1st. Lenzie BB, to attend an excellent WW1 Commemoration Service at St. Columba's on Friday 9th November. On Friday and Saturday 9th & 10th November officers from all sections and boys from the company section were out collecting for Poppy Scotland, our thanks to all who supported us and this wonderful charity. Once again we will be delivering Christmas Cards in Kirkintilloch & Lenzie; our post box will be in the hall complex vestibule from the 2nd December to 16th December 2018. A donation of 30p per card would be appreciated.

## Anchor Boys

With Session 2018/2019 of the Anchor Boys under way it is great to see a few new members and previous boys returning from many schools within the surrounding area

Since the session started we have been doing lots of crafts, played games and read some stories. The boys enjoy working in their squads and are full of enthusiasm when carrying out all the tasks.

We had a joint Halloween party with the Junior Section and all the boys dressed up as their favourite characters. Willie Stewart and the Minister judged the best dressed. We played lots of exciting games which included dooking for apples and eating donuts off a string (this was a bit messy).

We took part in the dedication service in October and have taken part in the Centenary Service to mark the end of World War One at the start of November.

Lorna, Margaret, Fraser and David would like to thank all boys for attending each week and welcome any boys who wish to attend on a Friday in the big church hall from 6.15pm to 7.15pm.

### **Junior Section**

We are well into our session - mostly we have looked at badges, with the meaning of the BB badge being learned and the boys designing badges for their squads.

We have started the squad competition which will lead to the best squad being announced at the end of the session.

The marching is going well, which is impressive as we have a lot of new boys.

We still have space for more so if you know of any boys in primary 4 - 6 who would like to join we meet at 6.45 pm on Fridays.

Over the next few weeks we will be looking at the Christmas story with crafts, games and finally the Christmas Party.

**Lorna, David, Ross and Matthew**

### **Company Section**

The company section has been split into 3 squads and our squad competition is now underway. In October it was won by squad 1. We took part in the National Masterteam quiz and although we didn't win - our young team gave a very good account of themselves against a team of older boys, some of whom were previous National winners, so well done our boys. We are now well into our normal programme of BB activities and looking forward to Battalion Competitions. Each Friday evening our programme includes a devotional talk based on a Bible passage. So far five officers have delivered talks with a very diverse range of topics including; Heroes, Friendship, Teamwork, Thanksgiving, Charity & Advent.

In January, along with the other section, we will once again be going to the Kirkintilloch Players Pantomime - an evening that is always eagerly awaited by both boys and staff.

**George G. Kidd**

### **New Church Toddlers Group**

In an exciting and challenging new venture for the church and local community, we are planning to start a Toddler Group at St Columba's. Toddler Groups can play a helpful role in supporting young families providing a safe place to play, relax and meet and make friends. This is an opportunity for the church to reach out and support young families in the local area as we share the love of Jesus.

The new Toddler Group is for pre-school children up to the age of 5 who attend with their parents or carers. The expected start date is Friday 11th January 2019 and the Toddler Group will then meet on Friday mornings, 10:00 - 11:30, during school term time.

Please pass on the word to young families who may like to come.

For more information please speak to Gill Wright or contact the Church Office.

## We Will Remember Them

On the 9th September an ecumenical service to mark the Centenary of the First World War was held at St Columba's. Representatives from local churches in the Kirkintilloch and Lenzie area took part. It was a moving and poignant service to remember the sacrifice of millions of young lives and the physical and emotional suffering the survivors endured. The worship was led by Reverend Philip Wright, Father Purcell and Canon Alec Boyd.



Paul Hindle

## Following Jesus Group

This is a new group for adults with learning disabilities. In a happy and relaxed atmosphere members, together with their carers, will learn about following Jesus. Our first meeting will be on Wednesday 3rd October at 7.30pm – 9.00pm and thereafter on the first Wednesday of every month. We now have an enthusiastic team of leaders, but everyone can help by –

1. Encouraging anyone you know who has a learning difficulty (16 – 80) to join us – they will come to know Him better and make new friends.
2. Remember us in your prayers.

**Pat Muir**

## Easter Holiday Club

We are excited to be running an Easter Holiday Club for Primary School Age Children in 2019. This will run from Tuesday 2nd – Thursday 4th April, 10am – 12noon (during the first week of the school holidays). The Holiday Club will be crammed with activities including LEGO building, crafts, games, competitions – as well as learning about what Easter is all about!

We need people to help in all kinds of ways with the holiday club – admin, publicity, IT, music, catering, leading activities... Please speak to Philip as soon as possible if you would be willing to help.

More information about the Easter Holiday club, including details of how to book, will be available in the New Year.

## Work Nights in 2019

We are really grateful to a number of people who have helped with cleaning, painting and decorating, and other jobs around the church building in recent months.

We are planning a further three Work Nights in the New Year. These will be held from **6pm to 9pm** on the following **Wednesday** evenings:

Wednesday 16th January 2019

Wednesday 20th February 2019

Wednesday 20th March 2019

If you are able to help on any or all of these evenings we'd love to see you! There's no need to sign up in advance - please just turn up on the evening. Come when you can and leave when you must!

## Oasis

We have done well at each of our three openings this autumn but will not be opening in December as it has been found that there is always a big drop off in numbers attending as we get towards Christmas. This means the next Oasis date for your diary will be 31st January which, as always, will be the last Thursday of the month.

**Marilyn Gibb**

## Christmas at St. Columba's

There are a number of Christmas services at St Columba's this year. Here are some dates for your diary. Why not invite your friends and family?

Sunday 9th December 10:30am Gift Service (for St Rollox Church of Scotland) with a light Congregational Lunch after the Service.

Sunday 16th December 10:30am Nativity Service\*  
7:00pm Carol Service\* (with Riverside Church).

Sunday 23rd December 10:30am Family Christmas Service\*.

Monday 24th December 11:30pm Watchnight Service with mince pies etc. served from 10:30pm.

Sunday 30th December 10:30am All Age Service

\*mince pies etc served after these services.



## **Cue and Review Print Speaking to the Blind - are a charity based in Bishopbriggs.**

We are currently looking to recruit volunteer Access to Audio Ambassadors in East Dunbartonshire to place leaflets and business cards at businesses, shops and amenities in your area and also to show the public how to listen to daily and weekly online articles from the Herald, Evening Times, The National and Inside Soap magazine for free.

If you would like to volunteer and become an Access to Audio Ambassador, please contact Michael on 0141 772 3976 or via email [aaatl@cueandreview.com](mailto:aaatl@cueandreview.com)

Details of other volunteer opportunities are on our website - [cueandreview.com](http://cueandreview.com)

## **Marie Curie Hospice, Glasgow**

We would love to welcome your church community along to events at your local Marie Curie Hospice.

We are holding a 'Lights to Remember' event to celebrate the life of a loved one this Christmas at the Hospice (133 Balornock Road - Stobhill Hospital Grounds).

You are welcome to join us for music, readings and festive refreshments on **Wednesday 5th December at 5.30pm - for the service at 6.30pm.**

## **Singing Group**

Do you enjoy singing? Would you like to help introduce some new songs to the Sunday morning service? Then why not come to the Singing Group?

It has been great to welcome some new members to the Singing Group recently. There is still space for more!

## **Letter From the Editor**

One of my favourite books is "Little Women" by Louisa M. Alcott and my favourite character from that story is Jo March, a feisty female whose strong opinions thrilled me as a young girl reading the book under the covers by torchlight long after my mum had turned the bedroom light out.

"Christmas won't be Christmas without any presents," Jo grumbled when her mother told the family one year there was no money for gifts.

Of course it wouldn't I thought then. Imagine a Christmas without books or chocolate or a new doll under the tree! Sadly in today's consumer driven world it sometimes seems as if Christmas is more about shopping and spending, than it is about anything else. We try to remember the reason for the season but so often get caught up in the lists of things to do, to buy and to organise, that the true meaning is lost.

Just for a moment let's think about the real role of gifts in the Christmas story.

These gifts were wrapped in miracles, which is probably why we can't find them today at shopping malls or on Amazon.

The first gift came from a Jewish teenage girl named Miriam who was known to her family and friends as Mary. Her Christmas present was the complete surrender of herself to the will of God to bring her baby into our world.

The gifts from her fiancé Joseph were trust and faith. This young couple had no money and no home but he trusted there was a divine plan to get them through this mess. Somehow.

The angels gifts were tidings of comfort, joy and peace. The reassurance that there was nothing to fear. God knew what He was doing. The innkeeper's gifts were compassion and charity - a dry, safe place for the homeless family to stay.

Three kings from the East travelled many hot and dusty miles following a bright star in search of a royal birth. On their camels they carried treasures to honour his arrival. But when they arrived in Bethlehem they found the newborn prince in a cow stall instead of a palace.

This surprised the wise men as they unwrapped gold, frankincense and myrrh. They couldn't quite understand what was happening. Their real gifts were wonder, acceptance and courage as they knelt before this baby born in a stable, cradled by a young homeless mother, watched over by a bewildered but protective Joseph.

The simplicity and beauty of that birth changed our world forever. God's greatest gift to us was His own son.

So every Christmas it's good to remember and celebrate that precious moment.

When all the cards are written and posted. When all the shopping and cooking and wrapping of presents is over - perhaps we should take time to sit quietly by ourselves and say "thank you" for the priceless gift which changed our world over two thousand years ago and can still do so today.

**Margaret Clayton**

**John and I would like to thank everyone who helped with the magazine throughout the year and we wish you all a very Happy Christmas.**



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 – including the recent Ceilidh!

A Concert and a Big Coffee Morning are now in the pipeline. Please watch this space for details!

### **Just a Thought**

As St Columba's gears up for its 50th Anniversary we would like to encourage the congregation to share any thoughts, stories, memories and experiences, which have gone into shaping our Church family over the years and making St Columba's the success it has become.

Please send your articles to the Minister at:  
PWright@churchofscotland.org.uk.

**Or**

The Editor at: 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

	<b>DONATION</b>	<b>DELIVERY</b>	
	<b>2019</b>		
<b>January</b>			
6	Mr & Mrs W Scott	Irene Armstrong	12
13	Mr & Mrs W Reid	Janet Brown	1
20	Mr & Mrs F McCallum	Christine Grant	2
27	Mr G Smith	Mr & Mrs I Muir	3
<b>February</b>			
3	Boys Brigade	Joan Beattie	4
10	Mrs Lydia Ramsay	Sheena Wright	5
17	Mr & Mrs J Clayton	Moira French	7
24	Guides	Wilms***	
<b>March</b>			
3	Mrs J Beattie	Julie Reid	8
10	Mr & Mrs T Sinclair	Miss G Swann	9
17	Mrs P McKinlay	Ishbel Thomson	10
24	Mrs M Boyle	Lydia Ramsay	11
31	Mrs A Inglis	Irene Armstrong	12
<b>April</b>			
7	Tuesday Group	Janet Brown	1
14		Christine Grant	2
21	Mr & Mrs B Ashcroft	Mr & Mrs I Muir	3
28	Mrs J McCallum	Joan Beattie	4

## 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"**