

St. Columba's Congregational Magazine

St Columba's Parish Church
Old Aisle Road
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Spring 2019

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Charity No. SC008735

From the Manse

One of the commonest misunderstandings about Christianity is that you have to be a good person to be a Christian. This can put people off finding out more - either because they don't think they're good enough themselves, or they don't want to mix with a group of people who think they are!

But the Bible really couldn't be clearer that Christianity isn't for people who think they're good – it's for people who know they're not. Just one of the places we see this is in the book of Isaiah. Explaining why Jesus died on the cross, Isaiah writes, “...*he bore the sin of many...*” (Isaiah 53:12).

The whole reason Jesus came to earth is that we are not good enough for God. Yet, as the hymnwriter puts it, “*He took my sins and my sorrows, and made them his very own*”. He paid the price for our sin so that we don't have to.

This is a great antidote to pride. We have nothing to boast in apart from the cross of Jesus Christ. It is also a wonderful source of assurance.

We don't need to worry about whether we've done enough good for God to let us into heaven when we die.

In fact, we can be sure we've not! But, as we trust in Jesus' goodness and not our own, we can be assured that our sin is dealt with once and for all, we are children of God, and one day he will welcome us home.

May God help us to know the assurance that is found in Jesus Christ alone.

Your minister and friend,

Philip

The Church Family



Special Birthdays

Not only is St Columba's celebrating it's 50th anniversary this year - one of our founder members is enjoying his 80th Birthday.

Billy Reid was born on January 6th 1939. He grew up in Baillieston and from a young boy, he loved playing football. By the age of 18 he was playing as “centre back” for Strathclyde. He was called up for National Service in 1960 and returned home in 1962.

One year later Billy made the best decision of his life - he went dancing at Dennistoun Palais one evening where he met a young girl called Julie Hartley.

They married in 1964 and moved to Kirkintilloch. They joined St David's Church where Billy who has always had a strong religious faith became an Elder.

During his football career Billy played for Stirling Albion - the first Scottish team to take players abroad. While playing for Kirkintilloch Rob Roy he also served as a coach.

Fifty years ago when St Columba's opened its doors, Billy and Julie Reid became founder members and have played their part in our church life under four ministers, the Rev Robertson, the Rev Bill Gray, the Rev. David White and the Rev. Philip Wright.

Julie and Billy have two daughters - Linda and Gillian and six grandchildren.

This year Billy and Julie will celebrate the marriage of two of their grandsons and they are very much looking forward to seeing their 21 year old granddaughter Maia playing tennis at Wimbledon.

Clearly the sporting 'gene' has been passed down to another generation!

Happy birthday Billy from everyone at St. Columba's.



STOP PRESS

Billy and Julie are delighted at the safe arrival of their first great grandson Aaron Deacon.

Sunday Club & Bible Class

Since October the Sunday Club and Bible Class have been studying Moses and David within Exodus and first Samuel. While learning about the Exodus, led by Moses, we took the opportunity to make Manna jars that represent the things that we are thankful for in our lives today. This is a reflection of the manna bread provided to the Israelites by God. Recently we started on the new subject of Elijah, continuing our study through the old testament. As part of this study we are learning the hymn "Days of Elijah" which we hope to introduce to the congregation in the near future.

Over the Christmas period we enjoyed a visit to Flip Out, a trampoline park in Glasgow. Everyone from the Sunday Club, Bible Class and even leaders enjoyed the trampolines and other activities. More recently we also went to Pro Bowl in Kirkintilloch where we enjoyed some bowling and lunch. The Bible Class also look forward to a visit to the Escape Room in Glasgow in the coming months.

Scott Inglis

Christianity
EXPLORED

Have you ever thought of signing up for a Christianity Explored course but haven't quite got around to it?

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.

If you would be interested in attending a Christianity Explored course, daytime or evening, please speak to Philip.

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. 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

Once again many thanks for the money which has been handed to me since the last newsletter.

I have received a letter from The Leprosy Mission advising that any donations sent to The Leprosy Mission between 27th January and 27th April will be doubled by the Government. I therefore intend to send a donation away by the end of March. If any members of the Congregation are collecting loose change for this cause I would be obliged if they could hand the money to myself at Church on a Sunday or leave it in the Church vestibule where I will uplift it. Please leave any donations by Sunday 17th March to give me a chance to count it before sending it away by the end of March.

Margaret McCallum

Christian Aid Report - Spring 2019

Here are some dates for your diaries for the Christian Aid events taking place in 2019.

The **Spring Fair** will take place on Saturday, 2nd March 2019 in St. Mary's Church Hall and this year St. Columba's are responsible for the Baking Stall. It is possible that this event will have taken place by the time you read this article.

The annual **Christian Aid Service** will take place in Hillhead Church on Sunday, 28th April 2019 at 7.00 p.m. All are very welcome to attend.

The **Erskine Bridge Cross Walk** will take place on Saturday, 11th May 2019 at 2.00 p.m. The start place on the North side of the Bridge is Lusset Park Pitches, Station Road, Old Kilpatrick. There is limited parking available here as there is a lot of construction work taking place at the moment. This is a fun afternoon walk for all the family including many dogs! If any of our Groups would like to take part in this there is a sponsorship form available.

The date for **Christian Aid Week** this year is 12th to 18th May. Envelopes for donations will be handed out prior to these dates and will also be available on the table at the rear of the Church.

I will put a note of all these events in the Intimation Sheet closer to the time they are due to take place.

More information about the work of Christian Aid is available in the quarterly Christian Aid Newsletter a copy of which is available on the table at the back of the Church and more information on forthcoming events can be found on caid.org.uk/local.

Geraldine Fox

Men's Club

Since the winter edition of the magazine some of the members have enjoyed our annual get together with Chryston Men's Club where we experienced their usual hospitality with a Games Night.

After the Christmas break we met up with Milton Of Campsie Club for a night of ten-pin bowling.

The fellowship was excellent but, sadly, our members' efforts were well below par and we were soundly beaten on the night. The annual gap between meetings showed up our lack of practice.

At the end of January we enjoyed a talk by Bill Black on the Argyll Gunpowder Industry-usually known as the secret industry. The four sites of production were dotted around Argyll and produced gunpowder from the late 1700s till the mid 1920s.

During the 1800s the huge expansion of the railways and industry kept production at a high level. There was also a considerable export market.

Locally much production was used in the quarries around Furnace but eventually the introduction of gelignite resulted in a decline in business and in 1923 it ceased.

Some of the manager's homes were eventually sold off and are now used as holiday cottages.

On 18th February we welcome Dr Ivan Ruddock who will speak on his personal viewpoint on the WW1 Centenary Celebrations.

Thereafter our season runs on till the end of March with our competition finals and our annual Presentation Dinner at Kirkintilloch Golf Club.

It has been very pleasing to note that our membership has remained constant with the welcome addition of some new members. Weekly attendances have also been consistently good.

Edward Rogerson



1st Kirkintilloch Company

Overall the numbers across all sections remain reasonably 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 as training will be provided. Anyone interested in becoming an officer or helper should contact the Captain or the Minister.

As mentioned in the last magazine we were collecting for Poppy Scotland in November and had an excellent response raising almost £900 for this wonderful charity. Our Christmas card delivery service was very well supported our thanks to everyone who helped us raise £350. In March this year Strathkelvin Battalion are hosts to the National Cross Country and members of 1st Kirkintilloch will be involved in a variety of roles.

Anchor Boys

The boys have been kept busy on a Friday night. We had a talk about St Andrews day and tried some Scottish shortbread and oatcakes. We had our Christmas Party in December where we played lots of exciting games, had some prizes and had a visit from Santa. In the New Year we attended the Kirkie Players pantomime along with the Junior & Company section and a great time was had by all in attendance. We are looking forward to the battalion Anchors fun run which takes place at Luggie Park on 9th March So why not come and cheer us along.

A new boy has recently joined us on a Friday night and seems to be settling in well. We have also been playing a couple of new games but the boys still enjoy Dodgeball as their favourite.

Our parent's night this year will be on Friday 4th May at 6.15pm and all will be welcome to come along and see what we get up to on a Friday night.

Wishing you all a Happy Easter when it comes.

Lorna, Margaret, David & Fraser

Junior Section

How time flies when you have fun...its seems only a short time since we were looking forward to our Christmas party, but it's been and gone! We all had a wonderful time and even managed to have Santa come to visit! We enjoyed our visit to The Kirkintilloch Players panto which was Aladdin. We have participated in the Strathkelvin Battalion Figure Marching and PT competition's where we had the opportunity to compete against other boy's and companies and had a fantastic result in both competitions – THIRD place in both! Well done to all the boys' who took part in these competitions.

As the session is progressing, we are working hard to do as many activities we can in order to get our badges. One of the highlights has been making valentines bunting. We will be doing some other activities such as cooking and games over the coming weeks.

Our Battalion fun run takes place on Saturday the 9th March 2019 which we hope will be supported by a lot of the boys.

Our Battalion fun day will take place at the end of April with the details still a secret - it looks to be a really magical event!

Finally a reminder that our Annual display will take place on Friday 24th May 2019.

David, Lorna, Matthew, Ross & all the Junior Section

Company Section

Our normal programme continues apace with the boys showing enthusiasm for all of the activities. The monthly squad competition continues to be keenly contested with each squad having won at least once. We are also into Battalion Competitions, having already had success in the Cross Country with young Callum winning his race in fine style. Our Christmas outing took us to the Laser Tag in Cumbernauld where the boys and younger offices enjoyed an evening of fun and exhausting activity, while the more senior staff enjoyed a pleasant coffee. In January along with the Anchor and Junior sections we had an enjoyable evening at the Kirkintilloch Players Pantomime production of Aladdin. On the immediate horizon are the Gymnastic, Vaulting & First Aid competitions. Plus we have one boy starting towards his Queen's Badge and one working towards his President's Badge. Also in the coming weeks we will be starting to prepare for our annual aren't's evening on the 24th May 2019.

George G Kidd

Good Friday Café

We are holding a Good Friday Café in the Large Hall between 10am and 12 noon on the morning of Good Friday, 19th April. People from the church and community will be very welcome to come and enjoy a tea or coffee or juice and some home baking. Please do invite friends and neighbours. Alongside the Café, and also in the Large Hall, there will be Easter crafts for children, a dedicated area for babies and toddlers, a bookstall, and a Fairtrade stall.

Meanwhile, in the Small Hall, there will be a Poster Display called **One Friday** where paintings by the artist Jenny Hawke are set alongside Bible verses describing the events of Good Friday.

Friendship Club

It is a really happy lively group and we all enjoy meeting each other on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at 6.30pm.

This term we had a quiz on the nativity which reassured us that we had indeed been heard – even over the excitement of Santa.

We have also had dramas about the choosing of the disciples and how Jesus wanted Martha (and us) to stop fussing and spend time with him; Soon we will be following the Easter story.

Following Jesus Group

It is indeed a pleasure to be part of this group- both leaders and members have very quickly become friends and are enjoying getting to know more about Jesus together. All are keen to take part in singing, signing, drama, games and of course sharing a snack and a chat to finish. We meet on the first Wednesday of each Month at 7.30pm.

Prospects Across Scotland

Both of the above groups are affiliated to this charity which has approximately 30 groups throughout Scotland. We are very fortunate to have a lovely friendship with The Friends of Jesus Group in Brighton's who prayed for our new group last month and sent each of us a card. We have also been invited to join the Baillieston group for an afternoon of Pro-bowl on 30th March. However the highlights of this term will be our Prospects weekend at Tulliallan on 10th – 12th May. Heather, Lucas, Ava, Lynsay and I had a great time last year and hope some of the new group will join is this year. Both groups again look forward to our sail with the Seagull Trust – beware of noise if you are cycling along the canal bank on 12th June!!

Pat Muir

Easter Megabuild

Easter Megabuild is our free Easter Holiday Club for Primary School Age children running from Tuesday 2nd – Thursday 4th April, 10am – 12noon (during the first week of the school holidays). It will be crammed with activities including LEGO building, crafts, games, competitions – as well as learning what Easter is all about!

Please pass on the word about Easter Megabuild. Places are limited so if you would like to book one please contact the church office as soon as possible!

'Little Fishes' Toddlers Group

We have been excited to start a new Toddler Group at St Columba's. It has been lovely to welcome lots of young families into our church on Friday mornings between 10.00 and 11.30. We have enjoyed chatting with mums and dads and grans and grandpas and playing with the babies and children. We have a snack time for the little ones and coffee and biscuits for the grown-ups. We have a simple Bible craft each week and at the end we enjoy a time of singing favourite songs like 'Wheels on the bus'.

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

It has been so busy that we have started a 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.

Gill Wright

Fabric Update

You may well have noticed a number of jobs going on over recent weeks and months to maintain and upgrade the fabric of the church building and halls. We are very grateful to all who have given their time and talents to help with this.

Preparatory work is underway in the Large Hall in preparation for laying a new floor later this year. We are also hoping to refurbish the Vestry after Easter and the Small Hall during the Summer.

Whilst some of this work will be carried out by contractors, there will be a number of work evenings (and perhaps days!) announced in due course where the help of volunteers will be much appreciated. These events are often great fun as well as being an opportunity to get to know other folks in the church in a different setting from usual!

Scripture Union Holidays and Weekends

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 Easter, Summer and October week holidays are available from the church office.

There's even a Scripture Union weekend away for young people from the Strathkelvin area from Friday 3rd to Sunday 5th May. Please speak to Jackie Ringan for more information about this or any other Scripture Union holidays or weekends.

Easter Services

Joint Services will be held at 7:30pm from Monday to Thursday of Holy Week (14th to 18th April) in the four Church of Scotland churches in Kirkintilloch. The venues for each evening are not yet confirmed but will be announced in due course.

7:30pm, Friday 19th April, Good Friday Service at St Columba's

10:30am, Sunday 21st April, Easter Sunday Morning Family Service at St Columba's

7:00pm, Sunday 21st April, Easter Sunday Evening Joint Service with Riverside Church at Riverside Church

Sunday Evening Services

We are planning to have a series of ten evening services running from Sunday 28th April until Sunday 30th June. These will be held at 7pm each week in the Small Hall. We are expecting to go through the book of Daniel together with the overall theme for the sermon series being *Daniel – Survival Manual for Saints*.

It is hoped that these evening services may be helpful to some who for various reasons are unable to be present at any or all of the church service on a Sunday morning, as well as to others who may be glad to gather together for worship for a second time on a Sunday.

Singing Group

The Singing Group play a really 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 Christmas and Easter services.

It has been great to welcome some new members to the Singing Group recently. And there is still space for more! Please speak to Jean Green for more information.

The Guild

The ladies enjoyed their Christmas lunch at The Garfield early December. We started 2019 with the promised visit from Mrs Dreena O'Malley, and heard of her many years' involvement with the Deafblind, culminating in the wonderful Field of Dreams building.

An inspiring commitment of understanding need, teaching sign language, and patience and planning the perfect centre of help.

Sadly we had to cancel our Quiz evening due to winter weather. We thank our Quizmaster for all his preparation and look forward to another occasion when the questions will be removed from his locked cupboard. I have eaten the prizes!!

On the evening of 5th February we celebrated our Guild's 50th anniversary and enjoyed a meal together with many of the congregation and friends from other Guilds in local churches. This was followed by a lovely programme of music performed by thirty of The Bearsden Fiddlers. We were also joined by the National Convener of the Guild in Scotland, Mrs Patricia Robertson. It was a full house and a happy evening.

Margaret Rogerson

Letter From the Editor

One of my favourite things when I was 18 years old and started my first job as a trainee reporter was interviewing people in their own homes and getting a sense of who they were from their possessions – the music they listened to and the books they read.

I was 18 years old and impossibly nosey about other people's lives. It's never changed - I still am.

The images people present to the world - how they see themselves and how they want to be seen, still fascinate me. Today in our world of 'celebrity culture' people achieve fame overnight and thousands of young people are influenced by the glamour of the façade presented to them and want to copy it. But what do we really see when we look into a person's face?

Sight is I think the most precious of all our senses. It tells us so much. To see properly though takes time and all too often we're in such a rush we don't have the time to understand what's really happening around us.

What do we feel when we pass a Glasgow shop doorway on a cold night and see a teenage boy huddled under a blanket, with an empty paper cup by his side as he hopes someone will reach out to him?

Closer to home do we "see" the loneliness of a neighbour who seldom has a visitor? Are our eyes alert enough to notice a member of our church family who is perhaps struggling with ill health?

Are we too busy at times to realize when someone in our own family is needing a bit of encouragement and support?

The writer John Ruskin summed it up perfectly. "The greatest thing a human being ever does in this world is to see something. To see clearly is poetry, prophecy and religion all in one," he said.

The fact is we are all so busy, rushing from one thing to another – that giving ourselves space to look at the world around us, to enjoy God’s generous outpouring of beauty – lambs wobbling to their feet, the first Spring flowers blooming in the garden – takes time.

The gift of vision was so important that when God created the world, the first command was for Light in order to see, and after our creative God was finished with each day’s task, He glanced back on his handiwork and “saw that it was good”. We need to see how good it is too and enjoy the beauty of our world as it unfolds day by day.

Whether we are looking at a glorious sunset, a painting or into the face of a child we love – our sight is the most precious gift we have.

Springtime is the season to celebrate the tiny triumphs of nature as our world awakens up and warms up. Every day we can choose to look closely, to value and to cherish. Or we can be so caught up in our own concerns that the moment is lost forever.

Maybe if we look around and see something that makes us smile, we can pass it on – by smiling at the next person we meet.

They might of course think we’re a tad crazy – but there’s just a chance they might smile back.

Margaret Clayton



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.

Many of us enjoyed a great night at the 50th Anniversary Ceilidh on Saturday 24th November.

Our next event is a concert with Christian singer/songwriter Michael McMillan and the Hope Street Band. This will be held at 7:30pm on Saturday 16th March. Tickets priced £5 for adults, free for under 16s, are available from the church office.

Just a Thought

As St Columba's celebrates 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.

Church Family Outing

As part of the 50th anniversary celebrations would any members of the congregation be interested in a church family outing this summer? Any suggestions for a venue or any offers of help, etc. would be most welcome.

Ian & Marilyn Gibb

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	
March			
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
April			
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
May			
5	Mr & Mrs G French	Sheena Wright	5
12	Mr & Mrs I Muir	Moira French	7
19	Mr & Mrs I Gibb	Julie Reid	8
26	Mrs J Doyle	Glenys Swann	9
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

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"