

St Columba's Parish Church
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Charity No. SC008735

From the Manse

It was to a very ordinary group of shepherds looking after their sheep on a Judean hillside that an angel appeared with an astonishing message: *“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord...”* (Luke 2:10-11). 2000 years later we still celebrate this good news, and especially so at Christmas, that a Saviour has been born for us!

One of the exciting things about Christmas Day is opening presents. We don't just ignore them and leave them under the tree in their wrapping. It is just the same with God's gift to us of his Son, Jesus Christ. God gave him to be our Saviour. The baby born in Bethlehem went on to die on a cross for you and me at Calvary. The reason he did so was to bear God's judgement on our sin so that we don't have to. The most vital question then facing each one of us this Christmas time is, “Have I received God's gift of his Son, Jesus Christ to be my Saviour?”

*O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in,
Be born in us today.*

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

Your minister and friend,

Philip

The Church Family



Death

We are saddened by the death of Helen Ashcroft, one of our members here at St Columba's. We extend our sympathy, love and prayers to Brian and Carol, Helen's parents.

Bereavement Service

There is a short Bereavement Service at 3pm on Sunday 8th December. All those who have lost loved ones, whether recently or some time ago, are most welcome to attend. The service is in the church and is expected to last around half an hour. Tea and coffee will be provided afterwards.

Birth

We are delighted by the safe arrival of Aleesha Inglis. Many congratulations to parents, Stuart and Vicky, and grandparents Anne and Graham.

Thank You

Senior Members

Sadly the Senior Members monthly service has now come to an end.

I would like to thank all of our drivers past and present who faithfully brought the Members to church each month. Also not forgetting the organizations who provided refreshments every month. This was very much appreciated by the Members.

Harvest

Many thanks to all the drivers and helpers who delivered the bunches of flowers and sweets. I have had a great feedback from the Members who received them.

Joan Beattie

I would like to thank St.Columba's members for all their Cards, Best Wishes and Prayers received during my recent stay in hospital.

I was greatly encouraged by hospital visits from Rev. Philip Wright and Rev. Alex Green.

I am now relieved to be home and on the way to recovery.

Neil Bathie

I would like to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers, visits and phone calls during my recent illness.

It was greatly appreciated.

Ruth Innes

Thank You

We would like to thank our church family for all their love and support during Helen's last illness. Sometimes in these difficult situations it is hard to see where God fits into it all; but when the cards come in along with the flowers and the home baking; it is then that we see God's hand at work.

God Bless you all.

Brian and Carol Ashcroft.

We should like to take this opportunity to thank Philip and Gill and the very many people within the Congregation who have popped in, sent cards, good wishes and practical expressions of kindness to us during Isabel's recent spell of illness. We also deeply appreciate the prayers of so many who have supported us during these days. The lovely Church flowers which were delivered to us at home were also a lovely encouragement and greatly appreciated by us.

Thank you once again.

Isabel & Keith Saunders

I would like to thank everyone who sent cards to me, telephoned and prayed for me when I had operations in March and May of this year.

It was a real boost to know that members of the church were thinking about and praying for me.

I have made a very good recovery, so thank you all.

Yours sincerely,

Jeanette McKendry

Memories of Margaret Waddell

Margaret Waddell who was a member of St Columba's died in June this year. Margaret was an officer and captain of the Girls Guildry, which later became the Girls Brigade. Margaret gave the following poem to her friend Jenny McCallum who wishes to share it with you in her memory.

True Fellowship

*If after church you wait awhile,
Someone may greet you with a smile,
But if you quickly rise and flee
We'll all feel cold and stiff, maybe
The one beside you in the pew
Is perhaps a stranger too?
All here, like you have fears and cares
All of us need each other's prayers.
In fellowship we bid you meet
With us, around God's mercy seat.*

Renewal of Vows

John and I celebrated our Golden Wedding in September this year and we decided that having spent 50 years together (the equivalent of two life sentences evidently!) we would like to renew our vows in church.

Philip kindly agreed to make this possible and Gilbert was there to welcome our friends and family.

The short service was simple but meaningful and we would like to thank Philip very much for making it such a special day.

Margaret & John Clayton

Friendship Club & Following Jesus Group

We have been praising the Lord with singing, signing and hearing the wonderful messages from the Bible. We often dramatise the themes, acting out the original text and then finding a modern equivalent. Games and crafts are also part of our programme although the highlight of the evening can often be our chat and snacks at the end.

We have been privileged to welcome newcomers to each group and it has been lovely to watch everybody making new friends. There is such a happy atmosphere with lots of smiles and chatter making it a really great way to spend a Wednesday evening.

Some of the group members and leaders will be attending a Makaton workshop on 21st November, which should improve our signing skills. There is also an Advent Service in Bearsden New Kilpatrick Church on 1st December at 3.30 where it is hoped that some of our group may take part in signing and drama.

Our special Christmas celebration for the Friendship Club is on 11th December but the Following Jesus Group will be celebrating in January 2020.

Friendship Club meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at 6.30 – 8.00.

Following Jesus Group meets on 1st Wednesday of each month at 7.30 – 9.00.

If you know of anyone who may like to join us please bring them along.

Pat Muir



1st Kirkintilloch Company

Anchor Boys

We started back for our new session of Anchor Boys on 5th September and to date we have 14 boys attending.

We have carried out various tasks on Friday night, including what the BB badge stands for, learning about harvest and Remembrance Day.

The boys enjoy their night each week and the tasks we carry out.

Our Halloween party included a selection of scary outfits, which the boys really enjoyed.

Lorna

Junior Section

The season is well underway and on the whole we have had a good start. Unfortunately numbers of the boys attending have been very up and down. However we have still tried to make the evenings fun and varied. Some weeks trying new sports like table tennis.

We had a good number of boys at the dedication service and special mention must go to Fraser who was at the Remembrance service.

We enjoyed a Halloween party with the Anchors and some of the boys and parents supported the company wide Purple Pinky event.

We are not going to manage a Christmas party this year but will be attending the Puppet Show on the 13th December, to which we are all looking forward.

In the New Year we will be attending the Kirkintilloch Players Panto.

We hope everyone has a peaceful and good Christmas and New Year.

Lorna, David, Ross and Mathew.

Company Section

Our session is now well underway; we are pleased to report that our numbers are slightly up on last session. The Squad Competition has begun and Callum & Dean are both keen to ensure that their respective squads do well.

In October we had our annual dedication service and we supported Kirkintilloch Rotary who were raising funds for World Polio Day. Thanks to everyone who supported us in this worthwhile event. In total, including the Gates Foundation contribution, we raised enough for 3900 inoculations against Polio.

This year the officers and boys again supported Poppy Scotland at Tesco in town where, thanks to peoples' generosity we raised £900.23. We were very pleased to both support 1st. Lenzie BB's Remembrance Service and our own Remembrance service. Many thanks to all the boys who were able to attend both.

On the competition front we unfortunately had to withdraw from the Masterteam event, but were able to compete in the junior 5 a sides, where our boys travelled to Gourrock and although we didn't win all of our games the boys had an enjoyable evening of sport and BB fellowship.

As usual we will be carrying out our normal Christmas card delivery service across Kirkintilloch and Lenzie. The post box will be in the hall's vestibule from the 1st to 15th December.

(1st class post is 30p, 2nd class post is 30p - impress your friends by posting 1st class!).

George Kidd

Christian Aid

The Annual General Meeting of the Kirkintilloch and Lenzie Christian Aid Group has not yet taken place but there is one definite date for your diaries.

The Christian Aid Spring Fair will be held on Saturday, 7th March 2020 in St. Mary's Church Hall and it is the turn of St. Columba's to organise the Tea Room. The Tea Room is always busy so we will need as many volunteers as possible to help on the day. The Tea Room opens at 10.00 a.m. but there is an hour's work to set up before hand. We will also need donations of baking – fruit loaves; scones; tray bakes; pancakes etc.

Other events in the fund raising calendar are the Annual Service which usually takes place at the end of April, The Erskine Bridge Cross Walk at the beginning of May and Christian Aid Week which is usually mid May. Once we have had the AGM I will publish these dates in the next Magazine.

This year Christian Aid Scotland is undertaking a special Christmas Appeal to help mothers use their God-given gifts to escape poverty for example by providing them with sewing materials or tools for farming. You can donate to this appeal on the Christian Aid website at www.christianaid.org.uk.

The current issue of the Christian Aid Magazine can be found on the table at the rear of the Church or it is available on their website. There are now two issues a year Autumn/Winter and Spring/Summer. Only one paper copy is now sent to the Church in the interests of the environment but I am able to order more paper issues if they are requested.

May I take this opportunity to thank all of you who have donated so generously to Christian Aid throughout 2019 and helped out at the Fair last March. Your kindness really does make a difference to many poor communities in the world.

In conclusion may I wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus and enjoy the Festive Season.

Geraldine Fox.

Hall Toilets

Many thanks to all who contributed so generously to the recent Gift Day to help raise funds to put towards new toilets for the halls. A total of £4902 has been given and gift aid tax rebates of £945 will take this to £5847. When this is added to the sum of £2566 that has already been donated for new toilets (£900 from the Men's Group and £1666 from Oasis) there is then a very sizeable total of £8413 to put towards this work.

The Board will now discuss how best to take this work forward at its December meeting. Once again, thank you for such a generous response to this appeal.

THE GUILD

It was good to all meet up again on 10th September when we enjoyed catching up and welcoming three new members. A fortnight later we heard from Ramsay Vallance of his many years' involvement with Prison Fellowship. It was interesting to hear the outcomes of his weekly visits and to learn more of behind the scenes at Barlinnie.

In October we enjoyed an evening of song provided by Philip, our Minister and his friend Alastair, accompanied by Bill Wright, Philip's dad. Our annual quiz was next on the syllabus, a fun evening guaranteed by our genial, but firm Quizmaster Allan. We had a full hall and a happy time together. £160.20 before expenses, was raised for the Sailors' Society - a Guild project.

We enjoyed having Melanie Brickley visit in November when she told us of her involvement with 'Women Make Heritage'. She explained the background of our local villages getting together to highlight the skills of their leading ladies of long ago. There has been an excellent exhibition of this in our newly restored Town Hall and there are plans afoot for a theatrical version in the Town Hall next Spring.

Margaret Rogerson
Guild Secretary

MEN'S CLUB

As usual, the early weeks of the session are dominated by Games Nights. However our competitions will be well under way before the Christmas break.

Our first speakers were Michael McMillan (whom many will remember performing in the church concert in March with The Hope Street Band) and Stephen Webster who spoke about their experiences of drug and alcohol addiction and the impact it had on the individual, their families and other relationships. They referred to youngsters getting drawn into the drug scene in their early teens and gradually rising through the ranks eventually being unable to escape from their addiction and the clutches of the Mister Bigs. Many ended up in prison. Sadly many suffered an early death.

Stephen spoke about his involvement with Street Connect which literally picked some addicts off the streets and by counselling and encouragement got them back on the straight and narrow highlighting some successes.

Overall it was a most absorbing evening which was well attended being joined by several ladies and visitors. The talk provoked a large Q & A section on this insoluble problem.

Prior to our break we shall have our visit from Chryston Men's Club and then our Billy Paterson Memorial evening.

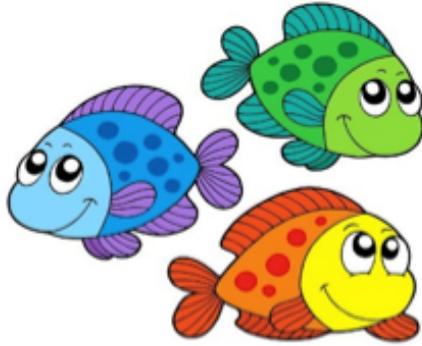
It has been very heartening to report an increase in our membership and also a high turnout each week.

We have two Open Nights in early 2020- Monday 13th January : Steven Booth from 'The Glasgow Vintage Vehicle Trust'.

Monday February 17th : Edward Z Smith 'Scotland - Bits and Pieces from the Air'. If you wish to see some superb photography this one is a must.

Both meetings commence at 7.30pm and all are welcome.

Edward Rogerson



Little Fishes Toddler Group

We have had a great term at 'Little Fishes' and continue to grow - really 'quite big fishes' now! It was lovely to welcome old friends back but also new babies, toddlers and their mums, dads and grans and grandpas. We felt that we were getting too big for the small hall and now meet each week in the large hall which has been great. Many say how good the hall is and the new floor is ideal for wee ones. We welcomed Dorothy as a new helper and are grateful to Fraser, George and Robert helping with setting up and clearing away too.

One of the best bits of the morning is the singing time - the children really know the songs well and are great at the actions! We are looking forward to Christmas with plans for our own little nativity and Christmas party too. Thank you to all those who knitted sheep - they are fabulous. They will be starring in some of the family Christmas events!

If you know anyone who would like to come to join us at Little Fishes, we meet on Friday mornings 10 -11.30am in term time, please do ask them to contact Gill (07934460752) or Janet in the church office.

Gill Wright

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 15th December	10:30am	Nativity Service (with light lunch afterwards)
	7.00pm	Carol Service (with Home Church)
Sunday 22nd December	10:30am	Family Service
Tuesday 24th December	4:00pm	Family Christmas Eve Service
	11:30pm	Watchnight Service (with refreshments served from 10:30pm)
Wednesday 25th December	10:30am	Christmas Day Service
Sunday 29th December	10:30am	All Age Service

The Family Christmas Eve Service at 4:00pm and the Christmas Day Service at 10:30am are new this year. Whilst the Family Christmas Eve Service will very much have pre-school and primary school age children in mind, it may be noted that all ages are very welcome to attend! The Christmas Day Service is an opportunity to give thanks to God for the gift of His Son, Jesus at this most significant moment in the Christian Calendar.

Please note too the soup and sandwich lunch in the Large Hall after the Nativity Service on Sunday 15th December. We do hope as many as are able will come and share in this occasion.

Christmas Café

We are looking forward to having a Christmas Café on Saturday 7th December, 2:30 till 4:30pm. As well as being an opportunity to enjoy a coffee and home baking and escape the Christmas rush we also expect to have:

- • Christmas Crafts for Kids
- • Baby and Toddler Area
- • Hunt the Sheep in the Church (intended for youngsters!)
- • Table Tennis and other Games
- • Book Stall supplied by the Faith Mission Bookshop
- • Fair Trade Stall

Please support this event – and bring your friends!

Ready for Christmas?

It's that time of year again when women ask each other "are you ready for Christmas?" Then we go on to say how much we still have to do and feel slightly panicky because we're not as organised as we think we should be. There are still presents to be bought, cards to be written, food to be ordered, the house to be cleaned. Can it all be done on time and on schedule?

Going into panic mode in December is not uncommon because somehow or other we've fallen for the belief that we have to make Christmas perfect.

But the truth is of course - that it's not the cleaning, shopping, present wrapping and entertaining which makes Christmas special. It's about making time to welcome the greatest gift our world was ever given and to understand anew each year what that means in our own life.

We remember the excitement we felt as children when each day brought us closer to Santa's visit.

As parents we recall the rituals of decorating the Christmas tree with our children and singing carols round it at bedtime. As grandparents we enjoy sharing that again with the next generation.

But for some of us who have lost a loved one, Christmas can also be a time of poignant sadness as we recall those treasured memories.

This past year at St Columba's has been a very special time as we celebrated the 50th anniversary of our church. So many memories of experiences shared, friendships made, lives enriched.

We've appreciated the service given by each of the ministers who came to lead our church. We've watched our children learn and grow through Sunday school and youth organisations.

We've had times when our faith was challenged and times when it was restored. We've lived and loved and laughed and maybe sometimes even cried as we made this journey together.

It is I think what the phrase 'our church family' truly means. Every family has its ups and downs, good times and difficult moments - but our shared values, our trust in a loving God holds us together. Why? Because our foundation stone is built on a God who knows us and loves us with all our flaws and imperfections.

What a great privilege we share.

I hope this festive season is a time when we can open our hearts and minds to the Christmas story and learn anew what a gift we were given in the birth of Jesus.

Happy Christmas.

Margaret & John Clayton



The Wise Men

We are delighted to be welcoming 'Out the Box', an Inverness-based puppet and performing arts charity, to perform 'The Wise Men' at 6:30pm on Friday 13th December. 'The Wise Men' is a cross between a pantomime and a nativity play. The script, written by Glasgow-based actor Philip Todd, is dazzling, laced with laughter and profundity, and energetic slapstick. It is enhanced by powerful songs by Philip's musician brother Matthew.

The show, which lasts around an hour, is suitable for all ages and primary-aged children especially. It is a great opportunity to have 'Out the Box' performing here at St Columba's. Please make use of the flyers in the church to spread the word about this event – especially to families with young children you may know.

There is no need to book in advance. Entry is free with a £1 optional donation per person.

St. Columba's Web Site

www.kirkintillochstcolumbas.org.uk

Do you use the internet; did you know that we have a web site? Our hope for the site is that it reaches a wider audience

than the magazine distribution or those who receive the 'what's on' notices on a Sunday morning.

What's on the site? It covers the groups that meet within the church; a short history of the church; photos of recent events

and an online copy of the magazine, to list a few. A services page gives you the opportunity to see the order of service, the reading and notices for the coming Sunday, also there is normally a recording of the previous Sunday's sermon.

Why not make sure your group and any special event you may be holding is mentioned, or if you have an idea, comments on the web or article you think suitable for the site by either dropping a note into the church office, use the contact page on the web site or email to the webmaster@kirkintillochstcolumbas.org.uk.

Since it was launched we've had enquires from people and groups with no connection to the church, so we know that it helps communicate Christ's message to a wider audience.

Where do I find it you ask? Go to:

www.kirkintillochstcolumbas.org.uk

If you don't have access to the internet, but would like to know more let the office know or speak either to the minister or George Kidd.

George Kidd

Prayer Breakfast 2020

We read in the book of Acts that the early church was in the regular habit of meeting together to pray (Acts 1:14). In line with this, we are holding a prayer breakfast, 9 till 10.30am, on Saturday 18th January. After a light breakfast (croissants and coffee/tea) we will commit the coming months to God in prayer as we remember not only the needs of our local church and community but also worldwide concerns.

All are very warmly welcome to this event. If you have not been to a prayer meeting before, please be assured that you do not have to pray out loud if you do not want to. We will just be glad to see you!

Easter Holiday Club 2020

Last year, we were delighted to be able to run an Easter Holiday Club for primary aged children. As well as being crammed with activities including LEGO building, crafts, games, and competitions, this was a great opportunity for children to learn what Easter is all about!

We would love to run another Easter Holiday Club in 2020 but we need people to help with all sorts of things - admin, publicity, IT, music, catering, leading activities...! The dates we have in mind are Monday April 6th to Thursday April 9th.

If you would be interested in helping with an Easter Holiday Club, in whatever way, please speak with Philip as soon as possible. Although it seems a long time till Easter, planning for a holiday club needs to start soon!

Philip

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	
December 2019			
1	Mr K Staward	Janet Brown	1
8	The Swann Family	Christine Grant	2
15	Mrs Janet Muir	Mr & Mrs I Muir	3
22		Joan Beattie	4
29		Sheena Wright	5
January 2020			
5	Mr & Mrs W. Scott	Julie Reid	6
12	Mr & Mrs W. Reid	Glenys Swann	7
19	Mr & Mrs F McCallum	Ishbel Thomson	8
26	Mr G Smith	Lydia Ramsay	9
February			
2	Boys' Brigade	Irene Armstrong	10
9	Mrs Lydia Ramsay	Janet or Julie	11
16	Mr & Mrs J Clayton	Janet Brown	1
23	Mrs Chris Trail	Christine Grant	2
March			
1	Mrs J Beattie	Mr & Mrs I Muir	3
8	Mr & Mrs T Sinclair	Joan Beattie	4
15	Mrs P McKinlay	Moira French	5
22	Mrs M Boyle	Julie Reid	6
29	Mrs A Inglis	Glenys Swann	7

SERVICES

Sunday Worship 10.30

(Creche available)

Midweek Worship: Tuesday 10.00

(In Lounge)

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