

# St. Columba's Congregational Magazine



**Autumn 2019**

**St Columba's Parish Church**  
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## From the Manse

Over the last months I've been enjoying getting out and about on my bike whenever I can. However, as I've been pedalling along (at a fairly modest pace it must be said!) the chain has been picking up bits of dirt making it more and more difficult to keep on the move. What a relief to get the chain cleaned up last week and to stop feeling every journey was uphill!

As we go about our day to day lives, it's very easy to pick up habits that hold us back from following Jesus. Sometimes, these things take hold of us almost without our noticing. Over time, however, they slow up our spiritual progress.

In the letter to the Hebrews, we're told to "*throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles*" so that we can "*run with perseverance the race marked out for us*" (Hebrews 12:1).

As we celebrate St Columba's 50th Anniversary this autumn, what better time to examine whether there's anything holding us back from following Jesus? If there is, and we're prepared to ditch it, we'll find it a whole lot easier to run the race God has marked out for us.

*May I run the race before me,  
Strong and brave to face the foe,  
Looking only unto Jesus  
As I onward go.*

Your minister and friend,

**Philip**

# The Church Family



## **Deaths**

We are saddened by the death of Mr Sam MacDonald and Margaret Waddell. We extend our sympathy, love and prayers to their families. We are also saddened by the death of Mrs Helen Woods, known as "the lady with the hats", and extend our sympathy, love and prayers to Alan and the family.

## **Weddings**

Many congratulations to Sarah and Victor Cheung on their recent marriage. Sarah, one of David and Janet Muir's three daughters, is well known to many of us here at St Columba's. We pray God's richest blessing on Sarah and Victor.

## **Anniversary**

Many congratulations to Alec and Jean Green on their recent Ruby Wedding Anniversary.

## **Birth**

We are delighted to hear of the safe arrival of Harris Kidd, son of Graeme and Sarah Kidd and grandson of George and Mary Kidd.

## Sunday Club & Bible Class

Since the last update the Sunday Club and Bible Class finished its study of the Psalms and finished up for summer at the end of June. On the day of the prize giving service we, along with members of the congregation, enjoyed another summer cycle and walk fun day where we cycled to Clachan of Campsie and walked to Milton of Campsie. This was followed by a BBQ and some games in the car park. Thankfully we were more fortunate with the weather this year and didn't have to run for cover during the BBQ. During the summer holiday we also enjoyed a short camping trip to Aberfoyle which we all thoroughly enjoyed. The highlight of the stay seemed to be a game of capture the flag in the woods, in which a few of us got lost.

Planning for the next session we look forward to another light party at St Columba's church on the 31st October. A light party is an alternative to a Halloween party where we celebrate Jesus Christ who is described as the "Light of the World."



## **Fabric Update**

The refurbishment of the COMMITTEE Room has proved to be a valuable space for meetings and other uses. The extensive changes in the LARGE HALL are virtually complete and we were fortunate to have received a donation for the cost of the new flooring. The decoration and the new heating system make a practical difference to the many users of the hall.

Work is now underway to upgrade the VESTRY and for the refurbishment of the SMALL HALL.

The downstairs LADIES TOILET and the upstairs MENS TOILET are in need of total renewal and the Congregational Board have decided to hold a GIFT DAY on Sunday 15th September in an effort to provide funds for those renewals.

GIFT ENVELOPES will be available on the day and can be used whether donators have Gift Aid or not.

Please ask any member of the Finance Committee or the Church Secretary if you have any questions.

The CHURCH OFFICE will also accept gift donations in the following weeks of September.

**Neil Bathie**

## **The Leprosy Mission**

A big thank you to all who continue to collect their loose change for the Leprosy Mission. Can I remind you that there are blue collecting tubs at the rear of the Church for anyone who would like to collect for this good cause.

I am happy to collect any tubs, jars etc. from your home address if you find it hard to bring the money to the Church. Please phone me on 777 6904 if you would like a home pick up.

God Bless

**Margaret McCallum**

## **The Friendship Club & Following Jesus Group**

All involved in the groups would like to say a huge THANK YOU to everyone who supported our 'Open Evening'. Both children and adults had such a happy evening with everybody joining in games, drama and praise (I think willingly) which delighted both our team and group members alike.

Both groups have been on a canal trip with the Seagull Trust, which was really enjoyed by all, especially the fish suppers and the party.

The Friendship Club restarts on 28th August 2019 and thereafter on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at 18.30(6.30pm) to 20.00(8.00pm).

The Following Jesus Group restarts on 4th September 2019 and thereafter on the 1st Wednesdays of each month at 19.30(7.30pm) to 21.00(9.00pm).

We would be really pleased to welcome new members - leaflets are at the back of the church - and further information can be obtained from Philip or any team member.

**Pat Muir**

## **Keswick Convention 2019**

Keswick Ministries vision is to inspire and equip Christians to love and live for Christ in this world. Their work began in 1875 when the first Convention was held on the lawn of one of the local churches. Since then the Convention has brought Christians together from across the denominations under the banner: “All one in Christ Jesus”(Gal 3:28).

The Convention in Keswick has grown and grown and each summer now annually attracts some 15,000 Christians over a 3 week period, including around 650 volunteer helpers, from the UK and all around the world. It provides outstanding Bible teaching for all ages, vibrant worship, a sense of unity across generations and denominations and an inspiring call to serve Christ in the world. It also caters for children of all ages and has a strong youth and young adult programme. And it all takes place in the beautiful Lake District – a perfect setting for rest, recreation and relaxation!

A packed programme is organised and you are welcome to attend as many or as few of the morning and evening sessions as you wish. However there is always time to enjoy the holiday aspect and this year we walked, drove, explored, visited friends and relations, and sailed on Ullswater where we saw the place where Wordsworth was inspired to write about his “host of golden daffodils”.

2020 will see a major step forward with the main marquee moving to the recently purchased former Pencil Factory site. Next year’s dates are from 11th – 31st July. We spent 5 days at Keswick this year and enjoyed unbroken sunshine but people can attend for as many or as few days as they wish. Accommodation used by St Columba attendees was a tent, a mobile home and B&Bs.



The Convention is a particularly uplifting experience and we can commend it to you wholeheartedly. Sharing communion with 3000 worshippers is particularly memorable. It would be good if we could increase the number of St Columba's attendees or even organise a group outing. Speak to Vicky, Marilyn or Ian if any additional information is required.

**Ian Gibb**

### **St. Columba's Web Site**

*[www.kirkintillochstcolumbas.org.uk](http://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](mailto: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](http://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**



## **1st Kirkintilloch Company**

In July the officers and helpers from all Sections of the Company attended an end of session team building exercise consisting of a meal and a blether, a great opportunity to relax in each other's company after a long, but enjoyable, session. Once again the Company had a stall at Kirkintilloch Gala Day in Woodhead Park. The games proved popular and we managed to raise some funds for the Company but, more importantly, we were able to demonstrate that the BB is alive and well in Kirkintilloch. Thanks to the leaders who took a turn manning the stall and thanks to everyone who played the games.

Our new session starts on Friday 6th September. Anchors for boys in P1 – P3 meet at 6.15pm, Juniors for boys P4 – P6 meet at 6.45pm and Company and Seniors for Boys P7 – 18 years of age meet at 7.30pm. We are hoping all previous members will return but there are vacancies in all age groups. Anyone interested in joining can come along any Friday evening. For more details see our website [1kirkintilloch-boys-brigade.btck.co.uk](http://1kirkintilloch-boys-brigade.btck.co.uk) or check out our Facebook page.

If anyone would like to become an adult helper we would like to hear from you. No previous experience necessary as training will be provided. Anyone interested in being an officer or helper should contact the Captain or the minister.

## **Anchor Boys**

Yet another very short summer break has disappeared and we look forward to starting our new session for 2019-20.

We start back on the first Friday in September, which is Friday 6th September and look forward to seeing all the old faces back to keep us on our toes for the darker months ahead.

We always have spaces for new talent to test the staff so if you know of any boys from Primary 1 to Primary 3 then please invite them along to the Church any Friday from 6.15pm to 7.15pm for fun and games with crafts and Bible stories as well.

Why not give us a try and be assured all will be made most welcome.

**Lorna. Margaret, David & Fraser**

## **Junior Section**

We hope all the congregation have had a lovely summer.

The junior section starts back at 6.45 pm on Friday 6th September.

We look forward to welcoming back all the boys and hopefully welcoming some new faces.

If you know of any boy in primary 4 -7 who would like to come they would be most welcome.

**Lorna**

## **Company Section**

At our display in May the main prize winners were:-

**Regular Attendance** - Pte Liam Ewing, Cpl Dean McAdam, Pte Nathan McGhee, Pte Blair Mackay, Pte Cameron McNairn, Pte Scott Stewart.

**Excellent Attendance** - Pte Jackson Coyle, Pte James Pepler, Pte Callum Swan.

**Cross Country Trophy** - Pte Callum Swan.

**Best Squad** - Squad 2 – Squad Commander Cpl Dean McAdam.

**Best Recruit** - Pte James Pepler.

**Best Intermediate** - Pte Callum Swan.

**Best Senior** - Cpl Dean McAdam.

Congratulations to all the prize winners and a thank you to all the other members for their contribution over the session.

Following the display, the boys promoted from the Junior Section joined us for a range of activities which we ran through June. These were participation in a football tournament organised by Twechar Youth Club, indoor and computer games, lawn bowls at Stoneyettes Bowling Club and outdoor games in Luggie Park.

## The Boys Brigade 1st Kirkintilloch Company Centenary Year 1992



'Old Colours' Paraded In



'New Colours' Paraded Out



Everything 'Young Bright and Shiny' (Well they were then!!)

## **'Little Fishes' Toddlers Group**

We were so encouraged with the start of the group that at the time of writing we are looking forward to the new term starting. We had some nice feedback from the families at the end of term and the 'little fishes' loved playing with bubbles on the last day!

We are glad to hear of new families hoping to come and will be delighted to see the well kent faces return. We are sure they will have grown fast over the summer! We will continue with crafts, singing, playdoh and sand as well as lots of toys for free play. We have bought a new doll's house which will be enjoyed by many.

The team are very grateful for the support and interest of the church in all we do. We do ask for your prayers for a welcoming and kind environment for the families who come, safety especially at coffee time and for the team each week.

We continue to run on a Friday morning between 10 and 1130 in the school term times. All are welcome- so if you know any mums or dads, grans or grandpas who are looking after wee ones then please do contact Gill on 07934 460 752 or Janet in the Church Office who will know if there is a waiting list at the time and will be delighted to get in touch with them.

**Gill Wright**

## **Singing Group**

Keith and Kristyn Getty, in their book, "Sing", have said, "We are all singers. We may not all be very good singers but we are all created to be singers nevertheless."

The Church Singing Group meets every so often to learn new hymns and songs to teach the congregation or to practice songs for special occasions such as Christmas and Easter. Thanks to all those who have given of their time and talents for this. On the occasional Monday evening you may hear (coming from the church lounge) not just the sound of singing but also of laughter - as our meetings are very light-hearted! Please feel free to come along if you would like to help in this very important part of worship but also if want to be uplifted - because singing is indeed therapeutic. At the moment we have the following practice dates planned: 26th August, 7th October, 11th November, 2nd December and 9th December. Some more may be slotted in as required!

"Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord ..." (Ps.95:1)

Every blessing

**Jean**

## **GUILD SYLLABUS 2019-20**

|           |    |  |
|-----------|----|--|
| September | 10 | Welcome back                                   |
|           | 24 | Ramsay Vallance                                |
| October   | 8  | Rev P Wright (music with friends)              |
|           | 22 | Quiz Night - with Allan Geekie                 |
| November  | 5  | Melanie Brickley - Women Make Heritage!        |
|           | 19 | The Big Sing with The Singing Group            |
| December  | 3  | Christmas Crafts                               |
|           | 10 | Christmas Lunch - Kirkintilloch Golf Club      |
| January   | 7  | China Memories - Mrs Sheena Robertson          |
|           | 21 | Tales of a Columnist - Mrs Margaret Clayton    |
| February  | 4  | Songs from The Musicals - Mrs Sheena Robertson |
|           | 18 | Keith Saunders                                 |
| March     | 3  | Scripture Union - Jackie Ringan                |
|           | 17 | Legal Eagle - Isobel Allan                     |
|           | 31 | AGM 1st Class Catering lunch                   |



## **MEN'S CLUB**

The Men's Club will restart on Monday, 7th October and, as always, we look forward to welcoming back our regular members, but we would really like some new faces to come and join us.

If you would like to consider joining, but are unsure about doing so, why not come along and have a sample evening with us. You will be made most welcome. The majority of our evenings are games nights with table tennis, pool, snooker, carpet bowls and for the less active, darts and dominoes. There is also plenty of time for a chat. We also have three speaker evenings and get-togethers with other local clubs.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of the Club, please phone me on 776 6349.

**Edward Rogerson**

## **Upper Room**

The new issue of "The Upper Room" is already available on the table at the back of the sanctuary. It contains short daily Bible readings, meditations and prayers and covers the period from September till the end of the year. If you find we have run out, however, just let us know and we can quickly get extra copies.

Also on the table is an excellent quick read called "Heaven, How I Got There" which is the crucifixion story but written from the point of view of one of the thieves on the cross. You are welcome to collect a copy which, if you wish, can later be returned to the table for someone else to read.

There is no charge for either of these publications but any donations will be gift aided and given to the church.

**Ian Gibb**

## **50th anniversary interview with the Reverend Philip Wright**

***It's two years since you came to St Columba's church as our minister. What are your thoughts and feelings about your time with us?***

It's a tremendous privilege to be the minister here at St Columba's. Gill and I are so grateful for the warmth we sense from the congregation. It is wonderful to see the many ways God is at work in and through our church. As we look beyond the 50th Anniversary of the church, my prayer is that we all grow to know and love the Lord more and have an increasing desire to share the Good News about Jesus with our community.

***Do you ever get discouraged and if you do - how do you cope?***

I'm encouraged by the spirit in our church. It is great to see people coming together and working together and it is lovely to see how much our church means to them. I'm also encouraged by the appetite people have to learn and grow in their faith in Christ. One of the places where this happens is in the small group Bible studies and I'm very much looking forward to the new series starting in mid-September – *Fruitfulness on the Frontline*. Psalm 103:2 is a good verse for all of us to remember if we ever feel discouraged, "Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits". Or, as the old hymn puts, count your blessings!

***What do churches today need to do to attract young people?***

We need to share the Good News about Jesus with young people, old people, and every age in between because we

all need that personal relationship with God through Him. Young people today are often very open to talking about faith although we need to go where they are as well as hoping they will come to where we are! We need to engage with young people in the community through for example The Boys' Brigade, Friendship Club, Little Fishes, and Holiday Club as well as School Chaplaincy. Alongside that, we must work to reduce the culture gap when they come to a church event and all sorts of things are new to them. Sometimes, that will involve us moving out of our comfort zone so that they will feel more comfortable and welcome amongst us.

### ***How can we as individuals best reach out to people?***

I think it's important to be a good friend or neighbour or work colleague with the folks God has put in our lives. We can pray for them and for opportunities to talk to them about Jesus and invite them to church on Sunday or bring them to a church group like the Guild or Men's Club. Sometimes we can find this difficult. That's one of the reasons I'm so looking forward to the new *Fruitfulness in the Frontline* small groups coming up on Thursdays. They'll be encouraging us and helping us as we put all this into practice.

### ***How difficult is it to combine a family life with the challenges of the ministry?***

I'm so grateful to have the support of my wife Gill and of being Dad to three fine boys. Like many families, we have to juggle work and family time and sometimes that can be a challenge! However, we all feel very much at home in the wider church family and that helps a great deal.

**Margaret Clayton**

## **MEMORIES OF ST. COLUMBA'S**

My memories of St. Columba's go back a very long way – to its beginning in fact; we were members of St. David's Ledgate, (presently the Indian Cottage Restaurant) when Mr. Robertson was ordained there and, as we know, it was through his vision that St. Columba's was founded. I remember watching the laying of the Foundation Stone on 31st August 1968, and our lives have been inextricably linked with St. Columba's ever since.

Our first son was born in November 1968 and baptised in St. David's in January 1969 by Mr. Robertson. By the time our second son was born in 1973, St. Columba's was up and running, having been opened in April 1969. Cradle Roll Services took place, crammed to the doors; extra chairs were put in the aisles at Communion and there was standing room only at the back. Sunday School was packed, so a large temporary wooden hut had to be built. The men of the congregation lent a hand and soon we had an overflow Sunday School in the centre of the car park. A Play Group was started and a Young Wives' Group was formed. These were wonderful ways of getting to know each other – all of us at home with young children.

Perhaps some people reading this will not realise that in those days women gave up work when they had babies and stayed at home with them!

Christmas Fayres in the Town Hall came along where everyone had a job, whether it was Santa and his Grotto on the stage, sausage and bacon rolls from the kitchen, bargains from the stalls or delicious home baking, and time for a laugh and a blether for everyone.

With the help of The Wells Company, we organized a Givings Campaign where everyone in the Parish was visited and invited to a Family Meal in the High School with the object of encouraging people to attend St. Columba's regularly. These were hugely successful events and enjoyed by everyone.

By this time we had a new Halls Complex to meet the needs of our ever growing congregation. This was opened in by the then Clerk to the Presbytery of Glasgow, Rev. Andrew Heron, a well remembered friend to many of us at St. Columba's.

Now we have come full circle to our newly refurbished Halls which are waiting for the next generation to fill and use as we, the first members did.

May they have the pleasure and enjoyment which we had as we tried to make St Columba's a living and welcoming Church.

**Rena Stewart**

### **Happy memories of St. Columba's.**

Christine Grant joined St Columba's church in 1975. She taught in the Sunday School and Bible class for 21 years. Those were the days when there were dozens of children in the Sunday school and at one time 60 of them under five years of age!

"It was a wonderful time" she said. "So many new families had moved into the area and there was great enthusiasm for learning, playing, making new friends."

Christine was also involved with the Leprosy Mission and the Bible class where pupils raised hundreds of pounds over the years to help fight leprosy. She's very pleased that work still continues at St. Columba's.

She was a member of the Young Women's Group which started in the 70's and enjoyed being part of the knitting group. Christine also played in the ladies badminton group. The Christmas Fayre started in the 1970's and lots of women knitted items to be sold at the Fayre.

"We had a busy schedule at St Columba's and fewer women were out working in those days and had more time for church based activities. We made friends through the church organisations and many of those friendships have lasted a lifetime."

### **Christine Grant**

Elizabeth Moore (Betty to most people) joined St Columba's in 1971. She was involved in helping with the Sunday School, the Shipmates, Young Wives and the Women's Guild. She was also a member of the Congregational Board. She has worked with four ministers - the Rev. Alex Robertson, the Rev. Bill Gray, the Rev. David White and the Rev. Philip Wright.

"Mr Robertson did the ground work in those early years" she said, "and every minister since then has added to that. The work they have all done has helped shape the church and make it the place it is today.

"I didn't know anyone when I came here at first, but gradually friendships were formed and it's been good to see the church grow over the years."

Talking to Betty I realised she shares two strong opinions with the magazine editor.

"I like singing from a hymn book and I say the Lords prayer in the old fashioned way we did at school" she admitted quietly but firmly."

"Me too" I said and we both laughed.

It's good to know we are a broad church isn't it? One where from the start, women have always played a part and hopefully always will.

### **Elizabeth Moore**

George Smith moved from Dundee to Kirkintilloch and joined St Columba's church with his wife Nancy in 1970. Their two sons Steven and Neil were members of the Lifeboys from the age of seven when they moved up to the Boys Brigade. George took his sons to BB football every week and also helped with transport. Nancy joined the Young Wives group which she enjoyed. In 1980 George was invited to become an Elder. He served on various church committees which he enjoyed.

"Everyone gets on reasonably well" he said. "Sometimes there is a difference of opinion and factions develop but generally we let things go and get on with the job to be done. A new minister breathes fresh life into the church and that's a positive thing - but sometimes I think we're trying too hard to do everything at once. St Columba's has been a big part of our family life and it always will be."

#### **George Smith**

George Kidd and his wife joined St Columba's in the 1980's when their son Graeme was three years old. George had been a member of the Lifeboys since he was 8 years old, so BB Captain Allan Geekie headhunted George and persuaded him to become a BB officer. "I've been involved with the Boys Brigade man and boy for 50 years" he said.

"I've always felt very much at home in St. Columba's. The people in the church have a good attitude and that's important. Some of the former members have come back and that's good. I believe that over 3 ministries St Columba's is where the Lord wants me to serve Him.

Our new minister Philip has been a breathe of fresh air. I like the sermons. What you're looking for in a church is someone who makes you come out of church thinking."

#### **George Kidd**

John Scott and his wife Wilma moved to Kirkintilloch in 1977 and joined St Columba's because it was their local church. John became Fabric Convener and served on the Finance Committee of the church.

He became an Elder in St Columba's in 1979. He has also been a member of the Congregational Board. "I got a life sentence for that" he said. "I've lost count of the number of years I've served...."

Like many of the long time members of the church he remembers when there were 60 children in the Sunday School and over 30 people at the Senior Members service.

"Back in the day there was chaos in the aisles at the Communion service because the church was so crowded But times change and we have to move with the times.

"Philip is doing well. He's putting heart and soul into the job."

## **John Scott**

Editor's comment...

Most of the people I spoke to about their memories of St Columba's were positive and enthusiastic about the way our church is growing and developing. But there was a common theme voiced occasionally which I confess I share.

Some of us still say the Lord's Prayer in the traditional, if old fashioned way. And some of us prefer using the church hymn book rather than singing from the screen.

Just a thought....

## **Margaret Clayton**



## **Gilbert**

For many people, the most familiar 'face' of St Columba's church over the years has been that of our church officer Gilbert French. He's often the first person they meet at weddings, baptisms and funerals.

Every Sunday morning he's there making sure everything is in order before the congregation arrive.

Gilbert joined St Columba's church in 1976 and when Hugh Semple retired as church officer in 2002 he took over the job and still enjoys it.

Gilbert grew up in Glasgow and joined the Boys Brigade in Maryhill at the age of 13. He was an elder in Maryhill Parish church before moving to Kirkintilloch. He has also served as a Boys Brigade officer for 52 years, becoming heavily involved in Battalion work.

He recently retired as Glasgow Presbytery Officer after 21 years of service.

Gilbert has seen many changes in the life of the Church of Scotland over the years.

So what does a church officer do?

It's his responsibility to make sure the church is clean, tidy, warm and welcoming.

He opens up the church every Sunday morning and brings the Bible into the pulpit.

Gilbert has served under three ministers and it is very clear from talking to him that he loves the job.

He's a 'people' person with a knack for putting others at their ease.

"I like meeting people who come through the door from "all airts and pairts" he said and "it's great when they feel comfortable here."

He is very proud of his wife Moira who has supported him loyally throughout the years.

“She’s been a great help in practical ways, helping out with cleaning - and listening” he said. “She’s always there for me.” “It’s been sad at times to see numbers of the congregation dropping but I’m encouraged that some people who left the church are coming back and getting involved.”

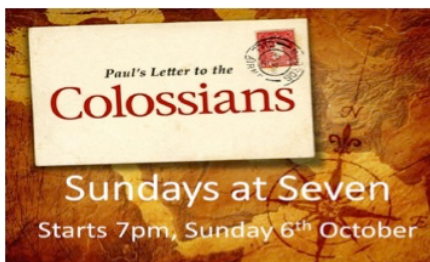
He’s very positive about the future.

“We’ve a lot of practical work projects going on in the months ahead” he said. “I’m looking forward to that.”

And with Gilbert around there’s every chance everything will go smoothly.



## Sundays at Seven



Many of us appreciated the opportunity to meet together on Sunday evenings during the months of May and June when we studied the book of Daniel. We are looking forward to a new series of Sunday evening services during the months of October and November when we hope to look together at the book of Colossians.

Anyone is very welcome to attend these services – whether you are able to get to all of them or can only manage one or two. All 'Sundays at Seven' evening services take place at 7pm in the Small Hall. The series starts on Sunday 6th October and finishes on Sunday 24th November. It will be on every Sunday apart from Sunday 20th October. Hope to see you there!



Christianity Explored is a way of exploring the best news ever heard, and thinking about the big questions of life. Over 7 sessions in Mark's Gospel, find out more about the life of the person at the heart of the Christian faith - Jesus Christ.

We have now run a number of Christianity Explored groups here at St Columba's. If you would be interested in taking part in the next one (daytime or evening) please speak to Philip.

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



Where we are now truly matters to God. We all have an everyday context that's significant to God, with people who matter to God. But can we see how God might have been working in and through us on our frontlines? And can we imagine what more God might want to do there?

Combining biblical teaching and inspiring real-life stories, see how you can make a difference on your frontline over eight DVD-based sessions.

We hope to run two 'Fruitfulness on the Frontline' small groups (one at 10am, the other at 7:30pm). Both groups will take place on Thursdays, starting Thursday 19th September, and will be held in the Upper Room.

If you would like to find out more or sign up for 'Fruitfulness on the Frontline', please contact the church office or speak with Philip. Whilst it is great if you can get along to all the sessions, please don't be put off from signing up if that's not possible. We'd love to see you whenever you can make it!

[www.licc.org.uk/ourresources/lifeonthefrontline](http://www.licc.org.uk/ourresources/lifeonthefrontline)



## **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St Columba's**

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

Most recently, we held a Big Coffee morning on Friday 28th June. Many thanks to all who worked hard to put this on and to all those who came.

We look forward to the Kirkintilloch Male Voice Choir coming to St Columba's at 7:30pm on Saturday 5th October. Tickets, priced £5 for adults and free for under 16s, are now available from the Church Office. Please do support this event and invite family and friends to come along as well.

Our morning service on Sunday 6th October will be an Anniversary Service. We will be giving thanks to God for his goodness to us as a church over the last 50 years. This is a great opportunity to invite friends and neighbours who have some connection with St Columba's and would be glad to celebrate this occasion with us.

# St Columba's 50th Anniversary



**Presents** THE  
**KIRKINTILLOCH MALE VOICE CHOIR**



**“An Evening of Song”**  
**at**  
**St Columba's**  
**on**  
**Sat. 5th October 2019**  
**7.30pm**  
**Tickets £5**  
**Available from the Church Office**

Blessed is the world that sings - Gentle are its songs  
A Charity registered in Scotland - Sc040076  
[www.kmvc.org.uk](http://www.kmvc.org.uk)



## **Letter from the Editor**

Anniversaries are a time for looking back and looking forward. We remember all the living, loving, laughing, crying, talking and arguing which went into the days, weeks, months and years of the precious time we spent together.

We remember the significant moments we enjoyed. The pride we took in small achievements. The occasional stropky tensions when things didn't go as planned. Sometimes it takes the passage of time for us to get a true perspective on the way we have shared our hopes and dreams, our good times and our difficult moments with the people who have been present in our lives.

This month my husband John and I celebrate our Golden Wedding - 50 years of marriage and raising a family together. There have been many happy occasions and sad ones too as we watched our parents grow older and frailer as their days ended.

We've had the joy of seeing our four children grow up, find the careers they wanted, marry and have children of their own.

Every parent knows moments of quiet satisfaction when you realise that your children are on their way, making their own lives but it doesn't stop us worrying does it?

Family life is a melting pot of emotional highs and lows, pressures and challenges, but it is the sturdy fabric of our days and the place where we become the men and women God knows us to be.

Our faith plays a big part in shaping who we become and our church nurtures and nourishes that sometimes shaky faith.

So as we think about the church which took root here in our parish 50 years ago it is a time to give thanks for the work done, the four ministers who have served us well and the men and women of the congregation who have given their time and energy to help with all the organisations over the years.

St. Columba's has been and still is a successful church. Not because of money raised, size of congregation or status in the community.

It is successful because it has touched the lives of people of all ages who have worshipped here, prayed here and sought help here.

In moments of joy, of sadness and grief this church is the place where they have drawn closer to God and felt His healing presence in their lives.

Half a century of living and learning together is worth cherishing. So as we prepare to celebrate our 50th anniversary, we will all have our private thoughts about the journey we have shared.

I hope that for each one of us, this time of celebration is a moment to give thanks for the blessings of our lives, our faith and our time together in St. Columba's Church.

**Margaret Clayton**



# FLOWER ROTA

We are grateful to those who donate flowers to beautify the Church Sunday by Sunday and to those who give of their time to deliver them to people in the Congregation who we would wish to assure of our prayers and support.

Thank you all for your part in this two-fold Ministry.

## Delivery Rota for the next Four Months

|                  | <b>DONATION</b>              | <b>DELIVERY</b> |    |
|------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|----|
| <b>September</b> |                              |                 |    |
| 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  |
| <b>October</b>   |                              |                 |    |
| 6                | Mrs A McKelvie               | Sheena Wright   | 5  |
| 13               | Mrs G McGuire                | Moira French    | 7  |
| 20               | Mr & Mrs D Oliphant          | Wilma***        |    |
| 27               | Mrs A Craig & Mrs J Davidson | Julie Reid      | 8  |
| <b>November</b>  |                              |                 |    |
| 3                | Mrs P McKinlay               | Glennys Swann   | 9  |
| 10               | Remembrance Sunday           | Ishbel Thomson  | 10 |
| 17               | The Guild                    | Lydia Ramsay    | 11 |
| 24               | Mr & Mrs J Thomson           | Irene Armstrong | 12 |
| <b>December</b>  |                              |                 |    |
| 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  |

## **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"**