

St. Columba's Congregational Magazine



Spring 2020

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From the Manse

Earlier today, I had the opportunity of speaking at an assembly at Kirkintilloch High School alongside Andy Craig from Kirkintilloch Baptist Church. We were talking about the choices we make every day in what we say – and what we don't say! I was struck by how important this topic is for us all.

In the book of Proverbs, we are encouraged to speak with kindness: *“Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones”* (Proverbs 16:24). Our words have great potential to encourage and to heal. Paul's travelling companion Barnabas was known as an encourager. That's the meaning of his name. What a great thing to be known for or to aspire to.

As we know, we don't always say the right or helpful thing. It is so important then that we stand ready to forgive one another. As I write, some of the toilets in the church halls are being refitted. The work is in progress but is not yet finished. Christians too are 'works in progress'. We need to remember that in our relationships with one another – as we wait patiently for the finished product to be ready!

Take my lips, and let them be

Filled with messages from Thee.

Your minister and friend,

Philip

The Church Family



Deaths

We are saddened to hear of the deaths of former members Archie Muir, Margaret Rae and Joan Smith. We extend our sympathy, love and prayers to their families.

Admission to Membership

We are delighted to be welcoming the following people into membership at St Columba's:

Alan and Dorothy Finnie

Frank and Helen Bowers

Bill and Janette Wright

Thank You.

Last July I lost my lovely wife Helen after 69 years of marriage and I was heartbroken. Immediately the response of the fellowship at St. Columba's was so uplifting and a great comfort. All the cards, letters, flowers, gifts and the occasional hug were wonderful, especially the Pastoral Group and the weekly visit from Ian Gibb.

"I am reassured of the love of the Lord Jesus in your hearts" Galatians Six verse Two.

With sincere thanks. **Allan Woods.**

Friendship Club and Following Jesus Group

Both groups are now busy learning more about God's word. In the Friendship Club we have been hearing about Joseph, and had great fun modelling our wonderful coloured coat. While the Following Jesus group have been following Gideon's leadership and subsequent victory through the spirit of God almighty.

Some members from each group are now looking forward to our Prospects Holiday Weekend at Tulliallan in May, Everyone to be going for a sail with the Seagull Trust in June.

Once again if you know of anyone who may like to join either group please bring them along or tell us about them.

Pat Muir

Keswick Convention 2020

Why don't you consider coming and being refreshed, inspired and strengthened in your faith at this year's convention in the heart of the beautiful Lake District? The overall title for this year's 3 week summer convention is "Grateful", with the key verse being from 1 Thessalonians 5:18 - "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus". It's a new chapter, too, for the Keswick Convention as, for the first time ever in its long history, the main marquee will now be based at the former Pencil Factory site, meaning all activities are now going to be held much closer together.

Week 1 begins on 11th July with week 3 finishing on 31st July and you are welcome to attend for whatever number of days you wish. If interested, speak to Vicky Davies or Ian Gibb or check out the website at:

[keswickministries.org/convention](https://www.keswickministries.org/convention).

Ian Gibb



1st Kirkintilloch Company

Anchor Boys

As I write this article it is hard to believe we are now heading into our final phase of the session. Since our last update the boys have been busy with attendances at both the Three Wise Men production in the Church before Christmas and also the Kirkie Players production of Cinderella in Lennoxton. So a busy panto season was enjoyed by all.

At this point in time the boys are all well on their way to completing the badge work required to enable them to gain their programme awards but we still have some outdoor activities to complete and eagerly await the lighter and hopefully warmer nights to allow us to get outdoors again.

We have a planned visit along with other companies in the battalion to Seven Sisters Zoo in west Calder and this day trip takes place on 25th April so please pray that it will at least stay dry for this event. We will travel by bus from Lenzie early morning and return hopefully with very tired boys around 5.00pm. I can't guarantee tired boys but I can certainly guarantee very tired officers.

Our membership has remained steady throughout the year but as we are about to lose almost 50% of our boys to Junior Section we would be pleased if you could mention to anyone you know in the P1-P3 age group that we will be pleased to see them any Friday from September to May at 6.15 in the Church halls.

As Easter will be upon us before our next news item, may we take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy & blessed Easter.

Lorna, Margaret, David & Fraser

Junior Section

We started the New Year with the good news that the boys had come 3rd in the Battalion Bible Quiz - well done boys.

The following week we all went to the Kirkintilloch Players Panto with the rest of the Company. A great time was had by all.

On our normal nights we have been doing science experiments, cooking, Bible work, crafts and games.

Unfortunately we were unable to compete in the marching competition this year as our numbers have been erratic from week to week. However I am pleased to report in the last few weeks we have welcomed two new boys.

We are looking forward to taking part in the Battalion fun run on the 7th March and the fun day on 25th April when we will be going to the Five Sisters Zoo in Livingston. We will finish our session on 15th May with our annual display. **Lorna**

Company Section

Thanks to everyone who supported our Christmas Card Delivery Service, your generous support contributed £330 to Company funds. An even bigger thank you to the officers who sorted and delivered the cards in an efficient and expeditious manner.

For our end of year outing we stayed close to home with a visit to Pro-bowl in Kirkintilloch. The bowling was certainly helped by having the bumpers up to prevent the balls going into the gutter too early. The top performers on the evening were James who scored 98, Scott 97 and Callum 96. Mr Hall, with an impressive 126, was the best of the officers. After the bowling everyone took a short walk along the road to finish off the evening at McDonald's before the boys were dropped off at their homes.

Once again, the Company Section officers and boys had a great time at the Kirkie Players annual pantomime, Sleeping Beauty. As usual, there was plenty of laughs and audience participation to ensure another successful production.

The Squad Competition is being closely contested. Squad 1 won in November and January, but Squad 2 recorded a victory in December. With three months still to go there is everything to play for before the overall winner is announced at the Display in May.

The Company recently purchased a number of tablet computers which are being introduced to our badge classes allowing us to introduce new topics and make better use of the resources available on the internet.

Several members of the Section have volunteered to run in the National Cross-Country Championship which is due to be held in Buckie in March. Hopefully the weather will be kinder than last year when Strathkelvin Battalion had organised the event in Kilsyth only for it to be cancelled because of snow. Good luck boys hope all goes well.

Allan Geekie

Hall Toilets

It looked as if we would only be able to renew one toilet with the donated funds from our Gift Day, however we managed to receive an offer to renew both toilets for a total of £15,100 including VAT.

The funds donated now stands at £9327 and includes Gift aided refunds to be received from HMRC.

The Board have agreed to proceed with this firm quotation and provide the balance from General Congregational funds.

The work started mid February and may be completed in the early part of March.

Neil Bathie

Sunday Evening Services

We have recently started a new series of 'Sundays at Seven' evening services here at St Columba's, looking together at the Old Testament book of Esther. Services are held at 7pm each Sunday in the Small Hall and the series will run until Sunday 29th March.

These evening services are open to all. They provide an opportunity to gather together for worship for a second time on a Sunday. They may also 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.

We also hope to have another series of 'Sundays at Seven' evening services after Easter. Details will be announced in due course.

Sunday Club & Bible Class

The Sunday Club and Bible Class continue to meet in the lower hall and upper room from 10.30am on Sunday mornings. Before splitting into two groups we always begin our time together by praying, singing and learning a memory verse.

After learning about Jacob we moved on to learn about Joshua. As part of this story we looked at how Joshua and the Israelites spied on Jericho before invading it with Gods help. This is testament to Gods great power and willingness to support his followers.

As well as the Sunday Club and Bible Class meeting on a Sunday morning the crèche also meets in the lounge during the service. The crèche is open to any children below the age of four. Since the beginning of the year the children have been hearing stories about Adam and Eve. **Scott Inglis**

Fairtrade

Thanks to everyone in St Columba's who bought rice for the 90kg challenge which we started in December. We have sold nearly 60kg so our new challenge is to sell the rest by Easter, funding a year's education for a child in Malawi. The rice can be bought from the Church office or after Church on a Sunday. Fairtrade fortnight is between the 24th February and 8th March and the Kirkintilloch Fairtrade Group will be using a unit in the Regent Centre to publicise Fairtrade products and ask local people for support. As Christians we already know we should help the poorest people in the world who are exploited and underpaid. They are looking for a fair days pay for the work they do and the products they produce.

Fairtrade products will be used at the Fairtrade (Coffee Morning) Fiesta on Saturday 29th between 10–12 at St Mary's Church. We are also still looking for volunteers to join the Kirkintilloch Group. Please keep supporting Fairtrade in whatever way you can. Thanks again. **Rhondda Geekie**

Christian Aid

The following are some dates for your diaries of the Christian Aid events that are taking place during 2020:

The Erskine Bridge Cross Walk will take place on Saturday, 25th April 2020 starting from Old Kilpatrick at 2.00 pm.

The Christian Aid Annual Service will be held in Hillhead Church on Sunday, 3rd May 2020 at 7.00 pm.

Christian Aid Week will be 11th to 16th May 2020 and the focus this year will be on Kenya. Envelopes will be distributed in Church on Sunday, 10th May and collected on Sunday, 17th May.

As you will probably know, the World Climate change conference is due to be held in Glasgow in November 2020. Christian Aid Scotland will be involved in this event in some capacity and details of this will be available later in the year.

The Kirkintilloch & Lenzie Christian Aid Group participate in these various nationwide events each year and the money raised is sent to Christian Aid Scotland. At the end of 2019 there was a balance of just over £2,600 remaining in the Group's account and the Treasurer was able to send £2,500 to the Head Office in Glasgow in support of the Christmas Appeal. It is a time when the local churches come together to support these fund raising events for many poor and disadvantaged communities throughout the world.

More information on the work of Christian Aid can be obtained on their website at www.christianaid.org.uk.

Geraldine Fox.

Easter Services

The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is at the centre of the Christian faith. With this in mind, the four Church of Scotland churches in Kirkintilloch are holding joint services from Monday to Friday of Holy Week (the week leading up to Easter Sunday).

All services take place at 7:30pm and the venues are as follows:

Mon 6th Apr: St Columba's

Tue 7th Apr: Hillhead

Wed 8th Apr: St David's

Thu 9th Apr: St Mary's

Fri 10th Apr: St Columba's

On Easter Sunday (Sun 12th April), we have a family service here at St Columba's at 10:30am. At 7:00pm on Easter Sunday evening, there is a Joint Service with Home Church, which will be held at Home Church.

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, 10th 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. There will also be an Easter Trail for children in the Church.

Guardians of Ancora Easter Holiday Club

Guardians of Ancora is our free Easter Holiday Club for Primary School Age children running from Monday 6th – Thursday 9th April, 10am – 12noon (during the first week of the school holidays). It will be crammed with activities including games, crafts, competitions – as well as learning what Easter is all about! After holiday club, download the app to find out more!

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

The Leprosy Mission

I am still very grateful to everyone who is collecting their change for the leprosy mission. There are few Sundays, which go by when I don't receive any full tins of money.

We are hoping to welcome a representative from the leprosy mission in the near future when we will be able to hand over a cheque for the monies collected.

With many thanks to everyone for your help

Margaret McCallum

THE GUILD

Looking back to December 2019, we enjoyed a Christmas craft evening manufacturing gift tags and the following week we finished the first half of our programme with a festive lunch at Kirkintilloch Golf Club.

Our magazine editor, Margaret Clayton, came along in the New Year and told us of her journey from a shy childhood all the way to seeing her love of writing published for many years, and we heard of the interesting and famous people she interviewed. So good to hear of dreams fulfilled.

The evenings before and after Margaret were provided by Sheena Robertson, our treasurer and pianist. A recent special holiday in China was outlined to us and we enjoyed the overheads showing scenes of the itinerary.

The other evening was musical. Sheena compiled a programme of Songs from the Musicals and also prepared the lyrics for the overheads. The Guild Ladies are famed for their sweet voices, but there are some very high notes in these old showstoppers. We certainly enjoyed our tea thereafter !

We are looking forward to visits from the Rev. Keith Saunders, who will describe The Work of a Hospital Chaplain, then Jackie Ringan on the role of the Scripture Union. The last Speaker of our syllabus will be Isobel Allan - Legal Eagle.

Our AGM will be held on Tuesday, 24 March and on 31 March we are closing our programme with a lunch served in the Small Hall.

We have had well attended happy evenings right through from September and we are grateful to eight of our church members and the Singing Group who willingly came along to inform and entertain us. A big thank you. You were Stars !

Margaret Rogerson

MEN'S CLUB

In the run up to the Christmas break we had our annual get together with Chryston Men's Club. It was encouraging to see so many of their members coming over to enjoy a games evening with us. As always, excellent fellowship with friends of many years.

Our Billy Paterson Memorial Evening was a full house as usual with Gilbert French winning the trophy at his first attempt.

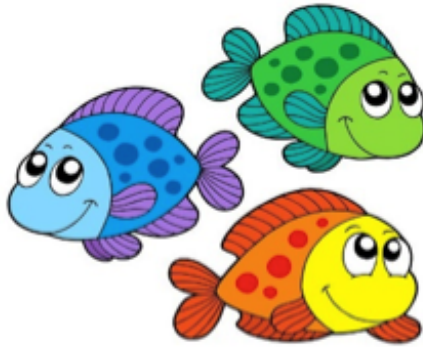
After New Year we enjoyed a ten-pin bowling evening with Milton of Campsie Men's Club. Again, we had a good turnout of members so it is heartening to see the continued support for these longstanding events.

Steven Booth from the Glasgow Vintage Vehicle Trust gave an excellent talk on the work of the Trust. The Trust carries out the restoration of vintage buses at the museum in the old Bridgeton bus garage. It now has 120 vehicles from the 1960s onwards of examples from all over Scotland although the main focus is on vehicles from Glasgow and the central belt. Many of the vehicles are roadworthy and are used at events the main one being in early October when free trips are run from the garage to the West End and the Riverside Museum. That is your opportunity to indulge in a little transport nostalgia with the vehicles still in the original liveries of their old operators.

The Trust also supports those recovering from addiction by giving training in vehicle restoration with a view to improving both the physical and mental health of those taken on.

Family days are also organised for residents of the east end of Glasgow as part of a community involvement programme .

The season is moving on and we shall conclude it at the end of March with our competitions' Finals Night and then a dinner at Kirkintilloch Golf Club. **Edward Rogerson**



Little Fishes Toddler Group

We have been enjoying lots of happy times at 'Little Fishes' on Friday mornings. It is great to see a core of families really settled, but new faces too. We have been meeting in the large hall and sometimes have the babies in the small hall when it is very busy.

We had lots of fun at Christmas. The mums and toddlers really enjoyed the sheep hunt around the church. We really appreciated all those who spent a lot of time knitting and sewing an amazing variety of woolly friends and Janet coordinating them all in the office sheep pen. The children also enjoyed dressing up and acting in a mini nativity – thank you to Vicky for coming along to sign 'Away in a manger' for our singing. We then had a boisterous party on the Friday before Christmas. Thank you to Santa - your secret is ours! As the magazine goes to press, we are looking forward to a 'Mums and carers night' on Wed 19 Feb for coffee and cake. If you know anyone who would like to come to join us at Little Fishes (we meet on Friday mornings 10 - 11:30am in school term time) please do ask them to contact Gill (07934460752) or Janet in the church office as we sometimes have a short waiting list.

Gill Wright

Book review.



I'd like to introduce a book review page for our magazine and would welcome any contributions from the congregation about books old or new, which they have particularly enjoyed and would recommend to other readers.

“Becoming” by Michelle Obama. My daughter Kate gave me this book at Christmas and the autobiography of the former First Lady of America has been a joy to read.

It's the lively story of her childhood, her days as a law student, her marriage to Barrack Obama and the birth of their two girls Malia and Sasha.

Michelle grew up in Chicago and her parents sacrificed a lot to give her the education their daughter wanted. She soon learned what it was like to be the only black woman in a room.

Eventually she worked as a corporate lawyer, met Barack and realised that he yearned for a career in politics. Her support for him was vital but it was hard going supporting a family and an ambitious husband.

Eventually he fulfilled his dream and it was the proudest day of her life as she saw him take the Presidential oath watched by the world,

For eight years the Obama family called the White House home and Michelle strived to make it a cosy place with toys and books and two puppies for her daughters.

She also travelled the world with Barack and both of them were guests of the Queen at Buckingham Palace.

President Obama said Queen Elizabeth reminded him of his “no-nonsense grandmother”.

Michelle wrote, “Over the course of many visits, the Queen showed me that humanity is more important than protocol or formality.”

The story of this young black woman who served as First Lady of the United States from 2009 to 2017 is well worth reading.

It's published by Viking an imprint of Penguin books and costs £25. But our local library stocks it too so it's well worth requesting a copy.

Margaret Clayton

Interview with Gill Wright

"Getting to know you, getting to know all about you...."

I grew up and went to school in Glasgow (where Ian Gibb was my PE teacher- although he is not to blame for my lack of sporting success!) My favourite subject at school was English and I loved reading books, drama and poetry. I remember learning about the Bible from my mum and dad, my minister and from years of faithful Sunday school teachers. I don't think there was ever a time I didn't know that God loved me, but I do remember asking Jesus into my heart when I was about 7 or 8 years old - several times, just to make sure!

I studied in England and then came back to work as a doctor in the Western Infirmary in Glasgow. Although my first ever patient was a man with a punctured lung on the plane home from holiday in Barcelona after my finals. Not a coat-hanger in sight!

I enjoyed working as a doctor because I loved talking to the patients. They would make me laugh, or maybe it was just that we had a connection even in the most difficult of circumstances. I worked mostly in hospitals and latterly as a palliative care doctor in several hospices. I changed job 2 years ago to work as a part time researcher in medical ethics. I had always loved ethics and felt that a research job might give a better work-home balance. I was also keen to be involved in church life too.

I really enjoy my work – it involves trying to think clearly about some difficult issues such as doctor-assisted suicide, gene editing and commercial surrogacy. It also gives me the opportunity to do some teaching plus writing and responding to Government consultations. I work in Edinburgh on a Monday when Philip is at home and Tuesday and Wednesday mornings when Daniel is at nursery and usually an evening as well.

I have been really glad to help at 'Little Fishes' toddlers on a Friday. Andrew was born in Salisbury when Philip and I attended a small Baptist church on a housing estate. There were about 20 in the congregation and no children. A red-haired baby was quite a sensation! Philip was the lead deacon and was in effect the acting pastor during a long vacancy. They were great folk and I learned so much from the ladies there - lots of energy and drive and faithful praying.

Andrew was the first member of our toddler group and as a new mum with her first baby - living far away from my family I found it such an encouragement to me to be part of such a group. I love being a mum - it has been an amazing, complicated and wonderful privilege. Above all I am so grateful for each of the boys.

I have been so glad to get to know the members of St Columba's and feel that you have been exceptionally kind and generous to us. The warmth of your welcome was tangible and when I have found things hard with the boys at times, you have been wise and gracious and understanding in so many ways. I would love to be involved in a Bible Study group- it is so encouraging to read the Bible together – perhaps 2020 will be the year!

Gill Wright



Very Many Thanks!

For several months, we've been busy on a project to restock the rose bed beside the halls entrance. Older plants were removed, the ground cultivated, and fertilised, and more than twenty new roses planted. These are now showing young shoots and by June or July we should expect to see some fresh new colours.

We are always grateful for all the interest shown in our work, for encouraging comments and your helpful suggestions.

Finally, and no means least, we wish to thank everyone for their kindness and valuable donations towards funding the necessary purchases. You have helped to raise almost £440 for which we are most grateful.

From the Gardening 'Team'



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 15th to Sunday 17th May. There are still a few spaces left on a holiday at Aviemore from 13th – 18th April that Jackie Ringan is leading. Please speak to Jackie Ringan for more information about this or any other Scripture Union holidays or weekends.

CAP (Christians Against Poverty) Job Club – Kirkintilloch Baptist Church

Would you or someone you know, benefit from friendly, practical support to help step confidently into employment? The CAP eight week Job Club course is running on Wednesday mornings from 10-12 at Kirkintilloch Baptist Church starting on Wednesday 4th March.

Whether you have been unemployed for a short time, several years or you are yet to enter employment our volunteers through a mix of a practical course, one-to-one coaching and a supportive group will help you create a plan that works.

The course is free, refreshments are offered and help with travel fares is available.

Please contact Marie Willingham for more information;
www.mariewillingham@capjobclubs.org

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			
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
April			
5	Tuesday Group	Ishbel Thomson	8
12	Mrs Dawn Hall	Lydia Ramsay	9
19	Mr & Mrs B Ashcroft	Irene Armstrong	10
26	Mrs J McCallum	Janet or Julie	11
May			
3	Mr & Mrs G French	Janet Brown	1
10	Mr & Mrs I Muir	Christine Grant	2
17	Mr & Mrs I Gibb	Mr & Mrs I Muir	3
24	Mrs J Doyle	Joan Beattie	4
31	Coffee Time	Moira French	5
June			
7	Miss J Brown/Mr & Mrs G Kidd	Julie Reid	6
14	Mrs R Powell	Glenys Swann	7
21	Mrs M Stewart	Ishbel Thomson	8
28	Mrs J Robertson	Lydia Ramsay	9

SERVICES

Sunday Morning Service: 10.30am

(With Creche, Sunday Club and Bible Class)

Sunday at Seven: 7.00pm

(In Small Hall)

(Current series runs till end of March.

New series expected for May and June)

Midweek Service: Tuesday 10.00am

(in Small Hall)

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