

# St. Columba's Congregational Magazine



**Autumn 2021**

**St Columba's Parish Church**  
**Old Aisle Road**  
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**Charity No. SC008735**

## From the Manse

It has been a real joy in recent weeks to see so many of us able to come together to worship God in the church building on a Sunday morning. Even through our masks, it is great to sing God's praise together and to hear one another's voices! Some of us have really appreciated being able now to have a cup of tea or a drink of juice through in the Halls after the service.

One of the indirect effects of the coronavirus pandemic has been how the various restrictions to our everyday lives have made us feel. I suspect that most of us have felt low or down at some point over the past 18 months as we have missed the company of others. Even now, as restrictions have eased, we may still feel discouraged or frustrated because life is not yet 'back to normal'.

With that in mind, it is worth remembering that God does not call us to live isolated but interconnected Christian lives. He calls us to be sensitive to one another's needs. He calls us to look for opportunities to encourage one another. The writer of the book of Hebrews puts it like this:

*"And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching". (Hebrews 10:25)*

All that said, for some of us it is not easy to get out the house to meet with others. Even so, we all have a part to play in this great task of encouraging one another. Earlier today, I received a text from someone in the congregation to let me know they were praying for me. It made my day! It was such an encouragement!

It may be that you can encourage someone by sending a text, or a card, or a phone call, or just by asking how they're getting on over a coffee. In whatever way we can, let us encourage one another – and all the more as we look forward to the return of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Your minister and friend,

**Philip**

# The Church Family



## Deaths

We have been saddened by the deaths of three of our long-standing members here at St Columba's, Edward Rogerson, Jean Davidson and Margaret Stewart. We extend our sympathy, love and prayers to their families.

**Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful servants. Psalm 116.15.**

## Thank You

Margaret Rogerson would like to thank the church family for their thoughts, prayers, and cards following the death of her beloved husband Edward.

She would also like to thank our minister Philip for his time and support. It meant a lot to the family that he interrupted his holiday to conduct the funeral service.

Eileen and Russell Logan would like to say thank you for the many cards and telephone calls received during lockdown, it has been much appreciated.

## Wedding Anniversaries

Congratulations to Bill & Janette Wright who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 10th August 2021.

Congratulations to Muir and Janette Connell who celebrated their Golden Wedding on 18th August 2021.

Muir and Janette would like to thank the Tuesday Morning Service for the lovely card and plant and also the Church family and friends who so kindly sent cards and gifts.

We congratulate Church members Ishbel and Jim Thomson of 37 Market Road who celebrated their Diamond Wedding anniversary on 7th September and give them every best wishes for the future.

### **New Chapters**

Congratulations to Scott Inglis who has now started his Probationary Teaching Year at Bearsden Academy.

We are also delighted that Rona Thomson has now started a Modern Apprenticeship at Glencoe Outdoor Centre. We will miss Rona here at St Columba's, but we do pray this will be an exciting new chapter in her life.



Rona Thomson at Glencoe Centre.

### **Church Membership**

If you would like to discuss membership here at St Columba's please do contact the Minister.

## **Small Group Bible Studies**

It has been super to see growing numbers of people taking part in Small Group Bible Studies here at St Columba's over the past year. As well as being a great way of studying the Bible together, many of us have benefitted from the support and encouragement of a small group as we follow Jesus. Some of us have made new friends.

This autumn, we are planning a new series of Bible Studies. Again, we'll be using material produced by the Scottish Bible Society that many of us have found helpful in recent studies. We are looking to study Paul's First letter to the Corinthians together and are aiming to start towards the end of September.

There are several ways in which it is possible for Small Groups to meet these days: by Zoom, by phone, in person (in a home or in the church halls), or some combination of these. Please do let the Minister know as soon as you can if you would like to know more about joining a Small Group this autumn. It would also be helpful if you could give an indication as to how you would be happy to meet (e.g. face to face/online).

If you've never joined a Small Group before, why not give it a try?

## **Surrender to God**

During the summer, we were most grateful for the ministry of Isaac McCleary, Rev David McAdam and Rev Ronnie Craig while our own Minister was on holiday. Isaac McCleary, who is a Reader at nearby Moodiesburn Parish Church, recommended a book called 'Surrender to God' by David Benner during his sermon on The Prodigal Son while he was with us. We are pleased to say we have now got hold of a copy of this book. If you would like to borrow it then please speak with the Minister.

## **Daily Prayer and Bible Readings**

We all have great intentions about setting time aside daily to read the Bible and take strength and comfort from God's word but sometimes life and busyness gets in the way of doing just that.

"The Upper Room" is a booklet of biblical readings which can help us to focus our minds on setting aside a short time each day to read.

One woman who has found strength and comfort from doing just that is Christine Moore who told me how important the routine of reading daily from "The Upper Room" has become to her.

Christine was diagnosed with osteoporosis over ten years ago and she works hard at keeping fit.

"I find that reading The Upper Room every day gives me strength and encouragement. As part of my daily routine my physical exercise includes lifting weights, walking and trying to stay active.

My Upper Room books are marked with notes that I can turn to when I need support. Some of the readings are from the Old Testament and some from the New Testament.

I read it in the morning and it is very helpful at keeping me positive."

The Upper Room is available at the back of the church or you can order a copy from Ian and Marilyn Gibb.

**Margaret Clayton**



## **Sunday Morning Services at St Columba's**

It has been a real joy for many of us in recent weeks to worship together in the church building without having to book a place in advance. We've also now been able to restart serving tea, coffee, juice and biscuits in the Large Hall after the morning service and that too is a welcome opportunity to share fellowship with one another and offer hospitality to visitors.

Whilst at the time of writing the COVID situation in Scotland is in a delicate position we are grateful for these and other ways in which it is now easier for many of us to come together as a church family.

Given that we are now able to meet in the church building in significant numbers, and also given that we can sing together, we have decided that rather than continuing with putting a separate pre-recorded service online for 10:30am on a Sunday morning, we will put a recording of the actual service in the church building, online later in the day. We hope this will give those who are unable to attend the service in the church a greater sense of worshipping God alongside those of us in the building. Our aim is to have this available via the church website, [www.kirkintillochstcolumbas.org.uk](http://www.kirkintillochstcolumbas.org.uk), and also on YouTube (search for St Columba's Church Kirkintilloch) for 7pm on the Sunday evening. However, you will understand that this may not always be possible if we encounter technical difficulties.

We are hugely grateful to all those who have worked tirelessly to make a separate pre-recorded service available for well over a year now – our IT/AV/Web Team, our Music Team, our Bible Reading Team, and a good number of others too. We greatly appreciate their ministry.

## **Church Prayer Diary**

Did you know we have a Church Prayer Diary here at St Columba's? It can be downloaded from the church website, [www.kirkintillochstcolumbas.org.uk](http://www.kirkintillochstcolumbas.org.uk). If you can't get a copy online, Janet Brown our Church Secretary will be able to provide a paper copy on request. There is a new edition available at the beginning of each month.

The prayer diary is set out with a prayer topic for each day. This may be a prayer request for our local church, for our community, for the church across our land, for our government and those in authority over us, for the worldwide church, or for one of our mission partners at home or abroad. It is a great way for us to join in prayer together.

***For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and His ears are attentive to their prayers. (1 Peter 3:12)***

## **Sunday Club and Bible Class**

Now that we are able to meet together in greater numbers, it is great to have Sunday Club and Bible Class joining us once again as part of the regular Sunday morning service. We do appreciate their contribution to our worship together. After a well-deserved summer break for leaders and young people alike, Sunday Club restarted on Sunday 15th August whilst Bible Class resumed on Sunday 29th August. We want to say a special thank you to Scott Inglis for his service to Sunday Club and Bible Class over the last nine years. With Scott recently starting his probationary teaching year, he has decided that now is the right time to step down from also teaching Bible Class on a Sunday morning. We greatly appreciate all that Scott has done for our young people through Sunday Club and Bible Class.

## **Philip Wright**

## **A Card for every Occasion**

As I think of our church family, I am mindful of the many varied gifts and skills that you, Lord have given to each person.

There are so many opportunities to serve, it is good to know that people give freely and willingly of their time and resources to further your work.

One of the few ways I have of serving our church is by sending notes or cards to people. There are several things I consider, so that the message will always be compassionate.

- 1). The person - do I know the person well?
- 2). The occasion - good news / unwelcome news / loss of a loved one.
- 3). The message - always appropriate to the occasion.  
It may be congratulations / encouragement or support.

Before I put pen to paper, I ask our Lord to be with me and guide me in what I think and write. I am always very careful as I would not wish to cause offence.

I always include a word from scripture:

*And what does the Lord require of you?  
To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly  
with your God.*

Micah Ch.6 v8.

We must always remember we are doing the Lord's work.

**Margaret Blair**

## **The Friendship Club**

Everyone was delighted to be able to meet for two evenings before the summer break.

Circumstances were indeed very different as we were two metres apart and a parent/carer had to remain with each member.

However, we had fun miming to our choruses, having games with large bricks and coloured cards and as always, hearing how God loves us and has been with us throughout this strange time.

We had snacks to take home in our special individual Friendship Club bags and on our last meeting we went outside and blew bubbles to remind everyone that we are still at St. Columba's having fun.

Our new session starts on Wednesday 8th September.

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month.

**Pat Muir.**

## **Following Jesus Group**

Unfortunately this adult group was unable to meet in June. We did however, get together in two separate groups.

A few of the girls met at Caulders for tea and cake, while the others went indoor bowling from 7 till 7.45pm, after which having the cafe area to ourselves, we retired there for a drink and a snack - leaving at 9pm!

The group meets for the new session on September 1st. We meet on the first Wednesday of each month.

Both groups would welcome new members at any time.

**Pat Muir.**

## **Christian Aid Report Autumn 2021**

There is very little to report since the Summer.

It was hoped that if restrictions were lifted the local churches would be able to hold the annual Fayre this Autumn. However, St. Mary's halls are not open to outside lets at the moment and with Covid numbers rising in Scotland it has been decided to put this on hold probably until sometime in 2022.

With restrictions on numbers that can attend Sunday morning services in person easing, we are hoping to organise an envelope collection for Christian Aid at St. Columba's in the Autumn. The envelopes will allow people who are able to do so, to also gift aid their donations.

More information on the work of Christian Aid and events taking place throughout Scotland can be found on their website.

**Geraldine Fox.**

### **The Craft Group**

Hopefully we will start on Monday, 4 October at 1.30 pm. Due to regulations, it would be sensible to bring our own drinks in a cup or flask along with our project.

**Margaret Rogerson**

### **The Guild**

After many months, the Guild is due to restart. Our first meeting will be at 2pm on 21st September 2021, when our speaker will be the Rev. Keith Saunders. A varied programme is planned and all members and visitors will be made most welcome.

**Margaret McCallum**

## **Remembering Margaret**

Sadly Margaret Stewart, who was a founder member of St. Columba's, died recently of bowel cancer. Previously Margaret won a battle against breast cancer. Her faith and strong spirit helped her through the worst days.

Margaret was known for her cheerful spirit and kindness to those in need. Her warm smile was a hallmark of a woman who always saw the best in others.

Margaret was a member of the Congregational Board for many years and as a long time member of the Women's Guild, she served five times as President. She also enjoyed being a Sunday School teacher making over a hundred costumes for their Nativity plays.

She and her husband Jackie have three children, Victoria, Adrian, Margaret and seven beloved grandchildren.

Margaret will be greatly missed by her own family and the church family.

Margaret's funeral service will be held in St Columba's on Tuesday 14th September at 10.30am. Due to Covid restrictions anyone wishing to attend is requested to check on the church website [www.kirkintillochstcolumbas.org.uk](http://www.kirkintillochstcolumbas.org.uk)., where information will be published regarding final arrangements.

**Margaret Clayton (on behalf of Jackie & Family)**



## **1st Kirkintilloch Company**

Following more than a year of Zoom meetings, everyone including officers, boys and parents, were delighted that we were able to meet outdoors during May and June. Now, after a short period of rest and recuperation over the summer, the Company is back with the 2021-22 Session getting underway on Friday 3rd September with all Sections meeting face-to-face in the church halls.

Any boys who wish to join us will be most welcome. If you are not quite ready to commit, you can come along any Friday evening to see what we do and take part in our range of activities.

We have four Sections each with broad programmes suitable for the different age groups: -

The Anchor Section for boys in P1 - P3 meets 18.15 - 19.15

The Junior Section for boys in P4 - P6 meets 18.45 - 20.15

Company Section for boys in P7 - S2 and Seniors for boys in S3 - S6 meets 19.30 - 22.00.

Some Covid restrictions are still in place. Anyone over 12 must wear a facemask, regular hand sanitisation is encouraged, and parents are not allowed to congregate in the vestibule of the halls.

## **Mens Club**

Along with all the other church groups we have been unable to meet for over a year. After a telephone poll, our regular Monday evening get togethers have been sadly missed by the members. We are planning to commence session 2021/22 on Monday 4th October at 19.30.

Currently certain measures will be in place, which have been agreed with the church's Covid Task Group. These measures will be reviewed on an ongoing basis to comply with Government recommendations.

The main ones are masks must be worn at all times, unless individuals are exempt, and hands must be sanitised when entering the building. Further information will be notified and clarified on our opening evening.

Hopefully we will see a good turn out and we encourage everyone to please bring along new members.

Very sadly our long serving Chairman Edward Rogerson died of bone cancer, which had been diagnosed earlier in the year. I spoke with various long term members to get their views on Edward and the resounding message that I heard was, "A first class gentleman who had everyones welfare at heart." "He did a power of work for the Men's Club, keeping everything running smoothly." "He was a very kind and gentle man who drove people to hospital appointments for their treatments." "He was a people helper, always cheery and gave his time and assistance freely."

He will be sadly missed by Margaret and family, St Columba's church family and by the Men's Club.

In the interim I have taken upon myself the mantle of temporary chairman until we have an EGM. So start thinking of your proposals for office bearers.

**John Clayton (Treasurer)**



## **Maintenance & Painting**

A big thank you to all those who have helped with the maintenance and painting of the church building and halls over the summer months. This is really appreciated and it is great to see so much progress.

There will be a need for more painting in some areas of our buildings during the year. If you are able to help, please contact Moira Laing from the Fabric Team in the first instance (see the back page for Moira's phone number). Moira can then discuss with you what you are comfortable doing, set you up with the materials you need, and arrange a time that is suitable for you and for other users of the building.

We're very grateful for whatever help you may be able to offer.

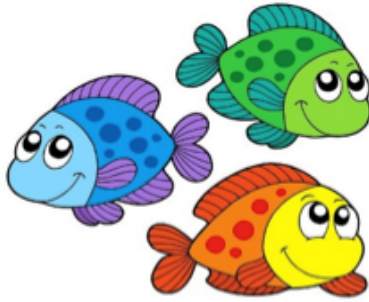
## **Church Flowers**

As mentioned in the Summer Magazine, we do appreciate having flowers in the sanctuary for the services there week by week. We want to say thank you to all those who make that possible.

We're delighted that we're now able to resume delivering the church flowers to folks in the congregation and community as a way of expressing our love and care. If you were on the rota for providing church flowers before, our church secretary, Janet Brown, will be in touch to ask if you would like to be part of a new rota running from mid-September onwards.

If you've not been on the rota for providing flowers before, but would like to join it, please speak to Janet directly about that.

Initially, the plan is for the church flowers to be delivered by the Minister. However, in due course, we expect to reinstate a Flower Delivery Team.



### **Little Fishes Toddler Group**

It has been lovely to be back in the halls with many fewer restrictions this term (although the toddlers didn't have to social distance anyway- just as well!) The families have been so positive and pleased that things are starting up again and it has been great to get to know new families too. We have adapted again to the new setup and enjoying having easier conversations with carers and it has been great to have tea and coffee again.

We have been grateful for generous donations from families within the group and also from church members and have been able to buy some new toys and sand. We have a beautiful new kitchen from Margaret Boyle - thank you.

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, kind and safe environment for the families who attend 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.

<https://www.facebook.com/littlefishestoddlergroup/>

**Gill Wright**

## **The Best of Times / The Worst of Times.**

The arrival of an infectious pandemic in our busy, crowded world has presented us with overwhelming challenges but at the same time it has made us stop and think about how we live and what we can do to make our corner of this world safer and stronger.

Covid is terrifying and its arrival reminds me of the polio pandemic of the 1950's, which brought fear and anxiety as it swept through Britain with devastating effects, claiming lives and leaving people with long lasting health problems. No matter how knowledgeable and advanced our world has become in the past decades, our frail humanity still trembles before the power of a cruel disease which claims lives, destroys health and makes us stop and think 'why?' Some people have lost family and are struggling to understand how they can carry on living without them and we find ourselves at times thinking - why God? Why? Yet the history of the world is littered with the suffering of wars, famines, earthquakes and disease.

Life has never been simple or easy for any generation. The year 2021 is not unique with the devastation it has brought. Will it perhaps inspire a realisation that we cannot survive in isolation thinking we know it all?

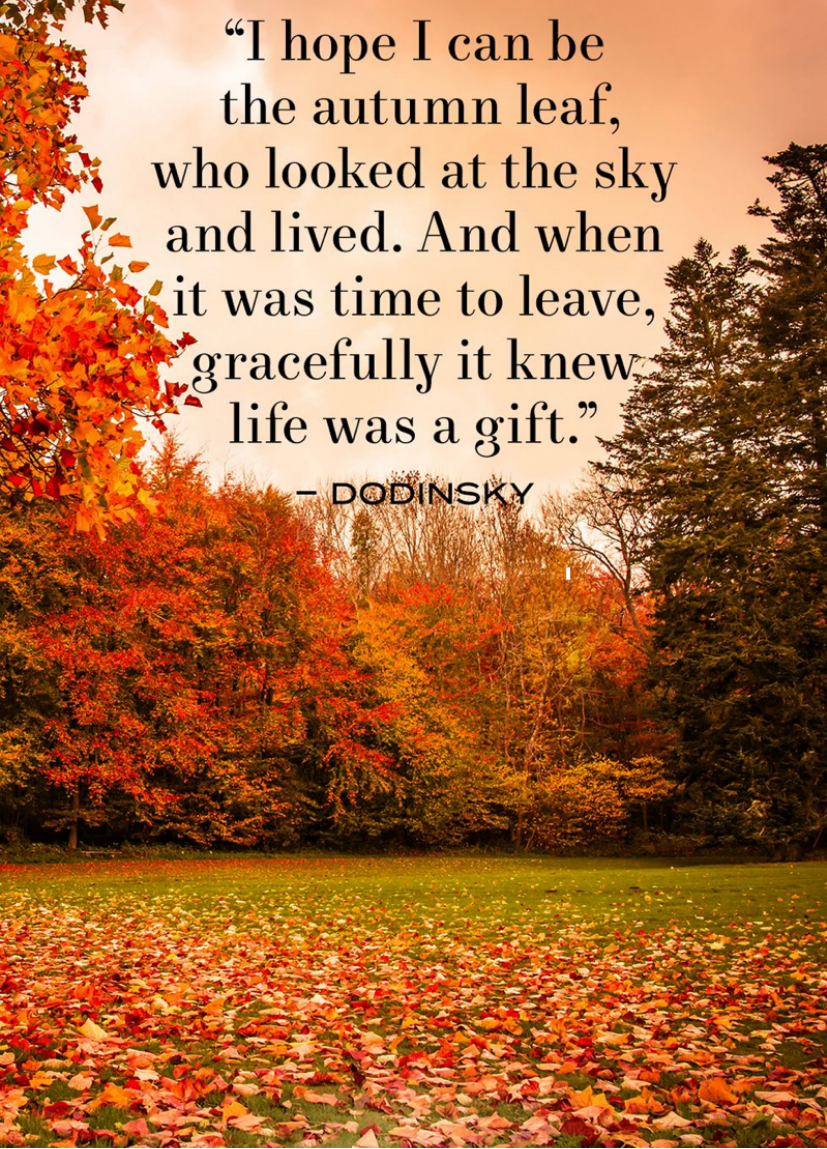
In our frail humanity we are inter-dependant and the preaching of Jesus over 2,000 years ago urged us to reach out to each other, to help the needy, the lonely and the sick. We are God's children and many times we stray from the path He wants us to take. We can be selfish, self centered and indifferent. Our faith doesn't always inform our daily living.

Yet the Father who created us and who loves us has never given up on even the worst mistakes of mankind. He is with us today as He has always been.

He will forgive us and help us if we turn to Him.

One small step - are we willing to take it?

**Margaret Clayton**



“I hope I can be  
the autumn leaf,  
who looked at the sky  
and lived. And when  
it was time to leave,  
gracefully it knew  
life was a gift.”

— DODINSKY

## **SERVICES**

### **Sunday Morning Service: 10.30am**

The Sunday Morning Service is video recorded each week and made available on the Church You Tube Channel (search for St Columba's Church Kirkintilloch) **OR** via the church website ([www.kirkintilloch@stcolumbas.org.uk](http://www.kirkintilloch@stcolumbas.org.uk)), usually by 7pm on the same day

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