

# St. Columba's Hillhead Congregational Magazine



**Summer 2022**

St Columba's Hillhead Parish Church is situated on two sites - the St Columba's site and the Hillhead site. The addresses of these are below: -

**St Columba's  
Old Aisle Road  
Kirkintilloch  
G66 3HQ**

**Hillhead  
2 Rosebank Avenue  
Kirkintilloch  
G66 2PR**

**Minister: Rev. Philip Wright**

Telephone: 07427 623393  
E-mail: [PWright@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:PWright@churchofscotland.org.uk)

**Secretary: Miss Janet Brown**

Telephone: 0141 578 0016  
(Monday & Thursday 9am - 12am)  
E-mail: [stcolumbassecretary@outlook.com](mailto:stcolumbassecretary@outlook.com)

**Charity No. SC008735**

## From the Manse

By the time you read this, the Service of Union between St Columba's and Hillhead Churches will have taken place and we will be St Columba's Hillhead Church. I expect the Service of Union to take a little over an hour, but it will take longer than that for our two churches to truly come together as one. It is great that there are many friendships between folks at St Columba's and folks at Hillhead already. It is encouraging that we already worship and serve together, for example through the Guild. Still, it will take time for us to gel as one united church. We are a work in progress. We are a church under construction.

Some of us hope to walk or even cycle to Milton of Campsie after the Service of Union. I recently learned that the day after the union, resurfacing work is due to begin along the old railway line path. In recent years, the tree roots have protruded more and more through the tarmac making walking and cycling increasingly difficult.

However, there is now the prospect of a wonderful new path! In between times, there will be some disruption, but it will be worth it when the work is completed. Similarly, there will likely be bumps along the way as we come together as one church, but I hope and pray that the result will be worth it. These are days of considerable change in Glasgow Presbytery. Our goal in coming together as one church is that amidst that change, ministry and mission will thrive at both sites, St Columba's and Hillhead, and across the parish.

The Bible talks about the church as being a 'church under construction'. The apostle Peter says we are like *'living stones...being built into a spiritual house'* (1 Peter 2:5).

## **From the Manse (cont'd)**

Similarly, as individuals, we are 'Christians under construction'. The apostle Paul talks about God beginning a '*good work*' within us when we first come to know Jesus as our Lord and Saviour (Philippians 1:6). Whether as a church, or as individual Christians, we're works in progress!

Let's bear with one another then whilst we are 'Christians under construction'. Let's be patient as we're a 'Church under construction'. Let's not lose sight of that day when the 'work in progress' sign will be removed, and the finished product will be revealed.

***Finish, then, thy new creation;***

***Pure and spotless let us be;***

***Let us see thy great salvation***

***Perfectly restored in thee:***

***Changed from glory into glory,***

***Till in heaven we take our place,***

***Till we cast our crowns before thee,***

***Lost in wonder, love and praise.***

**Your minister and friend**

**Philip**

# The Church Family



## Deaths

It is with great sadness that we record the death of Brian Robertson, Chrissie Patrick and Alistair Patrick. 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.***

## Church Membership

If you are considering membership at St Columba's Hillhead, please speak with the Minister.

## Church Prayer Diary

Did you know we have a Church Prayer Diary at St Columba's Hillhead? It is available at the services on a Sunday (at both St Columba's and Hillhead) and at the Wednesday Midweek Service. It can also be downloaded from [www.kirkintillochstcolumbas.org.uk](http://www.kirkintillochstcolumbas.org.uk). 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)***

## **Midweek Service**

Every week during school term time, we meet together for a Midweek Service at 10am on Wednesdays. The service lasts about 40 minutes and takes place in the Large Hall at St Columba's. We sing, pray and learn from the Bible together – and those who can stay afterwards enjoy sharing fellowship over tea and coffee. If you've never been before to the Midweek Service, please be assured you will be welcomed warmly!

Do please note, the Midweek Service won't be running during the school summer holidays. The last Midweek Service of the current session is Wednesday 22 June.

The Midweek Service will restart on Wednesday 17 August.

## **Sunday Club and Bible Class**

We continue to appreciate joining together with the Sunday Club and Bible Class for the early part of the regular Sunday morning service. Sunday Club has then been looking together at the life of Joseph in the Old Testament and how God has a plan for our lives. Bible Class has been considering various questions about the Bible in recent weeks with the help of material from the Bible Society. These have included 'Why should I read the Bible?' and 'How should I read the Bible?'

At the time of writing, Sunday Club and Bible Class are looking forward to joining others from the church for a walk, cycle ride – weather permitting! – for after the service on Sunday 12 June.

We're very grateful to those who lead and help at Sunday Club and Bible Class week by week. Very well done to Karen Wallace for raising £651.50 for Little Princess Trust with a sponsored hair cut!

## **A Comforting Prayer**

Do not look forward to what might happen tomorrow; the same Everlasting Father who cares for you today, will take care of you tomorrow and every day. Either He will shield you from suffering or He will give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace, then, and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginings.

**St Francis de Sales**

## **Daily Prayer Time**

Many reading this already find space in their busy lives to include a short daily Bible reading and quiet prayer time, which they find extremely useful and uplifting. To facilitate this, various people use different publications with a similar approach as an aid to their daily Bible reading, but an encouragingly large number of our church members at present are making good use of a small booklet called "The Upper Room".

This booklet is published quarterly in 37 different languages and features a daily meditation and reflection written by its own worldwide community of readers. It is both humbling and encouraging finding contributions from all over the world, including such diverse places as Australia, Nigeria, the Philippines, Honduras, USA and Scotland, too. Perhaps you have never previously considered making use of such a publication, but, at this time of new beginnings for us, you are warmly invited to give "The Upper Room" a try. In so doing, it is hoped this would very much enhance your understanding of the Bible and bring you closer to the Lord. Anyone interested in a trial issue should speak to Philip or phone the number listed in the Directory.

**Ian & Marilyn Gibb**

## **Guild**

We are in the process of planning our syllabus for session 2022/23 as we now have a new convenor, which we are very pleased about.

We are looking forward to meeting with all our existing members and hopefully some new ones in September 2022. All are very welcome.

Enjoy the summer.

**Janet Brown**  
**Guild Secretary**

## **The Leprosy Mission**

I am delighted to report that due to the continued efforts of the congregation I have recently been able to send a cheque to the sum of £230.00 to The Leprosy Mission.

I am truly grateful to everyone who leaves jars of loose change at the rear of the church and it shows how, over a period of time, every penny adds up to quite a lot of money.

With many thanks for your continued support of this vital cause.

**Margaret McCallum**

## **Christian Aid**

Thanks so much to everyone who donated to Christian Aid following the recent appeals at St Columba's and at Hillhead. The excellent combined total of £695 (before gift aid) was raised. This will assist in Christian Aid's work helping families around the world to overcome poverty and injustice, wherever the need is greatest.



## **Friendship Club and Following Jesus Group**

It has been a busy session as we have welcomed new staff plus new members.

On the staff we have Maureen, from our own congregation, Jane and Margaret from Baillieston and we hope to have Rhoda from Bishopbriggs. Unfortunately Rose is leaving us but like Margaret Blair, we hope she will come back to visit. At present we are also happy to have Gregor Ingleby helping out.

Our new members in the Friendship Club are Lucy and Summer. In the Following Jesus Group we have Cat and four people from the Baillieston Group.

In the last term the highlight was our Prospects Across Scotland annual weekend at Tulliallan where the theme was "Our God is a Great Big God".

Over the weekend a total of 120 of us praised our Lord in song, prayer, dance, and crafts also with puppets – Heather and Gregor took part in the puppet show. All of our group were involved in the Sunday Celebration, which focused on God knowing and loving each one of us and that no problem is too large or too small to take to our Great Big God. Our only problem on that occasion was in convincing Heather that a shepherd really wouldn't wear a leather jacket!

We will be having a night on two consecutive weeks sailing on the Forth & Clyde Canal with the Seagull Trust. Everyone looks forward to this trip plus our fish and chips on board.

Finally we would like to thank everyone for their prayers throughout the year and especially for our Tulliallan weekend.

**Pat Muir.**

## **Summer Café**

We are looking forward to holding a Summer Café at St Columba's from 10am till 12noon on Friday 24 June. We'll be serving tea, coffee and juice - and hopefully ice cream too if the weather holds up! We'll also have activities for children and a baby and toddler area. Please do support this event and invite friends and neighbours to come too.

## **Walk and Talk**

The Walk and Talk Group has been enjoying meeting on Thursday afternoons at 2:00pm for an hour's walk and conversation. There are usually around 6 to 10 walkers. It has been good to have a mix of folks from St Columba's and St Mary's and sometimes from other churches in the area as well.

The format is simple. We meet at a location with reasonable car parking (such as Merkland Nature Reserve) at 2:00pm. We walk for approximately 2 to 2.5 miles. We try to walk a circular route. We are normally back at the cars by 3:15pm. We use local paths and lanes to avoid traffic as much as possible.

You may gather from the above that this is a gentle walk suitable for all ages.

If you are available on a Thursday afternoon and would like to make some new friends, or walk with some old ones, then please come and join us. No special equipment is required.

All you need is a waterproof jacket and a stout pair of shoes.

The walking routes have included Merkland Nature Park, Waterside, the Leisure Centre to Larkfield, The Luggie Walkway and The Canal at Tintock.

If you'd like to find out more about Walk and Talk, please speak to the Minister.



## **Anchor Section**

The section finished up for the session at the end of April and is now in recess until the beginning of September. The run up to our finish was a frantic effort to make sure the boys completed the badge work and I am pleased to say that this was achieved, so well done boys.

In the run up to our closing the boys took part in an Innoflate session organised by the battalion. All the boys attended along with boys from other companies. Some 80 boys took part in a fun afternoon which involved an hour or more playing on the giant inflatables followed by hot dogs and unlimited amounts of juice. Thankfully Mr McCallum did not have to take part in the inflatables but in the interests of health & safety he did make sure to sample the hot dogs and juice just in case they were off.

Our final night was a boat race in the Luggie, which involved the boys launching their wooden battleships into the Luggie at Market Road Bridge with the winner being the first boat to reach the Lammermoor Road Bridge. For once the weather let us down by not raining for several days before the event therefore most of the boats only made it half way before grounding on the rocks; so if anyone spots a pink battleship in the Luggie you will know where they came from.

We finished the evening with more hot dogs and juice in the hall where we were joined by parents and friends for the presentation of awards and promotions of boys going up to Junior Section.

## **1st Kirkintilloch Anchor Section (cont'd)**

After a break for a couple of years due to the pandemic we were able this year to present the best boy shields again. These shields are awarded based on behaviour, attendance, willingness to help and self-development over the year and I am delighted to announce this year's winners as:-

1st year - Shaun Bulloch.

2nd year - Joey Lyons.

3rd year - Luke Anderson.

Well done boys for all your efforts, which were duly noted and well done to everyone else for their efforts as well.

On a more serious note we will have only two boys returning next session as all the rest have moved up to Junior Section so we will need to have new recruits if we are to continue. Please remember us in your prayers and ask God to help us continue as a part of the Boys' Brigade. Any boy in primary 1 to primary 4 would be most welcome to join us and find out what we get up to.

**Have a great summer,  
Fraser, Margaret & Lorna.**

## **1st Kirkintilloch BB (cont'd)**

### **Junior Section**

As our session for 2021/22 draws to a close we would like to take time to thank everyone who has continued to support the Junior Section in what has been another very challenging year.

We have managed to deliver an exciting programme for the boys and allowed everyone to Learn, Grow and Discover in all the different activities.

Attendance over the session has been steady and it's been encouraging to report that numbers are on the increase.

The boys have worked very hard to achieve the various different badges in the new badge scheme.

Parables have helped the boys to understand their faith a little bit more and using technology they have seen the work of Jesus and how they can be good citizens.

Indoor games and crafts have allowed teamwork and creativity to flourish.

We have tried to ensure that the boys haven't missed out on any outdoor activities and have frequented Luggie water park where they have played outdoor games, sailed sticks down the Luggie and some of them have even managed to get wet!

Merkland Nature Park has allowed for the boys to build dens and climb trees.

The boys enjoyed a Battalion event at Innoflate in Cumbernauld where they had the opportunity to mix with around 80 other young people from the Battalion. An event that was enjoyed by everyone who attended.

## **1st Kirkintilloch Junior Section (cont'd)**

We have a couple of boys who will be moving up to Company Section in the new session and we wish them every success in this.

We also look forward to welcoming a number of new boys' from the Anchor Section.

Thanks again to all the boys, their parents and carers plus all the staff for working so hard and being so enthusiastic to make the session as successful as it has been!

Don't forget to check out our Facebook page where you can see some of the exciting things we got up to!

[www.Facebook.com/1stkirkintillochbb](http://www.Facebook.com/1stkirkintillochbb)

We hope that everyone enjoys finding out what we have been up to over the session.

Our new session will resume on the first Friday in September.

**David, Ross and Matthew.**

## **1st Kirkintilloch BB (cont'd)**

### **Company Section and Seniors**

Three boys and two officers represented the Company at the Battalion Quiz. Although neither of the teams they were in managed to win, everyone enjoyed the occasion, the friendly competitive spirit and the spread that was laid on afterwards.

We were also well represented at the Battalion 10 pin bowling outing at Probowl in Kirkintilloch with six boys and one leader taking part. Once again, everyone had a good time and if the bowling was not up to scratch there was a burger and a soft drink to enjoy.

Over the last couple of months our Friday evening attendances have fluctuated due to Covid, exam revision, holidays, etc, which caused disruption to our normal programme of activities. As a result, we played more indoor games than normal and introduced several boys to the joys (and frustrations) of trionimoes.

In April we took advantage of the good weather by moving our programme outdoors. We were able to play ultimate frisbee and skittles on the football pitch across the road from the church, had a walk over Croy Hill from the marina at Auchinstarry, visited the Golf Range at Lowmoss and finished the session with a barbecue in the church carpark. Thanks to everyone who played a part during the session, enjoy your summer break and we look forward to seeing you when the 2022/23 session starts on 2nd September.

Although we have broken up for the summer we will have a stall at Kirkintilloch Gala Day in Woodhead Park on 11th June. If you are available why not come along and try your hand at the games? Who knows you could be a winner!

**Have a good summer,  
From the Company & Seniors Team**



## **5th Kirkintilloch Brownies.**

We meet from September to May at 6.45 - 8.00pm on Tuesday evenings in Hillhead Church Hall. We have just finished our session on a lovely summers evening playing outside and toasting marshmallows, a very traditional and beautiful way to end the year.

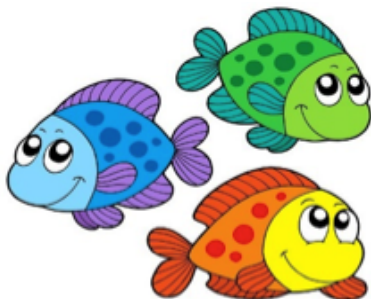
Highlights of the year included our Christmas trip to the cinema to see 'Encanto', learning outdoor skills, and gaining some badges. The Grow Your Own badge means that sunflowers and lettuce are now growing in the garden at Hillhead.

We are part of Kirkintilloch and Lenzie Division, in Kirkintilloch East District. At the moment we have over 20 girls on lists waiting to begin their adventure in Girlguiding in the Rainbow Section, 5-7 years old. We hope to start a new Rainbow unit in Hillhead. We would welcome new volunteers to help with this new unit. No previous experience is necessary, just enthusiasm to work with the girls and a sense of fun. Please go to the Girlguiding UK website to find out more about leader training and register your interest.

**Lynne Semple**



## Church Toddler Groups



**Little Fishes** has had a lovely year. We have welcomed back well kent faces and it has been great to have new families too. It has been so nice not to wear masks and have a good chat with a cup of tea or coffee while the toddlers are playing.

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 and safety, especially at coffee time for the team each week.



We were so excited to start a new toddler group at Hillhead called **Busy Bees** in March. This group meets on Wednesdays from 10 - 11.30am. We had 41 children on the first day(!) but it has now settled to a nice regular group of about 25. The team there have been really grateful for donations of toys, money and time in getting this off to a great start.

## **Church Toddler Groups (cont'd)**

Both groups are just drop-in during school term-time. There is no need to book a place. If you know anyone who would like to come then please do contact Gill on 07934460752 for Little Fishes (Fridays) or June on 07854599330 for Busy Bees (Wednesdays).

Details can also be found on the facebook page:

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

**Gill Wright**

## **Charity Open Day**

The Milton of Campsie open day is on Sunday June 19th from 1 pm - 5 pm. The cost is £7 and the charity is the Amyloidosis Research Fund. There are 8 gardens to see including the community garden that was created by one man during the lockdown. We are hoping to provide a Strawberry Tea & tickets will be available from the Old Man's Rest which is in the middle of the village. (It will be obvious on the day with signs & bunting).

**Angela Welsh.**

## **Vision for a Children and Families Worker**

In January 2022, we shared an exciting vision at St Columba's to build for the future by appointing a Children and Families Worker. This came about from a shared concern over the low number of children and families in our church and a longing to see this increase. Children are the seed corn of the church of the future, and we recognise the real and urgent need to attract more children and families into the fellowship. The broad remit of the Children and Families Worker post is to assist with ministry and mission to children and families. Specific areas of work would depend on the experience and skills of the successful candidate - as well as the opportunities to use these. Now that we have united as St Columba's Hillhead Church, the scope of the new post will encompass the new church and parish.

We recognised that financing a three-year appointment of a full-time Children and Families Worker is challenging but not impossible. It is likely to cost around £90,000 allowing for salary, necessary expenses including Income Tax and National Insurance, and costs for children's activities. A salary of £22,000-£24,000 per annum is under consideration. We are pleased to report encouraging progress towards the cost of such a three-year appointment:

30% of the total (£27,000) has already been committed from existing church funds.

35% of the total (£31,500) has now been given or pledged specifically for this project following an extremely generous response from church members and regular attenders.

## **Vision for a Children and Families Worker (cont'd)**

There remains then 35% of the total (£31,500) to fundraise. We hope applications to grant awarding trusts will play a significant part in helping us reach that figure. At the time of writing, we have submitted three grant applications. A further two are in the pipeline and more will follow. One grant application, we have already heard, has been unsuccessful, but that is the nature of applying for grants. We are not expecting every application to be successful.

Thank you so much to everyone who is supporting this exciting and important venture in prayer or financially. We hope you are encouraged by this update, and we will keep you informed of further progress.

If you would like to give to the Children and Families Worker appeal, donations are still welcome and may be made as a monthly standing order or as one or more lump sums given specifically to this project. Please contact Neil Bathie, Treasurer at St Columba's, if you would like to know how to set that up.

If you have questions about the Children and Families Worker post, please do get in touch with any member of the team. We would be very glad to arrange to meet up or to schedule a phone call.

**Anne Inglis**  
**Jackie Ringan**  
**Ramsay Vallance**

## **The Queen.**

On the 6th of February 1952 I woke up in my little bed in the alcove of the room I shared with my mum and dad in our house in Coatbridge to the sound of crying.

I'd never heard my mum cry.

‘What’s wrong mummy?’ I said as she cuddled me close.

‘The King has died Margaret and we have a new Queen.’

‘Who is she?’ I asked.

‘She will be called Queen Elizabeth’ my mum replied. For the rest of that day the radio was on giving out the information

The next morning when our newspaper called The Bulletin, which my mum and dad read, arrived I saw photographs of this new Queen Elizabeth whose father King George the Sixth had died.

From that moment the story captivated my imagination. My parents didn’t have a television but my grandparents did and so on Coronation Day, 2nd June 1953, my aunts and uncles, grandchildren and cousins gathered round the very small screened television in their home called ‘Croftbank’ in Coatbridge to watch the most amazing event I had ever seen - a Princess in a dazzling white gown having a heavy golden crown studded with jewels placed upon her head.

She made her vows in a firm voice with only a few tremors and later as the bells of the cathedral rang out she walked slowly back down the aisle Queen Elizabeth the Second.

From then on, exciting things happened. School children were given a Coronation mug, which I still have sitting on my dresser.

On her tour of the country the new Queen Elizabeth came to Coatbridge and all the schoolchildren lined the Main Street on both sides as she waved from an open topped car.

## **The Queen (cont'd)**

My friend Jean and I played Coronations regularly. It was our favourite game.

When I grew up and decided I wanted to be a journalist, my mother was a bit disappointed. She'd hoped I'd be a schoolteacher. But gradually when she realised that I loved my work - interviewing people from all walks of life and telling their stories, she could see it was exactly what I'd always wanted.

When she died I found she'd kept copies of articles containing my interviews with Margaret Thatcher in Downing Street to the ordination of Cardinal Winning - wrapped carefully in a drawer in her bureau.

On the night he became Cardinal, in Rome, he entertained the Scottish press and he said to me "Well what does a wee Protestant from Coatbridge make of this Maggie?"

I smiled at his teasing comments and said "Well Cardinal it goes a long way to explaining the Reformation"

Thankfully he laughed.

In my working life I was fortunate to meet people from varied backgrounds facing many challenges. It was a privilege to listen and learn how they coped.

Now as the Queen continues to fulfill the promises she made as a young woman, I think that all of us, whether Royalist or not, owe her a debt of gratitude for a life of service to our country. God Bless the Queen.

**Margaret Clayton**

## The Queen (cont'd)



Margaret Clayton's Coronation Mug.



Janet Brown's Coronation Glass.

## **PRISON FELLOWSHIP SCOTLAND (PFS): LETTER WRITING PROGRAMME (LWP)**

PFS is a non-denominational Christian organisation reaching out to prisoners in almost all of Scotland's 15 jails. Most of the voluntary work has consisted of trained volunteers visiting groups of inmates to share the Gospel with them and to show them Christian love, concern and encouragement.

This outreach has in the past two years been augmented by a pilot project of trained letter writers. They commit to writing to individual prisoners who have been identified by the prison Chaplaincy Team as being likely to benefit from Christian contact in this way. A similar letter-writing programme has operated in England for more than 20 years with considerable success. PFS feels it is now ready to expand its LWP to include a larger number of Scottish jails and is seeking the support of committed Christian men and women to become involved in this exciting and rewarding service. 50% of Scottish prisoners over the age of 60 yrs receive not a single visit from one year to the next. Consequently, a kindly constructed letter on a fairly regular basis can make a big difference. That is not to say that we are naive about crime and its consequences.

If you would like to find out more about this scheme, please speak to me in Church or give me a call on 07753 882249 or 0141 776 6402. No obligation!!

**Ramsay Vallance**



## **Flower Rota 2022.**

### **Donation**

### **Delivery**

#### **June**

5.	Janet Brown, G&M Kidd	Mr & Mrs I Muir
12.	Mrs R Powell	Joan Beattie
19	Mr J Stewart	Moira French
26	Mrs D Finnie	Julie Reid

#### **July**

3.	Mrs M Rogerson	Glenys Swann
10	Mrs C Moore	Ishbel Thomson
17	Mr T Fawcett	Lydia Ramsay
24	Mrs J. Connell	
31	Mr T Nelson	Janet Brown

#### **August**

7	Mrs I Kernochen	
14	Sunday Club	Mr & Mrs I Muir
21	Mr & Mrs N Bathie	Joan Beattie
28	Mrs M Blair	Moira French

#### **September**

4	Boys Brigade	Julie Reid
11	Mr J Gardiner	Glenys Swann
18	Mrs I Perry	Ishbel Thomson
25	Mrs D Morgan	Lydia Ramsay

## **SERVICES**

**St Columba's:**

**Sunday Morning Service 10.00am**

**Now livestreamed on ([www.kirkintilloch.org.uk](http://www.kirkintilloch.org.uk))  
OR on YouTube (St Columba's Church Kirkitilloch).**

**Midweek Service**

**Wednesdays at 10am in the Large Hall**

**Tea and Coffee are served after the Sunday Morning Service and the Midweek Service at St Columba's.**

**Hillhead:**

**Sunday Morning Service 11.30am**

**Tea and Coffee are served before the Sunday Morning Service at Hillhead (from 11.00am).**

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