

St. Columba's Hillhead Congregational Magazine



Welcome to Kirkintilloch St Columba's Hillhead Church



Winter 2023

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

Charity No. SC008735

From the Manse

*For man at war with man hears not
The love-song which they bring*

I must have sung these lines from 'It came upon the midnight clear' every year of my life for as long as I can remember. I expect many of us have. However, it seems they ring true particularly clearly this Advent season. Last Christmas, there was the reality of war in Europe once again with the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. This year, there is the added sorrow of the Israel-Gaza war. Can there really be peace on earth?

The Gospel-writer John says of Jesus stepping on to the stage of human history, '*...though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise Him*' (John 1:10). This is why the arrival of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, has not yet ushered in an era of universal peace: even today, many remain untouched by his coming.

Even so, there is great hope in John's gospel. Jesus, who is the light of the world, '*...shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it*' (John 1:5). Today, Jesus shines in the lives of His disciples. Even where that light is a flicker, the darkness cannot put it out. We may feel there is little we can do to dispel the darkness in the world today. But if we are truly shining with Jesus' light, we brighten that part of the world where God has set us. If we are at peace with God, we spread something of His peace around us.

I love the way 'It came upon the midnight clear' ends. It ends with a picture of that great day when God will wind up human history, and when there will be a new earth and a new sky. On that day, Jesus the Prince of Peace will reign as never before. After that day, there will be no night - for all who trust in Him. Until that day, God calls us to shine like stars and to share His light.

From the Manse (cont'd)

*Then earth and heaven renewed shall see
The Prince of Peace, their King;
And all the world repeat the song
Which now the angels sing.*

**May you know God's blessing this Christmas and in the
New Year.**

Your minister and friend,

Philip

The Church Family



Deaths

It is with great sadness that we record the death of Alison Higgins. We extend our sympathy, love and prayers to Alison's husband Robert and the wider family.

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

Wedding

Many congratulations to Keith and Hanneke Hall on their recent marriage on Saturday 25 November. We pray God's blessing on them.

Thank You

Thank you to Rev. Philip Wright and our church family for all the prayers, cards and caring thoughts while Robert was in hospital and afterwards. Thankfully, to all of you, he is recovering daily.

Margaret, Robert & Graeme Edgar

Church Membership

If you would like to discuss membership here at St Columba's Hillhead please speak with the Minister.

Church Family (Cont'd)

Remembering Anna Mackenzie

3 May 1949 - 21 February 2023

Anna was brought up in the West End of Glasgow and we met in March 1970 and got engaged on Christmas Day that year, thereafter marrying in September 1972 at St Christopher's Parish Church, Househillwood, where we had become members, whilst I was helping out friends running the Junior Section of the BB Company there.

Our first 4 years of married life were spent living in Shawlands before moving to Muirside Avenue, Kirkintilloch after the birth of Scott a few months previously and we joined St Columba's in 1976.

Like many new Mums of that era, Anna had given up work to bring up Scott and then his sister Lynne and brother Craig.

If I was to sum up Anna's life in a few words it would have to be 'carer extraordinaire'.

She had wanted to follow a career path in nursing, but her mother had not approved.

Not long after we arrived in Rosebank and with a young child, we got to hear about a 'babysitting circle' which involved residents in the area who babysat each others kids to let parents have an occasional night out. A token system was in operation, whereby when you took a turn you would be credited with tokens, which would then in turn let you use them for a night out.

That was perhaps just the beginning for Anna's 'caring path', as she then went to help run the Waterside Playgroup in the Waterside Miners' Club and it thereafter relocated to St Columba's Church Hall where many in the Church will remember her from.

Anna would go on to care for both her Mother and her Aunt Lexie, the latter moving out to Kirkintilloch and staying at the Bield Housing Complex in Lammermoor Road.

Remembering Anna Mackenzie

3 May 1949 - 21 February 2023. (cont'd)

Following on from the birth of our third child Craig, Anna spent many months over several years taking care of his needs both during hospitalisation and long spells at home in his early school years.

With primary school hours being worked around for Craig, Anna took on a part - time post running the 'Hillhead Pre Five Unit' located in the Annexe at Hillhead Primary School in Kirkintilloch.

So from having a dream to be a nurse, Anna ended up not only devoting her time to bringing up our family, but caring for many other children and elderly relatives.

More recently Anna herself was the one who latterly required a lot of care from myself and family, but also from many health professionals over a seventeen month period.

It was near the end of that period that I had occasion to be discussing Anna's situation with Philip and arranging for a hospital visit for Anna, that she got to hear from staff in the ward that Philip had called. She then phoned me to say "Philip has been on the phone about coming up to the hospital,That's great, I would like that.....I really like the guy!".

I think Anna's words really do sum up what a lot of people think about how blessed we are to have Philip and his family with us at St Columba's Hillhead.

Our family certainly do and have to thank Philip once more for making Anna's funeral service in March so memorable. Many folk have since commented on how special that occasion was for those who managed to attend.

Thanks for the support and warmth from St Columba's Hillhead.

Robert Mackenzie & Family

The Upper Room

The next issue of “The Upper Room” will be distributed in time for the beginning of the New Year. This unique little booklet has a worldwide readership of some 3 million and it is its own readers who contribute each daily meditation, which include a short Bible reading, reflection and prayer. By far the majority of people who try “The Upper Room” find it relevant and uplifting and we would be more than delighted to increase our number of users in St Columba’s Hillhead. Just let Ian or Marilyn know as soon as possible.

One of our recipients introduced “The Upper Room” to her own church in Perthshire in September when the minister there ordered 10 copies. Such has been the success in that congregation that the minister there has now had to double their order!

Ian & Marilyn Gibb

Used Stamps

Many thanks to all those who have continued to collect used stamps throughout the year. Most of us receive less stamped mail these days, but hopefully December will again boost our collection. As always, it would be appreciated if 1 cm. or so of paper could be left as a border around each stamp.

This year we have been supporting the work of CrossReach, a Church of Scotland charitable organisation which has been delivering innovative social care for more than 150 years. CrossReach cares for older people, children, families and the homeless, as well as supporting those with learning difficulties.

Mary Aitken & Marilyn Gibb

Prayer at St Columba's Hillhead

It remains an encouragement to see a good number of people making use of the Church Prayer Diary, which is available every month. Around 30 paper copies are printed each month and made available at Sunday and Midweek Services. It is great to see them taken away to be used. An electronic version is also available to download from the church website, **www.kirkintillochstcolumbas.org.uk**

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.

If you don't already make use of the Church Prayer Diary, do give it a try. It would be wonderful to have to increase the number of copies we are printing each month.

More recently, it has been a joy to start a Prayer Meeting in the Manse at 7pm on a Thursday evening. We start with tea and coffee before moving to prayer. We are usually done by around 8:15pm.

Prayer is essential to all that happens at St Columba's Hillhead Church. Please pray personally that God would increasingly be at work amongst us. Do make use of the Prayer Diary if you are able. Come and join with us on a Thursday evening if you can. And be assured – you don't have to pray out loud if you're not comfortable doing so!

...if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. 2 Chronicles 7:14

The Leprosy Mission

After the last newsletter, we have been able to send a cheque for £150 to the Leprosy Mission. I am delighted that there are jars of coins left at the back of the church and it just goes to show that every penny makes a difference to the leprosy mission as the undernoted letter shows.

With grateful thanks

Margaret McCallum



Midweek Service

The Midweek Service continues to be a great opportunity to meet together for worship in the middle of the week. It takes place at 10am on Wednesday mornings in the Small Hall at St Columba's.

The service lasts for about 35 minutes, and we are able to sing, pray and learn from the Bible together. After the service, there is the opportunity for fellowship over tea and coffee for those who can stay.

In recent weeks, we have been looking together at Jesus' Seven Miraculous Signs in John's Gospel. We have also appreciated visits from Gabriel Kijjambu (Luwero Community Projects) and Ivy Blair (Prospects across Scotland).

The Midweek Service has provided an opportunity for some who are unable to come to the church service on a Sunday morning to do so in the middle of the week. It may be, there are others reading this who cannot come on a Sunday but could on a Wednesday? If so, you'd be very welcome.

The Wednesday morning service will be taking a break on 20 & 27 December and 3 January and will restart on 10 January 2024.

Sunday Club and Bible Class

It is great to have Sunday Club and Bible Class with us during the regular Sunday morning services at St Columba's Hillhead. Sunday Club meets each week and is currently looking at the coming of Jesus into the world. Bible Class currently meets less regularly than that – partly due to numbers and partly due to sometimes just staying with the main service.

The last day of Sunday Club and Bible Class for this year will be Sunday 10th December and both will restart on Sunday 7th January. We will be having All Age Nativity at St Columba's on Sunday 17th December. The Sunday morning services on 24th December and 31st January will also be All Age services.

Special Christmas Services at St Columba's Hillhead

We're so glad to be putting on some extra Christmas services once again this year. We've put some dates for your diary below.

Why not invite friends and family? There are flyers available – please do make use of them!

<i>Sun 10 Dec</i>	<i>7:00pm</i>	<i>Carol Service (St Columba's)</i>
<i>Sun 17 Dec</i>	<i>10:30am</i>	<i>All Age Nativity (St Columba's)</i>
<i>Sun 24 Dec</i>	<i>4:00pm</i>	<i>Family Christmas Eve Service (St Columba's)</i>
<i>Mon 25 Dec</i>	<i>10:30am</i>	<i>Christmas Day Service (Hillhead Halls)</i>

Please do note, the Family Christmas Eve Service at 4:00pm will be suitable for pre-school and primary school age children, but we do hope it will be appreciated by all age groups.

The Christmas Day Service, at our Hillhead site, is an opportunity to give thanks to God for the gift of his Son, Jesus at this most significant moment in the Christian Calendar.

Whilst we do hope you will be able to attend these services in person, it is our intention to also make all the services from the St Columba's site available online via the church website and YouTube channel.

Out of the Box

We are delighted that 'Out of the Box' Christian Performing Arts Charity is coming to St Columba's Hillhead this year! Many of us have greatly appreciated the visits of this hugely talented group in previous years. This year's offering is **'Mary and Joseph and a Donkey called Hank'**. It takes place at 6:30pm at St Columba's on Thursday 14th December.

Families with primary aged children will love the show but we're sure those who are older – and younger – will too!

Please do pass on the word!

Entry is free but donations are welcome.



The Guild

Our 2023/24 session got off to good start with a visit to The Holy Land. Then we had two speakers unable to attend due to Covid - however we worked through this and a huge thank you to Graeme White for stepping into the breach at the last minute on our second call off.

We are approaching the end of our first part of the session and looking forward to the Rev. Mark Johnstone speaking about his "Life at the Cathedral" followed on the 12th December with our Christmas Lunch.

Our first meeting in the new year is on the 9th January, with our minister the Rev. Philip Wright - then on 23rd January we are having a Burns Supper - anyone interested should contact Janet to place a booking.

On closure - Thanks to the ladies who are knitting baby hats, which go to the Princess Royal Maternity and are very well received.

Seasons Greetings to everyone

Janet Brown - Secretary

Mens Group

Our 2023/24 session started off well with a good attendance of returning members and a few new ones. However due to illness and other commitments, the recent attendances at our games evenings have slumped a bit. We hope every one returns to health in time for our competitions, which start in January. Our first competition this year is for the Billy Patterson Trophy. This is a Dominoes night on the 27th November, which is a hotly contested event and a lot of fun. Congratulations to the run-away winner, Mr. Ian Muir. We re-commence on Monday 8th January 2024. All are warmly welcome.

John Clayton - Chairman

1st Kirkintilloch Company

Thanks to Philip for conducting the Annual Dedication Service on Sunday 1st October.

Some of you may have seen members of the Company selling poppies in Tesco on 9th and 10th November. Thanks to everyone who supported our efforts. The sum raised for Poppy Scotland was £556.24.

On Remembrance Sunday, Dillon & Daniel laid a wreath in the Church on behalf of the Company during the morning service. Thereafter the wreath was removed and was re-laid by Dillon at the Memorial Gates in Peel Park.

We are providing our Christmas card delivery service for addresses in Lenzie and Kirkintilloch again this year. The post box will be in the vestibule of the church halls from Friday 17th November until Sunday 3rd December. A minimum of 40p per card would greatly assist our delivery team.

By the time you read this Keith and Hanneke will have tied the knot. Congratulations and best wishes to the happy couple.

All at 1st Kirkintilloch are saddened to hear of the recent death of Alison Higgins. Over many years Alison was a great friend and supporter of the BB. Many of our boys gained their first experience of Kayaking on the canal and at our weekends at Loch Tay thanks to Alison. Our thoughts and prayers are with Robert, David & Declan at this sad time.

1st Kirkintilloch Company

Anchor Section

The session is well under way and although our numbers are still very low we have managed to increase the numbers to nine boys. They are all a very keen bunch who are regular in attendance and seem to enjoy the night.

So far we have had a couple of games nights, learned about road safety and how to plan a safe route to school avoiding crossing the road in unsafe places.

We also had some Halloween fancy dress fun which involved them making chocolate apples complete with sprinkles. This proved very popular with the boys although somewhat messy for the staff to clean up.

On Guy Fawkes night we made our own VERY SAFE rockets out of kitchen roll tubes and “flames” of coloured tissue paper.

The boys have all learned the Anchors prayer and they take pleasure in taking turns to lead the prayer each week.

Over the next few weeks, we are going to look at the importance of prayer and make prayer cubes which give suggestions of what to pray for each day. This will be followed by the true meaning of Christmas and the story of the birth of our Lord. We will round off this term with an attendance at the Out of the Box event in the Church in mid-December.

Although we are now well under way for this session there are still plenty of spaces for any boy in primary 1-3 to come along and join us.

Wishing you all a blessed Christmas and a very Happy 2024

Lorna, Margaret & Fraser

1st Kirkintilloch Company

Junior Section

It's hard to believe it's magazine time again. It only seems like yesterday that we started back our new session for 2023/24.

At Juniors the boys' have settled in well. We have welcomed most of the boys' back from last session and also welcomed some new members to the section which is pleasing to see!

We have enjoyed some outdoor games whilst the weather still allowed.

As the weather has started to change we have come back in to the halls where we have been learning about God and Jesus and how Jesus helped people so much.

Some of the activities which we have taken part in so far have been making giant paper aeroplanes, code cracking, our Halloween party, fireworks and toasted marshmallows round the bonfire.

The BB Nationally has celebrated it's 140th Anniversary this year and we had lots of fun creating 140 out of lots of games equipment and also out of people.

We have been introduced to Cassie - the new Children's and Families Worker who visited us along with Phillip. Hopefully we didn't scare her away with being too noisy!

We are looking forward to the Battalion Christmas movie night, our Christmas Party and hope to attend the Out the Box production in the Church too!

As you can see we have had a really exciting start to the session and look forward to more fun and games after Christmas.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our boys', parents, carers and friends a peaceful Christmas and good New Year and look forward to sharing some more exciting activities after Christmas.

David, Ross, Matthew and all the Boys'

1st Kirkintilloch Company

Company Section and Seniors

Although numbers remain lower than previous years, we are pleased to have some new members, with no previous BB connection joining us. Attendance on Friday evenings have been steady, and we have managed to organise a varied programme of activities, indoors and outdoors.

Friday 27th October saw seven of us taking a night time walk around Lenzie Moss. We had hoped to see a few stars, but the overcast sky prevented that and although we could hear some bird calls there was no sightings of owls, bats, foxes or badgers, although there were a couple of dogs on leads!

On a more positive note, the rain, which had been falling all day, stayed off and we completed the walk without getting soaked.

One of our Seniors, Dillon, who was born deaf, gave the officers and boys of the section an excellent presentation on what it is like to be deaf and how he deals with his deafness. His talk generated several questions, which Dillon handled very well. Everyone who was present now has a greater appreciation of a disability of which we had no previous personal experience. Thank you for sharing, Dillon.

On Friday 3rd November Mrs Rogerson and Mrs Robertson from The Guild gave up their evening to come along to lead the boys through the process of making scones. Their efforts were well rewarded with all the scones either being eaten on the premises or being taken home to be eaten later and perhaps even being shared with family. Thank you ladies, we may call on you again.

Strathkelvin Battalion organised a 10 Pin Bowling night on Tuesday 7th November. Due to members having other commitments that evening, only one officer and one boy were able to participate.

1st Kirkintilloch Company

Company Section and Seniors (cont'd)

Our two Seniors, Daniel and Dillon have just about completed all the badge work required to qualify for their President's Badges. The final hurdle will be participation in a Leadership course, which the Battalion has organised for February 2024. An update will be provided in the next issue.

To all our readers, have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

George Kidd and Team

Friendship Club & Following Jesus Group

Both groups continue to be well attended and indeed we are very encouraged by the progress of some of our members in addition to the support we have from their parents and carers. The Friendship Club has been getting to know about Joshua, David, Daniel and Jonah. While the Following Jesus group has been finding out how the bible shows us example of kindness, helpfulness and consideration for others.

It is now time to renew our knowledge of Jesus' birth and celebrate the wonder of this special time.

In January, we once again will be having an outing to Pro-Bowl, which is an activity that can be enjoyed by EVERYONE, no matter how severe their learning difficulties may be. As you will know, we are collecting coins in 'Smartie' tubes to send to Prospects Across Scotland and appreciate any help you can give us in this venture.

Thank you to all our church family for their prayers.

Have a blessed Christmas,

Pat Muir

Christian Aid Report Winter 2023

The total raised by our local group of churches during Christian Aid Week was £4,344.44 of which £1,491.00 was Gift Aided.

The next combined fund raising event was the Christmas Café which took place in St. Mary's Church Hall on Saturday, 18th November and raised a total of £1,070.00 for CA.

Christian Aid's Christmas Appeal this year highlights the work of young women in Northern Bangladesh who have come together with the help of Christian Aid to sell their homemade quilts and craftwork online. The climate crisis is impacting adversely traditional farming in the region and women have few opportunities for paid work to help their families. This project allows them to work from home and keep local craft traditions alive. There is an article about this in the Autumn/Winter Christian Aid magazine together with other pieces about Ukraine, South Sudan and Palestinian farmers around Bethlehem. The latter going to print before the horrendous Hamas attack on Southern Israel with the death of 1,400 Israeli children, women and men and the subsequent bombing of Gaza which has resulted in thousands of deaths of Palestinian children, women and men with no end to the war in sight. Donations can be made on the Christian Aid website towards the provision of humanitarian aid in Gaza or cheques can be sent to The Palestinian Appeal, Christian Aid, 35-41 Lower Marsh, London, SE1 7RL.

A copy of the Christian Aid magazine is available on the table in the Church Vestibule or can be read on the CA website. If you would like a copy of the magazine please see Geraldine or Mary and we will be happy to get you one.

2023 has seen many natural disasters as well as the wars in Ukraine and Gaza with devastating earthquakes in Southern Turkey, North West Syria, Morocco and Afghanistan. Dreadful wild fires in many parts of the world, flooding in Greece and Libya all of which have meant that the aid agencies and charities are working at full stretch.

Christian Aid Report Winter 2023 (cont'd)

All are in need of donations to facilitate their work among the poorest communities in the world as well as responding to these unfolding humanitarian disasters. This is all at a time when many people are feeling the effects of rising costs of food and energy.

Christian Aid are very grateful for any support that can be offered.

Wishing you all a peaceful Christmas as we get ready to celebrate the birth of the Lord Jesus.

Geraldine Fox

Operation Christmas Child

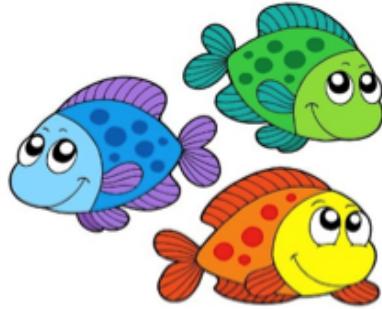
Once again, we have appreciated the opportunity to support Operation Christmas Child by sending shoeboxes filled with Christmas gifts as an expression of Jesus' love to children in need across the world. This year, a total of 55 shoeboxes were given by St Columba's Hillhead Church to Operation Christmas Child. This is a great response from the church, especially bearing in mind the cost of living pressures and the many other appeals that are ongoing at this time.



Church Toddler Groups



Busy Bees



Little Fishes

Little Fishes and **Busy bees** have had a lovely term. Hillhead toddler group **Busy Bees** is a welcoming group on Wednesdays between 10 and 11.30am.

Little Fishes is at St Columba's 10-11.30 on Fridays. We are delighted to have Cassie, our new church families' worker join us at both groups this term. The children have been really enjoying the arts and crafts she has done with them and the team have appreciated all her help in setting up and planning.

We are looking forward to Christmas with Christmas crafts and singing, and then our Christmas party on 15th December! We do ask for your prayers for a supportive and kind environment for the families who come. Safety, especially at coffee time, and for the team each week.

Both groups are just drop-in during school term-time.

Details can also be found on the facebook page:

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



Noah's Ark Sunday Toddler Group

We have had a lovely new toddler group on Sunday mornings, during the church service called, '**Noah's Ark** toddler group'. It has met in the lower hall starting at 10.30am-11.30am, then having coffee with everyone from church in the large hall. It has lots of toys and playing but also Bible stories, crafts and songs. We have been enjoying the stories of Jesus. Jesus loves the little children, Jesus calms the storm and Jesus feeds the 5,000. We have been meeting every 3 weeks or so but given the support from the families. Therefore we plan to run the group every Sunday from the New Year.

If you would like to come or know anyone who would like to come, then please do contact Gill on 07934460752 for Little Fishes or Noah's Ark (Sundays) or June on 07854599330 for Busy Bees (Wednesdays).

Details of all the groups can also be found on the facebook page:

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

Warm Welcome

'Warm Welcome' is a UK wide scheme where churches and other organisations are providing warm welcoming spaces to local communities. We continue to run 'A Warm Welcome' at the Hillhead Halls. We are glad to offer free hot drinks and biscuits in a warm, friendly space on Wednesday afternoons (2 till 4). The Warm Welcome runs alongside the 'Kitchen Cupboard' (operated by the Foodbank).

With the colder weather now upon us, we hope to keep Warm Welcome at Hillhead open throughout the winter. Do drop in for a cup of tea and a chat if you are passing – you'd be made very welcome!

Harvest Gifts

Thank you so much to all at St Columba's Hillhead who gave gifts of money or non-perishable food to the Lodging House Mission for this year's Harvest Appeal.

We were able to send an excellent total of £613.30 (before Gift Aid) to the Lodging House Mission along with a full car-load of food. This will be put to very good use for the benefit of some of the most vulnerable people in Glasgow.

Churches Walk and Talk Group

Walk and Talk will continue to meet throughout December and January at the locations below. Unless stated otherwise the walks start at 1:30pm on Thursday afternoons, lasts approximately one hour and the start points and routes vary.

If you would like to join us for a walk, then please turn up at any of these locations on these dates and we will be delighted to see you.

One of the walks in January will be outside the Kirkintilloch and Lenzie area. On 18th January the meeting point shall be St Columba's Church at 1.15 (note the earlier time) and a car sharing operation will take place to get to The Boathouse.

Please note that at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of our walkers arrive by car and are happy to provide transport for non-car users where required.

7 Dec ***Lenzie Co-op.***

14 Dec ***St Columba's.***

21 Dec ***The Redbrae (walk at 1.30, lunch at 2.30).***

28 Dec ***No plans, use WhatsApp to poll group for a possible mid-holiday walk.***

4 Jan ***Hillhead Basin.***

11 Jan ***Merkland Nature Park.***

8 Jan ***St Columba's, 1.15pm for transport to The Boathouse.***

25 Jan ***Kirkintilloch Leisure Centre.***

1 Feb ***Waterside, including refreshments at The Gatehouse.***

Trevor Patterson

MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship)

MAF flies vets to Kenya as climate change takes its toll

In the first ever African Climate Summit held in Nairobi, leaders across the continent are tackling the fallout from increasingly extreme weather. After months of drought followed by a deluge, Kenya alone has lost millions of livestock, which are the lifeblood of isolated farming communities. In Kenya, flash floods in May followed the country's worst drought in decades, which wiped out 2.6 million livestock.

Before the deluge, many pastures for animals and crops for human consumption shrivelled up in prolonged scorching heat. Natural watering holes evaporated. So many livestock simply perished from hunger and thirst, impacting livelihoods, food production, public health, migration, security, family life and education.

When the rain finally fell, the ground was too hard to absorb it, washing away fields and flooding farms and homes. Bridges destroyed by storms cut off entire communities.

MAF has been flying in volunteer vets to support pastoralists and their livestock in remote places where there are no vets and where people cannot afford treatment. This year – in partnership with 'Veterinarians with a Mission' (VMP) and 'Christ is the Answer Ministries' (CITAM) – MAF has flown scores of vets saving over 74,000 animals in Kenya.

Dr Josiah Mandieka, founder of Veterinarians with a Mission states;

"We meet people who need veterinary services but they can't afford it, or they live in communities where there are no veterinary surgeons. VMP's partnership with MAF ensures that livestock are taken care of, veterinarian services are provided and communities don't slide into abject poverty due to widespread death of animals, lack of knowledge or misuse of veterinary drugs."

MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship) Cont'd



Children and Families Worker Update

We have been delighted, and grateful to God, to welcome Cassie Carlsen as our new Children and Family Worker here at St Columba's Hillhead. Cassie is from New Jersey in the United States.

Cassie started with us on 1 November 2023, having recently completed her studies at Glasgow University.

Having sensed God's leading over months of planning and raising funds, we have further sensed His guiding us to Cassie's appointment.

Our vision for a Children and Family Worker has been for someone to work alongside us to assist with ministry and mission to children and families. It is encouraging to see that happening already, not least in the planning of various Christmas events, which we trust will be meaningful to children and families both within and outwith the church.

Please pray for Cassie as she continues to settle in Kirkintilloch and here at St Columba's Hillhead Church.

If you would like to give to the Children and Families Worker Project, donations are always welcome. Please contact Neil Bathie for more information.

Anne Inglis, Jackie Ringan, Ramsay Vallance

Children's Film Afternoon

We are looking forward to hosting a Children's Film Afternoon, 2 till 4pm on Sat 9 Dec at the Hillhead Halls. We will be showing an animated Nativity film called 'The Star', from Sony Pictures and PG rated.

Entry is free with juice and popcorn provided!

We expect this film to be of most interest to primary-aged children. Please note all children need to be accompanied by a responsible adult!

A letter from the Editor.

Moving House.

This year my husband and I sold our home in Kirkintilloch, where we have lived for over 52 of our 75 years and moved back to a smaller bungalow in Coatbridge, where we both grew up. We wanted to be close to our youngest grandchildren Elizabeth and Grace who now drop in for a visit, nearly everyday, after school and it's fun to hear about their day first hand!

John and I both enjoyed our years in Kirkintilloch where St Columba's church played a big part in helping our family grow up. They attended Sunday school, Boys Brigade, Girls Brigade and the values they learned there have helped them turn out to be the parents they now are to their young children.

It has been interesting for John and I to adapt to the many changes at St Columba's, which has always retained it's ability to offer all its members a warm welcome and support through difficult times.

Now that we have eight grandchildren, ranging from 33 to 9 years old, it is a joy to see how the young people are adapting to life as adults, at University, High School, Primary School and youth organisations.

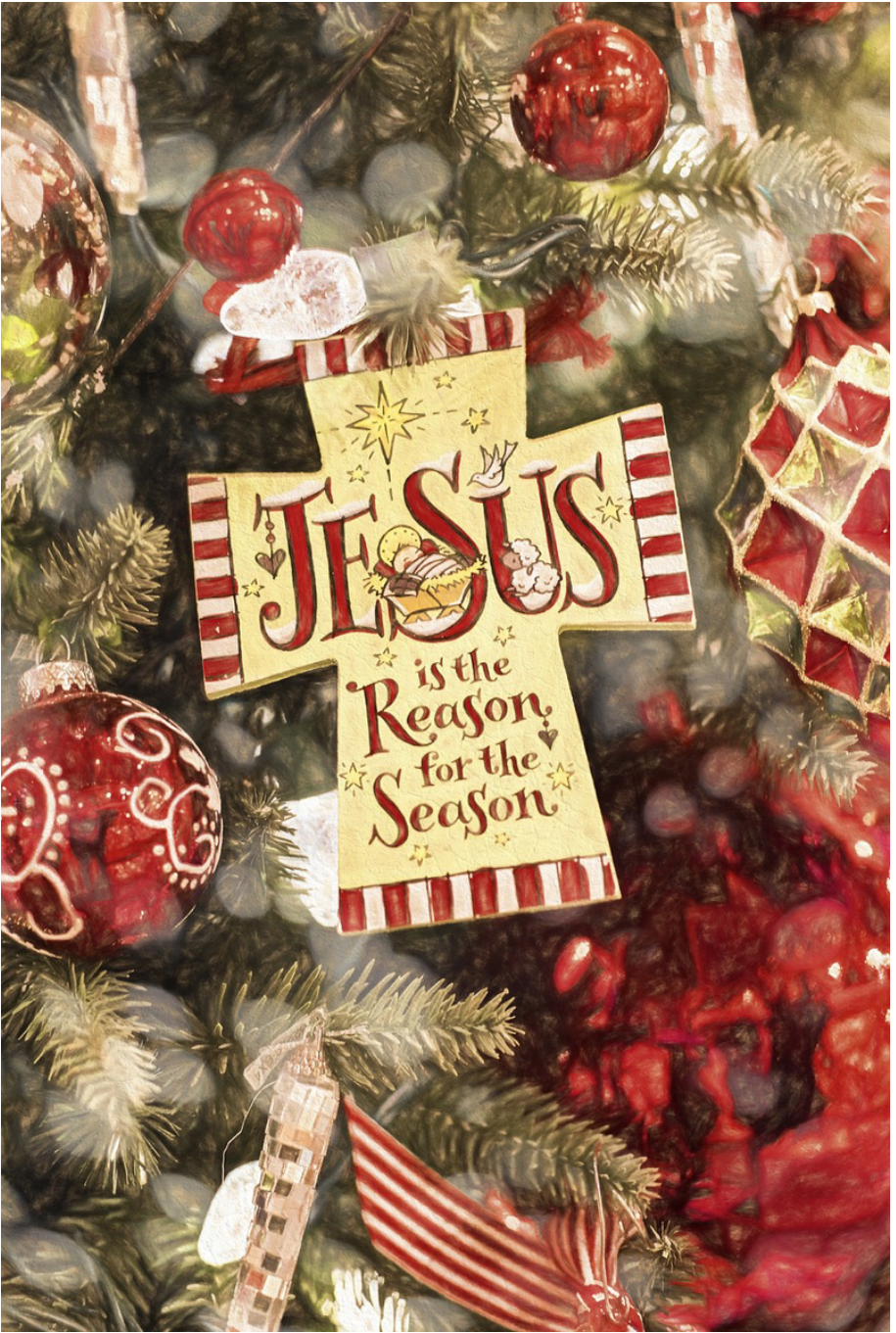
As we look for a new church to join in our local area, we both wish St Columba's Hillhead, Philip and the combined church family every blessing for the years ahead.

We will not lose contact with you all but will still be part of the St Columba's Hillhead family, whilst we are able.

God Bless and we hope you all have a Happy Christmas,

Margaret & John Clayton





Flower Donations & Deliveries

Thank you to all who contribute to the Church Flowers and who give of their time to deliver them.

We are updating the lists more especially since the unification.

We will continue as previously, until advised otherwise.

If anyone wishes to be omitted from - or included in, either of the lists, would they please let us know.

We are indebted to Alan Finnie for printing the flower cards.
Thank you Alan.

Una Galbraith and Mary Aitken

Flower Rota 2023/2024

Donation

Delivery

December 2023

3 Mrs Agnes Stevenson
10 The Swann Family
17
24
31

June Larwood
Janet Brown

January 2024

7 Mr & Mrs W Scott
14 Mrs J Reid
21 Mr & Mrs F McCallum
28 Mr G Smith

Janet Brown
Christine Moore
Mr & Mrs I Muir
Joan Beattie

February

4 Mrs Louise Huggan
11 Mrs Lydia Ramsay
18 Mr & Mrs J Clayton
25 Mrs C Trail

Moira French
Julie Reid
Glenys Swann
Ishbel Thomson

March

3 Mrs Joan Beattie
10 Mr & Mrs T Sinclair
17 Rev. Jim Ferguson
24 Mrs Margaret Boyle
31 Mrs Anne Inglis

Lydia Ramsay
Gilbert French
Janet Brown
Christine Moore
Mr & Mrs I Muir

SERVICES

Sunday Morning Service 10.30am

Now livestreamed on

(www.kirkintillochstcolumbas.org.uk)

OR on YouTube (St Columba's Church Kirkintilloch).

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.

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