

St. Columba's Hillhead Congregational Magazine



Welcome to Kirkintilloch St Columba's Hillhead Church



Autumn 2024

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 Halls
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

I do hope you've had some rest and relaxation over the summer. If you've been able to get away on holiday, I hope you've had an enjoyable and refreshing time. If you've spent some time away from home, and that has happened to include a weekend or two, it may be that you worshipped in another church. It is a wonderful thing that wherever we go in the world, there is likely a church nearby.

As I have been on holiday "then study leave" over the summer, I have worshipped in some churches that I would otherwise be unable to attend. I have also connected with online services from various places. This has been an enriching and encouraging experience. I am so grateful to all those who have led worship at St Columba's Hillhead and who have taken on extra responsibilities while I have been away.

Just one of the things I have been struck by over this time is how important it is to welcome visitors as we come to worship. It is good to get a welcome at the front door. We expect a welcome at the start of the service. But when you get a welcome from the person you happen to sit beside, then you can really sense the warmth of the whole fellowship and you start to feel at home.

Jesus commends the welcoming of strangers to his disciples: '*...I was a stranger and you invited me in...*' (Matthew 25:35). Let's make sure each one of us plays our part in being a welcoming church. Let's make the effort, not just to catch up with our friends at church as can so often be our instinct, but to be actively looking out for visitors so that we can welcome them. This is part of what it means to become more like Jesus.

Your minister and friend,

Philip

The Church Family



Deaths

It is with great sadness that we record the deaths of Frank Bowers and Margaret Irvine. We extend our sympathy, love and prayers to their families. We remember before the Lord all those known to us who have lost loved ones in recent days.

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful servants. Psalm 116:15.

Baptism

We look forward to the baptism of Tom MacLeod, son of Rachel and Chris and little brother to Jack, on Sun 22 September. We hope to be joined by family and friends of Rachel and Chris, and also by the Noah's Ark group, on that occasion.

Thank You to Everyone

The family of Frank Bowers would like to thank you for the beautiful flowers and kind expressions of sympathy shown in our time of sorrow. Your support at this difficult time was very much appreciated and a great comfort to all the family.

Helen Bowers.

Church Membership

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

The Church Family (cont'd)



Thank You

This photo is just to say thank you to all my friends in St Columba's Hillhead Church on the occasion of my 90th Birthday back in June. We had a lovely afternoon tea with friends from Church, Soroptimists and former Work Colleagues - it was lovely to have a catch up.

June Smith

The Upper Room

A revealing article by Jake Forquer on LinkedIn cites a number of research papers which indicate that reading the Bible can have a whole range of positive outcomes. Jake writes: "By providing individuals with a sense of meaning and purpose, guidance and support, and spiritual wellbeing, the Bible can have a positive impact on mental health, relationships and overall wellbeing."

The Upper Room contains daily Bible meditations from Christians all around the world and the readers clearly agree with Jake. Daily Bible reading brings a life-enhancing stability and purpose even on difficult or dull days. Very many readers can attest to moments when a Bible verse and commentary seemed to speak directly into their individual situation.

Daily Bible reading notes such as The Upper Room could well make a difference to your life. There is no charge, so why not give it a try? It could well have the potential to change your life. We usually have a few spare copies, so speak to Ian or Marilyn if you would like a free copy of the new September issue.

Ian Gibb

Prayer at St Columba's Hillhead

After a combined July/August edition of the church prayer diary, we are back to monthly editions from September onwards. That may be a relief to some if you've found the combined edition challenging to follow!

Prayer is essential to all we do at St Columba's Hillhead. As well as praying regularly for our church and community, we also have a responsibility to uphold in prayer the work of our mission partners and those of the wider church around the world. Jesus said to his disciples, '*...apart from me you can do nothing*' (John 15:5). If we truly believe that, we will be people of prayer.

The prayer diary is an excellent tool for helping us pray. Please do give serious consideration to taking away and using the prayer diary each month if you do not already do so. It is available every month at the Sunday and Midweek Services and can also be downloaded from the church website, www.kirkintillochstcolumbas.org.uk

On Thursday evenings at the manse, all are welcome to join in a time of prayer at 7pm. The prayer meeting runs during term-time. It restarts after the summer break on Thursday 12 September. We start with tea and coffee before moving to prayer. We are usually done by around 8:15pm. Do join us then if you are able. You will be made very welcome. There is no pressure at all to pray out loud if you don't feel comfortable doing so. You will be an encouragement just by being there. All our prayers, spoken and unspoken, as well as our 'amens' to the prayers of others, are heard alike by our Heavenly Father.

Whilst it is great to meet together in person as we pray together, for some that may not be possible. If you are unable to come to the Prayer Meeting in person, and would like to connect by Zoom, please speak with the Minister to ask about setting this up.

Used Stamps

A large padded jiffy bag full of used stamps was recently sent to an address in Garelochhead in support of the current Church of Scotland Stamp Appeal. Several members and friends continue to support our collection at both sites by putting their used stamps in the containers in the church vestibules. Please remember to always leave a centimetre border round each stamp.

The current appeal is supporting an agroforestry project across Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe. It is a community initiative spearheaded by the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian.

Mary and Marilyn

Midweek Service

At the start of a new session, we extend to all a very warm welcome to this short and very informal service. It takes place every Wednesday morning in the small hall at 10.00am, lasting 35 - 40 minutes.

Format:- Welcome, hymn, prayer, hymn, reading, short message, prayer for those known to us in need, hymn and final blessing.

After the service, tea & coffee will be served in the large hall. All are encouraged to chat with those around and no time limit is set for this. We pray that many will come to the service with no obligation to come each Wednesday.

We are very friendly and would love to have new people join us.

“For God so Loved the World.” John 3 v 16.

Come and find out more about God’s Love for each one of us.

Please note there will be no Midweek Service on Wednesday 16 October as this is the school holiday week.

Margaret Blair.

Sunday Services

All are very welcome to our weekly morning service held at St Columba's Hillhead on Sundays at 10:30am. We are really grateful to those who give their time and expertise to livestream the service via YouTube. Many who are housebound, unwell, or otherwise unable to be out have found that to be a most valuable resource. Our livestreamed services are also a 'window' on worship at St Columba's Hillhead for folks who want to know more about the church or who may consider joining us.

That said, we are told in Hebrews 10:25 not to give up the habit of meeting together. If we are able, we have a responsibility to God and to one another to worship together in person. Each service is also an opportunity to invite someone new. Perhaps you could encourage a friend or family member to come with you.

Please note the following dates for special services on Sunday mornings:

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Sunday 8 September | Communion |
| Sunday 22 September | Baptism of Tom MacLeod |
| Sunday 29 September | Visit from Chris Stratta of Leprosy Mission Great Britain |
| Sunday 6 October | Harvest Service |
| Sunday 13 October | Dedication Service (For dedication of church organisations/groups/activities) |
| Sunday 10 November | Remembrance Service |

Many of us have appreciated being able to gather at the Hillhead Halls on a Sunday evening from time to time for a 'Songs of Praise' Service. The next 'Songs of Praise' service at the Hillhead Halls will be at 6:30pm on Sunday 29 September.

The Guild

Summer is now over for what we have seen of it!

Our Guild will resume on Tuesday 17th September at 2.00pm.

Now remember The Guild is also open to gentlemen, so if you are free, please do not hesitate to come along and join us.

I wish to say a thank you to our Secretary Miss Janet Brown who has been busy over the summer contacting future speakers.

I also wish to thank The Guild Committee for their continued support.

Looking forward to seeing all existing members and any new ones.

Gilbert French
Guild Convenor

Men's Group

I know it's not been a good Summer but it is now Autumn, close to that point in 2024 when the Men's Group regather for the commencement of the 2024/2025 Session. Therefore would all existing members please take note and please also invite colleagues, friends, family, etc. to the Monday night sessions in St Columba's Halls.

The date for the first meeting will be on Monday 30th September 2024 at 7.30pm (19.30) for Pool, Snooker, Table Tennis, Darts, Dominoes, tea or coffee, with maybe a biscuit if the Treasurer allows, fellowship, chat and a catch up with everyone.

I wish your new Chairman Mr. James Kennedy, and your new Secretary Mr. Ian Gibb, 'All the Very Best', in their new role(s). However a note of caution to members, Mr. K. has indicated that the 3 minute timer he set for the previous Chairman talking, well it still has a 3 in it, is now 30 minutes!!

Best wishes to all,
John Clayton

1st Kirkintilloch Company

The Company's 2024-25 Session gets underway on Friday 6th September with all Sections meeting in the church halls.

We would welcome anyone who wishes to join any of our Sections. 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. However, if we are inundated with recruits to any Section we may have to introduce a waiting list.

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

Anchors for boys in P1 - P3 meets 18.15 - 19.15

Juniors for boys in P4 - P6 meets 18.45 - 20.15

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

For more details see our website, 1kirkintilloch.boys-brigade.org.uk and our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/1stkirkintillochbb.

We are delighted to announce that Graham Roy has joined the staff and we are looking forward to making use of his ideas, experience and enthusiasm.

As not all leaders can be present every Friday evening it would be wonderful if we could recruit another one or two additional helpers. No previous experience is necessary as training will be provided. For more information, please speak to any officer.

Last session there were complaints that our **Christmas Card Delivery Service** mailbox was withdrawn too early. As a result, to allow everyone to get their cards written and posted in time to use the service, we are giving advance notice that the box will be in the vestibule of the halls from **Friday 29th November to Sunday 15th December.**

Allan Geekie and all the Team.



5th Kirkintilloch Brownies

We hope everyone enjoyed the summer. The holidays didn't stop us gaining some badges. This summer we had the Outdoor Challenge Badge called Grow and Explore or the Summer Quest Challenge. We will find out on 3rd September, when our new session starts, how many challenges were completed.

We have waiting list at our Brownie pack at the moment but if any girl 7-9 years old is interested in joining us please visit www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents to register.

If you are interested in joining us as a volunteer you would be made very welcome. We have Rainbow, Brownie and Guide units in Kirkintilloch and Lenzie looking for new leaders. Please visit the website for more information about registering.

Blessings, Lynne Semple



Warm Welcome

Every Wednesday afternoon, 2.00-4.00pm, the Hillhead Hall is busy with tea, coffee & biscuits being served to all those who visit.

Some come in just for a chat, others to pick up essential groceries from The Kitchen Cupboard. Volunteers from Kirkintilloch Baptist Church run the top-up foodbank.

Advisors from the Baptist Church CAP Debt Centre are here most weeks to help anyone struggling with their finances too.

We recently started a prayer space to offer support to anyone who feels they need a time of prayer.

At 3.00 our Cassie and Eilidh, the youth worker from the Baptist Church, get busy with activities for the children who come in after school.

Everyone is offered a warm welcome any Wednesday afternoon.

Christian Aid Report Autumn 2024

There is not a lot to report since the Summer Newsletter. Unfortunately Lorna, the co-ordinator for our local group of Churches, has not been very well recently and we have not had a meeting to discuss fund raising prior to Christmas. Once we have any information it will be included in the weekly news sheets.

The work of Christian Aid throughout the world does however continue as usual. A recent information pamphlet from them highlights some of this work including continuing support for the victims of the earthquake in Turkey and Syria in 2023 and the help the charity has been able to provide to the people in Gaza. This includes the provision of food, water, shelter and sanitation to 316,402 people caught up in the war. The pamphlet is available on the table in the church vestibule for anyone who would like to read about this in more detail.

More detailed information about the work of Christian Aid is available on their website.

Geraldine Fox

Following Jesus Group

The aim of our group is to help adults with a learning difficulty to come to know Jesus. We do this by using simple language, drama, games, crafts, and a chat with tea and coffee to finish.

We meet on the first Wednesday of each month 7.00pm - 9.00pm, resuming on 4th September.

Friendship Club

This club is a junior version of the Following Jesus Group the content being more suitable for children and young people.

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays each month 6.30pm - 8.00pm resuming on 11th September.

New members will be most welcome in either group.

Pat Muir

Harvest 2024

Our Harvest Service this year will be held at 10:30am on Sunday 6 October. This is an opportunity to give thanks to God for his goodness to us in providing the food we eat. This leads us to remember those less fortunate than ourselves and to respond to their need as we are able. In its annual report, published in June 2024, the World Food Programme commented: *'More than 300 million people faced acute hunger in 2023 because of new and protracted conflicts, the global climate crisis, economic aftershocks of COVID-19, and food and energy price inflation.'*

One very practical way of sharing God's goodness with others is through the Lodging House Mission in Glasgow. Please do consider donating a gift of non-perishable food items, or a financial gift, to LHM this Harvest time. LHM has provided a helpful sheet of the items they would be grateful to receive, and this is included in the magazine. Please note the items with asterisks would be especially welcome. Gifts of food may be left in the Lounge (the room behind the vestry!) at St Columba's from Sunday 30 September but will also be gratefully received at the Harvest Service itself.

Gift aid collection envelopes for LHM will also be available from Sunday 30 September. These may be put in the offering plate on Harvest Sunday (6 October) or the Sunday after (13 October). These collection envelopes will also be available at the Midweek Service and may be returned there too.

LHM would like to extend an invitation to all to the Annual Homelessness Service. This will be held at 7pm on Thursday 10 October at 35 East Campbell Street, Gallowgate, G1 5DT. The service will be conducted by the Moderator of the Church of Scotland, Rt Rev Dr Shaw Paterson. RSVP (for catering purposes) to Claire Herbert cherbert@churchofscotland.org.uk

Lodging House Mission – Harvest Donation Requests 2024

Thank you for your continued support for LHM, we really appreciate it. We have put together a list of things that are urgently needed in the kitchen. Ideally, we would prefer donations of food stuff however we understand that this may be difficult for you. If you are able to make a financial contribution, we will ensure it is used wisely. We love fresh produce to allow us to prepare healthy and nutritious lunches for those who use our service and will buy these, as required, to prevent food waste. We hope that you find this list helpful when choosing something to donate. Thank you from all of us here at LHM.

| Cereal | Tinned Fruit | Tinned Meat / Fish |
|--|---------------------------|---|
| Corn Flakes/Crunchy Nuts | *Peaches | Tuna/Salmon |
| Weetabix | *Pears | Corned beef |
| Rice Crispies | *Pineapples | Ham |
| Sugar Puffs | *Mandarins | |
| Frosties | *Fruit Cocktail | Other Tinned Food |
| Coco Pops | *Rice Pudding | *Baked Beans |
| Cheerios | *Custard | Spaghetti in sauce |
| | | *Tinned Soups – tomato, vegetable, chicken, lentil, scotch broth, minestrone, pea & ham, chicken noodle |
| Jars/Pastes | Other | |
| Pasta bake sauces | Full Fat UHT milk | |
| Curry Sauce/paste | Coconut Milk | |
| Tomato paste | Small juice cartons | |
| | Diluting/fresh juice | Other |
| Dried Goods | *Coffee | Brown Sauce |
| Mixed herbs | *Biscuits | Tomato Sauce |
| Garlic powder | Crisps | Vinegar |
| Ground turmeric | | Porridge oats |
| Chilli powder | Kettle Foods | Dried peas |
| Crushed chillies | Pot Noodles | Lentils / Broth mix |
| Ground coriander | Cuppa Soups | Olive oil |
| Black pepper | Tinned Potatoes | *Vegetable oil |
| Salt | Sachets dried mash potato | *Bisto |
| Pasta | Ring Pull Ham tins | *Veg Stock cubes/ bullion |
| Long grain rice | Breakfast bars | *Jelly |
| | Cereal Bars | *Sugar |
| Toiletries (all types) | Individual packets sweets | Jam |
| *OUT OF STOCK – URGENTLY NEEDED | | |

Not Required List

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Salad Cream/Mayonnaise | Shredded Wheat Cereal | Red Kidney Beans |
| Pearl Barley | Muesli | Chickpeas |
| Marmalade | Alpen | Prunes |
| Grapefruit | Clothing | Bedding/duvets/towels |

From our Children & Families Worker

Hi Church! It is hard to believe that summer is already over and that we are starting a new term. I am so looking forward to the beginnings of Little Fishes, Busy Bees and SU again!

As schools are now back in session, all of our toddler groups are back on. I constantly receive lots of positive messages from mums and grans about Busy Bees, Little Fishes and Noah's Ark. Please join me in praying for these groups and for our amazing volunteers who lead them! We would appreciate prayers for the children and families that come along to our groups—that they would feel welcomed and cared for by us as a Church.

I am also involved in the Oxgang Primary Scripture Union Group where we now have 41 children interested in joining us! As we finished last term with a little less than 10 children, it is incredible the amount of interest we have received from our P4-P7 children this year already! Please pray for the leaders of this group (myself and Angela) that we might approach this club and these children with overflowing compassion and love.

Additionally, it is with great joy that we are now, in partnership with Kirkintilloch Baptist Church, starting a Scripture Union group at Kirkintilloch High School. We praise God for the ability to start this club and we ask for wisdom as we begin this from scratch. Please join me in praying for this club, the leaders (myself and leaders from KBC) and for all the pupils that might be interested in spending their lunchtime with us. This is a huge answer to prayer!

Finally, please keep Gill, Vicky and me in your prayers this term as we teach and support the children and families that attend Sunday Club and Noah's Ark. It has been a blessing to be a part of both groups, and I am sure this term will be an encouragement to all.

From our Children & Families Worker (cont'd)

Thank you all for your continued support not only of me but of all the work with children and families that is being done through St. Columba's Hillhead Church!

Much love in Christ,

Cassie

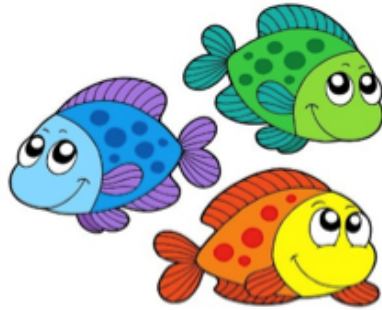
Children and Families Worker Update

We have been delighted to have Cassie on board as our Children and Families Worker since 1 November 2023. Cassie's appointment has been a real answer to prayer. We remain very grateful for the generosity of the congregation in helping to fund this position as there is an ongoing need for funding. If you would like to donate to the Children and Families Worker fund, either as a one-off gift or on a regular basis, please contact Neil Bathie, our Treasurer, for information about how to do that.

Church Toddler Groups



Busy Bees



Little Fishes

Little Fishes and **Busy bees** have had great starts to the new term. Hillhead toddler group **Busy Bees** is a welcoming group on Wednesdays between 10 and 1130am. **Little Fishes** is at St Columba's 10-1130 on Fridays.

Thank you to Isobel and the garden team who have been growing sunflowers for the children- they have been magnificent.

Busy bees had a great 'stay and play' session with soft play at the end of term and Little Fishes had a lovely summer café with a visit from the Fire Engine.

Thank you so much to the teams of helpers - we know your work is appreciated by all the families and the church.

We have been glad to have toast again on cold Friday mornings - even in August!

Little Fishes is drop-in during school term-time but do speak to June if you would like to be on the waiting list for Busy bees.



Noah's Ark Sunday Toddler Group

Our toddler group on Sunday mornings during the church service is called 'Noah's Ark toddler group' for all those under 5 and their Carers. It meets each week in the lower hall starting at 1030am-1130am. It was lovely to have Noah's Ark children as part of the service at the end of last term and we are keen to come again this term. It has lots of toys and playing but also Bible stories, crafts and songs. We have been learning about Jacob and Esau, Noah and his Ark and how God made the world in recent weeks. We had a great trip in the summer holiday to Kiltoonies - a play centre in Kilsyth and we had great fun.

If you would like to come or know anyone who would like to come, then please do contact Cassie through the children's ministry link on the linktree, Gill for Little Fishes or Noah's Ark (Sundays) or June for Busy Bees (Wednesdays).

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

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

Gill, Cassie, Liz and June

Churches Walk and Talk Group

The Walk and Talk group met throughout the summer. There were three walks outside of the Kirkintilloch area and two walks which included coffee stops. The remaining 8 walks were all in or around Kirkintilloch and Lenzie. All of the walks were approximately 3 miles long and circular where possible. Numbers were good with seven being the lowest number attending and fourteen being the highest. There are currently nineteen members on the WhatsApp group.

The Walk and Talk Group will continue to meet throughout September at the locations shown below. Unless stated otherwise the walks start at 1:30 on Thursday afternoons, last approximately one hour and the start points and routes vary. If you would like to join us for a walk, then please get in touch or simply turn up at one of the locations shown below.

The walks on 12 September and 3 October will be outside of the local areas. On these occasions the meeting point shall be St Columba's Hillhead Church (St Columba's site) at 1:15pm. Please note the earlier time, and that a car sharing operation will take place. Please note that normally at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of our walkers arrive by car and are happy to provide transport for non-car users where required.

| | |
|--------------|---|
| 29 August | Lenzie Coop. |
| 5 September | St Columba's |
| 12 September | St Columba's <i>(1:15pm for transport to Broadwood Loch)</i> |
| 19 September | Kirkintilloch Leisure Centre |

MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship)

MAF - Life after the floods

More than 168,000 acres of crops have been destroyed by recent unprecedented floods, according to Kenya's government. As a food crisis looms, MAF's Jacqueline Mwendu spends time with cut-off farming communities in both southern and northern Kenya where MAF has been delivering aid.

In the wake of Kenya's devastating floods from March to May, which saw historically high water levels turn northern Kenya's Chalbi Desert into mud for the first time, lives of farmers and their families have been turned upside down. Rural roads have been washed away or turned into dangerous mudslides. As a result, cut-off communities can only be reached by plane.

In Pakase, Shompole – a southern pastoralist community near the Tanzania border – over 350 families saw their homes, livelihoods and community buildings washed away by a swollen river. Thousands of livestock are dead. Even elephants have drowned. 'We were still asleep at 9am on Monday when we heard the ominous sound of rushing water approaching our home. When I looked outside, I saw a powerful torrent moving towards us. I managed to grab my children and move to higher ground'.

MAF has been partnering with World Relief International – an NGO (Non-Governmental Organisation) – which has been supplying water purification tablets, jerry cans to store clean drinking water, mosquito nets, and feminine hygiene products to the afflicted.

MAF's flight from the capital Nairobi to Shompole Airstrip has given the team access to some of the worst hit areas.

Graham Inglis

MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship) cont'd



God's Beautiful Autumn Trees



Flower Rota 2024

Donation

Delivery

September 2024

- 1 Mrs A Stevenson
- 8 Boys Brigade & Mrs H Tennant
- 15 Mrs I Perry
- 22 Mrs D Morgan
- 29 Mrs A McKelvie

- Glenys Swann
- Lydia Ramsay
- Gilbert French
- Janet Brown
- Mr & Mrs B Ashcroft

October

- 6 Mrs G Fox
- 13 Mr & Mrs D Oliphant
- 20 Alison Alston
- 27 Carol Johnstone

- Mr & Mrs I Muir
- Joan Beattie
- Moira French
- Julie Reid

November

- 3 The Guild
- 10 Remembrance Sunday
- 17 Mr & Mrs J Thomson
- 24 Mrs Janet Muir

- Glenys Swann
- Lydia Ramsay
- Gilbert French
- Janet Brown

December

- 1 June Larwood
- 8 The Swann Family
- 15
- 22
- 29

- Mr & Mrs B Ashcroft
- Mr & Mrs I Muir
- Joan Beattie
- Moira French
- Julie Reid

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 Small 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"**