

St. Columba's Hillhead Congregational Magazine



Welcome to Kirkintilloch St Columba's Hillhead Church



Summer 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

On 22 May, from a rain-soaked Downing Street, the Prime Minister called a General Election. The various political parties now make their pitch for our vote. On 4 July, we the people decide who will be our elected representatives in Westminster. It is a process that goes back many years and one that has been defended with great courage and sacrifice. We are fortunate indeed to have such freedom.

The Bible doesn't tell us who we are to vote for in an election. And I am not about to recommend a particular party or candidate! That said, there are principles in the Bible that are there to guide us not only in the decisions we make from time to time at the ballot box, but in the choices we make every day of our lives. None of these is more significant than that expressed in Jesus' prayer to His Heavenly Father on the eve of his crucifixion: "...*not my will, but yours be done*" (Luke 22:42).

It is so easy when we are faced with choices large and small, to make our decisions solely based on, '*What's in it for me?*' The trouble with that approach is that very often our decisions affect others besides ourselves. It is important then to also ask, '*What's in it for them?*' Jesus taught us to do that when He taught the Parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke Chapter 10. However, the main question we are to ask as Christians in our decision-making is, '*What's in it for God?*' How can I most honour God in whatever choice I have right now?

I do hope you are able to vote at the upcoming election. Let's not forget though that life is full of choices and decisions. Let's not drift so easily into a default of '*What's in it for me?*' Let's value others above ourselves as Paul teaches in Philippians Chapter 2. Let's take time to ask, '*What's in it for them?*', and think through who 'they' are.

From the Manse (cont'd)

But above all, let us imitate our Saviour as we seek to please God in how we live.

*Only one life to offer - Jesus, my Lord and King;
Only one tongue to praise Thee and of Thy mercy sing;
Only one heart's devotion - Saviour, O may it be
Consecrated alone to Thy matchless glory,
Yielded fully to Thee.*

Your minister and friend,

Philip

The Church Family



Deaths

It is with great sadness that we record the deaths of Tom Fawcett, Ray Patterson, Agnes Smith, Mike Trail, and Wilma Scott. We give thanks to God for them all.

We are deeply grateful for the service of Tom, Mike and Wilma as elders.

We extend our sympathy, love and prayers to all those who are bereaved.

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

Births

Congratulations to Rachel and Chris MacLeod on the birth of baby Tom, a little brother to Jack. Congratulations to grandparents Fraser and Margaret McCallum and parents Heather and Alex, on the birth of baby Abigail.

Thank You

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has expressed their best wishes, by card, text and blessings during my recent stay in hospital. Your thoughts of concern are very much appreciated, and I am truly overwhelmed.

Regretably as a result of my condition, I will no longer be able to fulfill my duties as Flower Convenor with the church. Responsibilities for flowers should now be directed to Mary Aitken, whose contact details are available through the Church Magazine.

Una Galbraith

Membership

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

Gilbert Retires

At the end of March 2024, Gilbert French retired after 22 years service as Church Officer/Church Cleaner and also Halls Letting Convenor. To mark the occasion Gilbert was presented with a card and a monetary gift during a Sunday Service. Afterwards we all joined with Gilbert at coffee time to enjoy a slice of cake.



The Upper Room

You may have noticed small booklets being distributed to some of our members on a recent Sunday morning. These would have been the May issue of "The Upper Room."

The "Upper Room" has a worldwide readership of some three million people and is published every four months in a wide variety of languages. All the short daily meditations are contributed by the readers themselves from all around the world and all different cultures. Recipients feel so enriched reading people's personal experiences born from lives of faith. One's knowledge of the Bible and quiet prayer time can be greatly enhanced by a short daily reading of "The Upper Room."

Our latest order was for a record 36 copies, which is a really encouraging total for St. Columba's Hillhead. Speak to Ian or Marilyn Gibb if you would like to be added to this number. You would be very welcome to give it a try - and there is no charge!

Ian & Marilyn Gibb

Prayer at St Columba's Hillhead

It is a continued encouragement to see so many people making use of the Church Prayer Diary. This is available every month at the Sunday and Midweek Services. We print around 30 copies each month to keep up with demand. It can also be downloaded from the church website, www.kirkintillochstcolumbas.org.uk Prayer is vital 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 of the wider church around the world. The prayer diary is an excellent tool for helping us do that. It would be great if we needed to print 50 copies of the prayer diary each month! Please do give serious consideration to taking away and using the prayer diary each month if you do not already do so.

Prayer at St Columba's Hillhead (cont'd)

On Thursday evenings (term time) at the manse, all are welcome to join in a time of prayer at 7pm. 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.

...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.

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 Small 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. Some folks who would have difficulty coming to a Sunday morning service have found this Service to be a much-valued opportunity for worship. Please do consider coming to the Midweek Service, or inviting someone you know who may be blessed by being there.

The Midweek Service won't be running during the school summer holidays. The last Midweek Service of the current session will be Wednesday 19 June. The Midweek Service will restart on Wednesday 21 August.

The Leprosy Mission

Following our collection in February, we received this letter of thanks from The Leprosy Mission. With grateful thanks to everyone who collected monies to make this donation possible.

Margaret McCallum



St Columba's Hill Head Parish Church
c/o Mrs M McCallum



Dear Friends

Thank you so much for your tremendous kindness and generosity towards people affected by leprosy.

Tenderness and mercy abound at Muzaffarpur Hospital in Bihar state, India. Everyone is welcome here, no matter their background or social status. This is a place where inclusivity is in action every day, and no one is turned away. Staff treat each patient with dignity, compassion and understanding. Love pours from their hands and hearts, and they work tirelessly to meet the needs of their patients.

However, the fabric of the hospital is run down and can't cope with the demand of the volume of people seeking help and assistance. On average, over 600 people walk through the gates of the hospital entrance each day. The Outpatient Department is particularly affected, with people queuing outside in all weathers and cramped consultation rooms with little privacy. The doctors and nurses do the best they can with the facilities they have, but conditions are far from ideal.

But, across the miles and oceans, you're reaching out your hand in friendship. Staff and patients are encouraged, knowing they are not alone and that you 'see' them. When many others turn their backs on these forgotten people, you're standing by them, refusing to look the other way. Thanks to your kindness, shown through your gift of £650.00, an improved OPD at Muzaffarpur Hospital will rise like a beacon of hope and light to people affected by leprosy in Bihar. Along with the excellent care and treatment they already receive, patients will have new and improved facilities to make their visits as comfortable as possible – thank you!

A heart full of gratitude and thanks,

Chris

Chris Stratta
Community Partnerships Team Manager
chriss@TLMEW.org.uk
07940 720826



P.S. Please do keep in touch! I would love to arrange a speaker for a Sunday service or midweek talk, pray together over the phone or answer any questions.

The Leprosy Mission Great Britain
Goldhay Way, Orton Goldhay
Peterborough, PE2 5GZ

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 hello@LM.org.uk
 leprosymission.org.uk

The Leprosy Mission Great Britain
 @leprosytalk
 leprosymission

Sunday Club

We continue to really appreciate joining together with Sunday Club for the early part of the regular Sunday morning service. We value the contribution Sunday Club brings to our worship. It has been great to welcome siblings of some of our Noah's Ark children to Sunday Club in recent months. We're very grateful to those who lead and help at Sunday Club and Bible Class week by week.

We look forward to an All Age Service on Sunday 16 June when we will also have Sunday Club Prizegiving. Over the summer holidays, from Sunday 23 June to Sunday 11 August, we will be following a 'Summer Sundays' programme. Sunday Club will join with Noah's Ark on these Sundays and visitors' children will as always be very welcome.

Songs of Praise

There are two 'Songs of Praise' events scheduled for Sunday evenings in June. The first, Praise in the Park, organised by Lenzie & Kirkintilloch ACTS will be held at 7pm by the bandstand at Peel Park on Sunday 9 June.

The second 'Songs of Praise' event will take place at 7pm at the Hillhead Halls on Sunday 23 June. All are very welcome to either or both of these events.

The Guild

Our Guild is now at the end of another session. At our AGM Sheena Robertson stood down as our Treasurer but thankfully we have a replacement and many thanks to Eleanor Gordon. Our Committee met at Springfield Parish Church, Bishopbriggs for a North Guild Meeting called at home when Guilds bring their syllabus's to the meeting so they can be passed to the Guilds for them to look at for possible speakers for their next session. We have had another succesful session and had the pleasure of different speakers. My thanks to the Committee for their faith, which they have given to me as the Convenor and my continued thanks to the ladies who have attended our meetings. Remember gentlemen you can come along as well!

Gilbert French Convenor

Secretary: Janrt Brown.

Treasurer: Eleanor Gordon.

Projects: Gilbert French.

Committee: Julie Reid.
Mary Aitken.
Sheena Robertson.
Morag Graham.

The Guild meets every second Tuesday at 2pm in St Columba's Hillhead Church Halls.

From our Children & Families Worker

Hi there church! It has been an absolute pleasure to come alongside you and work with the children and families in St Columba's Hillhead and in the wider community for the last 6 months. I have really enjoyed getting to know each and every child and being able to participate in a wide array of activities.

In the last few months, I have been able to do lots of fun things with our children like planning for Christmas and Easter cafes, holiday club, SU group, Warm Welcome, Sunday Club and toddler groups like Noah's Ark. I love being involved with our toddler groups (Busy Bees, Little Fishes and Noah's Ark) and am so pleased to see children and families attending both a midweek toddler group as well as our Sunday group. Noah's Ark has really been an amazing thing to watch blossom and has become a space where families feel welcome and happy to be on a Sunday morning.

Additionally, I have been doing work to make information about children's ministry at St Columba's Hillhead more accessible online. If you look around the church you might find a poster that says Children's Ministry Portal with a code to scan with your phone, here is where you can find lots of information about children's ministry related activities. I find that the mums and carers who come to toddler groups use this portal quite frequently and it has been a great help to link more things together.

Looking forward, I am very excited to be planning lots of end of term activities for both Busy Bees and Little Fishes, including our family fun morning from 10-12 on June 28th.

Please keep us in your prayers this summer! I would especially appreciate prayers for the children and families who find summer to be a difficult time to manage. Surrounding the children and families in prayer this summer is one way that we as a church can support and love families in Kirkintilloch. Thank you all for your continued support not only of me but of the work that is being done through St. Columba's Hillhead Church!

Much love in Christ,

Cassie

1st Kirkintilloch Company

Anchor Section

This year's session finished at the end of April with an outdoor fun time at Peel Park where the boys managed to capture the fort and climb over all the obstacles. Fortunately, the weather was kind to us and we were able to round off the evening with the presentation of awards. All the boys managed to achieve their respective award badges and all the new recruits who joined us in February have all managed to gain their arm bands and Anchor badge so well done to them.

Each year we are in the habit of awarding the Guild Shields to the boys we considered to be the best overall boy for the year. This year was no exception, and the best 1st year was Ollie Laird and best 2nd year was Ben McCaracken. Well done to both of you for all your efforts over the year.

The following day we attended the battalion fun day at Innoflate in Cumbernauld. Eighteen of our boys joined Anchors from other companies in a one-hour inflatable session followed by pizza, hot dogs and juice. I personally cannot comment on the bouncy castles but can fully recommend the pizza!

We are now off until the 1st Friday in September and are looking forward to seeing all the boys back again for another year. We currently have a waiting list for new members but are trying hard to get them into the company as soon as possible.

Finally, we wish Ollie Laird well as he now moves up to Junior Section and hopefully he will enjoy his time with them. We hope you have a pleasant summer with lots of time to sit out and enjoy the good weather.

Fraser, Margaret & Lorna

1st Kirkintilloch Company

Junior Section

It's hard to believe another session is coming to an end, but we've had an absolute smasher of a year at the 1st Kirkintilloch Junior Section. Number's have remained strong. We have completed lots and lots of different activities for our badges, some of the activities have included learning about Jesus teamwork our team games, some virtual reality, arts and craft outdoor games, including building rafts and climbing trees and flying the outdoor aircraft.

We also attended the Strathkelvin Battalion innoflate overnight event where we had lots of fun including a Nerf fight, bouncy castle fun, a couple of movies and even had time for supper and breakfast.

Sadly, we will lose four of our boys' to the Company section and we wish Archie, Connor, Nathan and Jacob every success as they move up to Company section!

We are looking forward to welcoming new faces from the Anchors and beyond!

If you know anyone who might be interested in joining us then please drop an email to 1kirkiebb@gmail.com or check out our facebook page www.facebook.com/1stkirkintillochbb

All the Boys', Ross, Matthew and I wish everyone a Fantastic Summer and look forward to the new session starting back on the First Friday in September!

David Buntain
07712578171

1st Kirkintilloch Company

Company Section and Seniors

At the start of this session, we adopted the new badge structure in the Company Section. To ensure that we covered all the categories we ran a varied programme of adventure, physical, spiritual, educational and fun activities. Now as we approach the end of the session, we have achieved almost everything that was required apart from a couple of adventure activities that should be completed as part of our summer programme, when we hope to be joined by the boys who have been promoted from the Junior Section.

On Friday evenings in the hall, we have had projects in electronics and video production, sessions of drill, a sports anagram challenge, vaulting (for the first time in ages), participated in Red Nose Day, considered and discussed fairness and inequality, played pool, chess, table tennis, trionimoos and enjoyed a blether over the tuck shop.

Most of the boys attended a Strathkelvin Battalion outing to Braehead where they were joined by members from a couple of other Companies to take part in laser tag and mini golf. None of our boys topped the leader board but had fun nevertheless.

On a couple of recent Friday evenings, we have taken advantage of the better weather and made use of the Luggie Park for a game of Ultimate Frisbee and a penalty shoot-out, while the grounds surrounding the church provided the location for a What3Words challenge.

Our two Seniors, Dillon and Daniel have successfully completed everything that is required to gain their President's Badge and a presentation ceremony will be organised as soon as possible. Congratulations boys, now for the King's Badge!

Thanks to all the officers and boys for the time, effort and commitment they have given throughout the session which is greatly appreciated. Over the summer everyone can take a well-earned rest, recharge their batteries and be ready for whatever the 2024-25 session hold in store.

1st Kirkintilloch Company

Company Section and Seniors (cont'd)

Over the summer everyone can take a well-earned rest, recharge their batteries and be ready for whatever the 2024-25 session hold in store.

As ever, we would be delighted to hear from anyone, male or female, who is interested in becoming a leader. No previous experience necessary. For more details speak to any member of staff.

Wishing all our readers a good relaxing summer.

Allan Geekie, George Kidd and all the Team.



5th Kirkintilloch Brownies

By the time you are reading this we will have been away on an adventure.

Kirkintilloch East District went to Dalguise near Dunkeld last month. 56 Brownies and Guides spent the weekend trying Canoeing, Archery, Giant Swing, Challenge Course and Vertical Challenge. Vertical challenge involves climbing a tree but it was a giant sequoia so it was a definitely a challenge!

We also took part in Dunbarton County's Rainbow & Brownie Activity Day called 'Wings & Wellies'. Catterburn campsite was turned into a Fairy kingdom with games and crafts with a fairy theme. There was also the chance to learn some circus skills.

At the church hall we were firing rockets, plastic bottle ones with vinegar and bicarbonate of soda fuel. It was part of the aviation badge.

We have ended our session with a Beach Party.

We hope everyone has a lovely summer, with lots of sunshine.

Blessings, Lynne Semple

Christian Aid Report Summer 2024

The collection for Christian Aid Week this year has raised £656.00. The Gift Aid slips that tax payers have completed and returned will be forwarded to the Christian Aid office in Edinburgh which will increase the amount that has been donated. Many thanks to everyone who has supported this fund raising event.

The focus this year has been on Burundi, a country in Africa where there is extreme poverty. Christian Aid has been working in Burundi for nearly 30 years and in this period has installed community wells supplying the population with a clean water source, set up community workshops which have shown people how to establish a steady income, and provided individuals with small start-up loans. This has enabled women in particular to set up small businesses that have allowed them to provide a home, food and education for their children.

Christian Aid Week is one of two major fund raising initiatives carried out by the local group of churches in Lenzie and Kirkintilloch each year. The other has latterly been a Christmas Coffee Morning held in November and details of this will be available later this year.

More information about the work of Christian Aid and the various events that are being held throughout Scotland can be found on their website.

Geraldine Fox

The Friendship Club & Following Jesus Group

Both groups are well attended and we would like to thank our church family for their prayers.

The Friendship Club has been thinking about the senses. So far we have tried to imagine how difficult it must be to be deaf or blind and then how wonderful to be healed.

As the Following Jesus Group only meets once a month we missed April so have been revising the Easter story.

The highlight of this term has been the Prospects Across Scotland Annual holiday weekend at Tulliallan. The theme for the weekend was "God's love is Great" and our bible readings were Proverbs 19:21 and John 21:25. We were very well represented with eleven of our group, eight carers and four leaders attending either for the whole weekend, one night or for Saturday only.

Twenty out of these twenty three actually took part in the service which we led on Saturday morning, doing a variety of things - drama, prayers, bible readings, games and of course lots of praise.

The total number attending was a hundred and twenty five and everybody was very enthusiastic - in signing, praise and fun.

We would like to thank Philip, Wendy, and John Scott with their much needed technical assistance.

Our next adventure is our annual trip along the canal with the Seagull Trust - fish and chips along the way of course.

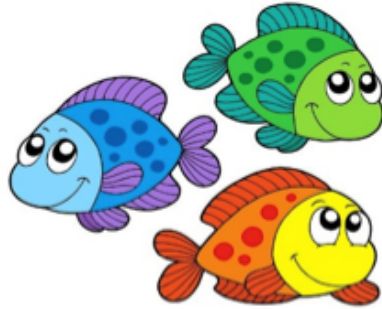
Finally, we wish you all a very happy, healthy summer and thank you again for your support and encouragement.

Pat Muir and Team

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 1130am. **Little Fishes** is at St Columba's 10 till 1130 on Fridays.

We often have 40 children at Little Fishes and 30 at Busy bees. Cassie has been doing lots of crafts and painting with the children in the small hall (quiet room) at Little Fishes and you can admire their handywork on the noticeboard.

Thank you to Isobel (Davies) this term who has been growing sunflowers for the children. Thank you so much to the teams of helpers - we know your work is appreciated by all the families and the church.

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.

Busy Bees' last week will be Wed 19 June when there will be soft play. Little Fishes will finish Friday 21 June.

The following week, there will be a family fun morning for toddlers and children, 10 till 12 noon on Fri 28 June.



Noah's Ark Sunday Toddler Group

Our toddler group on Sunday mornings during the church service is called '**Noah's Ark** toddler group' and is now 1 year old!

It meets each week in the lower hall starting at 1030am-1130am, then the opportunity to have 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 learning about Jesus, his miracles, the Easter story and Paul. Noah's Ark will keep running throughout the summer holidays.

If you would like to come or know anyone who would like to come then please do contact Cassie, or contact Gill for Little Fishes (Fridays) 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

Warm Welcome

Warm Welcome' is open every Wednesday afternoon, 2 till 4pm, at the Hillhead Halls.

As well as providing a warm space for all ages and the opportunity for a chat, Kitchen Cupboard runs alongside. Kitchen Cupboard (operated by foodbank staff and volunteers) is a great resource for groceries and other items for folks who may need them. Christians Against Poverty also have a presence at Warm Welcome on some Wednesdays

Warm Welcome is open to everyone! Do drop in for a cup of tea and a chat if you are passing!

If you would be willing to help out on a Wednesday afternoon, with serving tea or coffee, even on an occasional basis, please speak with Philip in the first instance.

Church Cycle Ride and BBQ

We are planning a church cycle ride and BBQ on the afternoon of Sunday 16 June.

We hope (weather depending!) to cycle along the cycle track to Clachan of Campsie. Alternatively, if you prefer walking, there is the option of walking to Milton of Campsie instead. Both destinations happen to be well-served by tea rooms!

If you'd like to cycle or walk, bring a packed lunch with you to church on the morning of Sunday 16 June to have after the service and we'll aim to set off at 12:30pm or fairly shortly after.

Later in the day, from around 4pm, there will be a BBQ in the church grounds for the returning cyclists and walkers and for as many of us who are able to be there to welcome them back!

We do hope to see you there!

Churches Walk and Talk Group

The Walk and Talk Group will continue to meet throughout the summer at the locations below. Unless stated otherwise the walks start at 1:30 on Thursday afternoons, last approximately one hour, and the start points and routes vary.

Throughout the past two years the group has combined friendly conversation with gentle walks around Kirkintilloch, Lenzie and Waterside. The pace is suitable for all ages, most fitness levels and all are welcome. There are currently more than 20 on the WhatsApp group but there is no membership and all are welcome for occasional or regular walks. 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.

The walks on the 27 June, 18 July and 22 August will be outside of the local areas. On these occasions the meeting point shall be St Columba's Hillhead Church at 1:15pm (note the earlier time) and 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.

30 May	Ellisland Drive
6 June	Kirkintilloch Leisure Centre
13 June	Merkland Nature Park
20 June	Donaldson St, Christine's Way
27 June	St Columba's Hillhead Church at 1:15 for transport to Broadwood Loch
4 July	Donaldson St, walk to the Stables
11 July	Ellisland Drive
18 July	St Columba's Hillhead Church, 1:15 for transport to Lennoxton
25 July	St Columba's Hillhead Church

Churches Walk and Talk Group (Cont'd)

1 August Luggie	Hillhead Basin - Kirkintilloch and the walkway.
8 August	Hillhead Basin - Kelvin Flood defences
15 August	Kilsyth Road
22 August	St Columba's Hillhead Church, 1:15 for transport to Croy Marina
29 August	Lenzie Coop (Kirkintilloch Road)
5 September	St Columba's Hillhead Church

Trevor Patterson

MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship)

MAF continues to support refugees in Chad

According to the UN, Sudan had the world's largest number of people facing extreme food shortages in 2023, as conflict displaced more than 8.6 million people last year. It's the largest displacement crisis in the world. What's more, over 20 million Sudanese are facing acute food insecurity, roughly one year after fighting broke out on 15 April in Khartoum. With refugees pouring across the border into Chad every day, MAF has been flying urgent equipment and personnel to remote airstrips in Adre, Farchana and Am Djeress, partnering with NGOs such as The Norwegian Refugee Council and the Mennonite Central Committee. Freight has included medicine and office equipment such as computers and printers — with NGOs and local missions preparing to scale up their response efforts to help the growing refugee community in the coming months. British MAF Chad Pilot Becki Dillingham, who visited a refugee camp north-east of Goz Beida in March, said, "Refugees are arriving by foot, donkey and trucks across the land borders into Chad. We have done flights to move medical supplies and urgent equipment into the area, and I envision that we will do more as the rainy season makes roads impassable from June." MAF has also been supporting refugees arriving in South Sudan, with flights to the temporary settlement in Renk — which continues to house thousands of returning refugees in dire conditions — continuing into 2024.

Graham Inglis

MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship) Cont'd



Study Leave

Ministers in the Church of Scotland are encouraged to make use of the Study Leave scheme. After 5 years of ministry, there is a study leave allowance of 2 weeks/year. This need not be used each year and can accrue over time. The intention of the Study Leave scheme is to benefit both ministers and the congregations they serve by 'ring-fencing' time for study.

I have applied for Study Leave from Monday 23 July to Sun 1 September and this has been granted, subject to Presbytery approval. During Study Leave, I will be looking at two topics:

The first is exploring 'café church' and similar models for making church as accessible as possible for folks who don't have a church background.

The second is to explore how different churches are making best use of online services, especially in the aftermath of the pandemic. I'm very grateful for the opportunity to spend some time looking at these topics.

I have already arranged Sunday ministry cover in my absence for each of the Sundays that I will be on study leave. I am really grateful to a number of friends of St Columba's Hillhead for providing this and trust that their ministry amongst us will be a blessing. Arrangements for pastoral care will be confirmed nearer the time.

I hope that by arranging this period of Study Leave to fall mainly within the usually quieter month of August, that may limit any impact on the smooth running of the church.

I will be glad to update on what I have learned on my return!

Philip

Letter from the Editor

John and I grew up in Coatbridge. I lived in Gartsherrie with my Mum & Dad and John lived in Townhead with his family. Way back then there was no bathroom/toilet in my tenement house, so we shared our toilet, which was out in the back yard, with three other families and each had a key for it. I loved books, so I took my library book out there every day, locked the door and spent some time reading until someone would come and bang the door, "Saying Margaret McLean we know you are in there reading but we need the toilet"!

My Dad died when I was five years old and my Mum and I lived there for quite a few years until we got a Council House in Greenhill, which had an inside Bathroom with a toilet - absolute luxury.

John and I met at Townhead Primary School and again at Clifton High School, where we went out at weekends with a group of friends and attended 'Record Hops' (the forerunner of 'Disco's'), which were usually held in local Church Halls, such as Gartuck Parish. John asked me out on a date in 1967 and for the Christmas service in 1968 we attended Glasgow Cathedral, with our group of friends and at one minute passed midnight on the 25th December 1968 he slipped an engagement ring on my finger. That engagement ring is my most cherished possession because that was when John made his one and only ever romantic speech, "The Sapphire is to match the Blue of your eyes and the two Diamonds are to match the sparkle in them".

We married in September 1969 and moved to Muirside Avenue, Kirkintilloch in July 1971 with our first son Gavin. He was followed by two more sons, Robin & David, then a daughter Kate before we moved round to Iona Way in January 1990. We have been members of St Columba's during our fifty three years in Kirkintilloch and our children attended Sunday School, Boys Brigade and Girls Brigade.

Letter from the Editor (Cont'd)

John, being a Railway Signal Engineer unfortunately had to work a lot of nightshifts and most weekends, when the railway was quiet, so he was unable to attend as often as he wished. When he retired he was then able to get more involved with various projects and groups within the Church. He also assisted me by being the “Technical Assistant” on the Church Magazine to ensure it’s content was formatted, input, printed and issued so you all could read it!

It is with great sadness we have to leave St. Columba’s Hillhead as we have moved back to Coatbridge to be nearer two of our sons and our younger grandchildren. It is great to collect them from school and hear all the stories about their daily exploits. We will be joining a church nearer our home, New St. Andrews, which is only ten minutes walk from our house. We had intended to remain at St. Columba’s Hillhead, however John found it quite onerous driving over during last Winter because it was so often wet and there was so many of the roads closed for repairs, or temporary traffic lights, etc.

John intends to continue to assist me with editing and the production of your Church Magazine, until someone “Volunteers” to take over.

**God Bless you all,
Margaret & John Clayton.**

Flower Rota 2024

Donation

Delivery

June 2024

2 J. Brown & Mr & Mrs G Kidd
9 Coffee Time
16 Rita Powell
23 Mr J Stewart & Mrs M Aitken
30 Mrs M Rogerson

Mr & Mrs I Muir
Joan Beattie
Moira French
Glenys Swann
Lydia Ramsy

July

7 Mrs C Moore
14 Mrs J Connell
21 Mr T Nelson
28 Mrs I Kernochen

Gilbert French
Janet Brown
Mr & Mrs B Ashcroft

August

4 Mr & Mrs N Bathie
11 Mrs M Blair
18 Sunday Club
25 Mrs I Davies

Mr & Mrs I Muir
Joan Beattie
Moira French
Glenys Swann

September

1
8 Boys Brigade
15 Mrs I Perry
22 Mrs D Morgan
29 Mrs A McKelvie

Lydia Ramsay
Gilbert French
Janet Brown
Mr & Mrs B Ashcroft

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"**