# St. Columba's Hillhead Church Magazine



Welcome to Kirkintilloch St Columba's Hillhead Church



Christmas 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

As the first copies of this magazine are being delivered, the St Columba's Hillhead Christmas Café will be almost upon us. It is being held from 2 till 4 pm on Saturday 30 November with Christmas refreshments, crafts, games, activities, and fun for all ages. It is also an opportunity for us to consider the significance of Jesus, the Son of God, being born as a baby for us.

This year, we're having an extra event straight after the Christmas Café – a Christmas Lights Switch On from 4 till 4:30 the same afternoon. This will be in the Lower Car Park area. We're delighted the Oxgang Primary School Choir has agreed to come and sing at this event. They are a super choir, and I do hope there will be a sizeable audience to support them!

The bright lights of Christmas are a welcome contrast to the dark nights of winter. I'm glad that we have a beautiful tree illumination outside the church building. Some of our church neighbours tell us they like how it shines so cheerfully at this time of year.

When the prophet Isaiah foretold the birth of Jesus, he spoke about it in this way:

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. (Isaiah 9:2)

Isaiah used the word 'darkness' here to describe all that was wrong with the world. God had created a world of light. But we had chosen to live in darkness. And yet, the wonder of Jesus coming to earth is that God sent his only Son as the Light of the World to the very people – you and me – who had chosen darkness over light.

It is a good thing to enjoy Christmas lights. I hope you like them as much as I do. I've just ordered some LED icicles for the manse and I'm looking forward to putting them up!

# From the Manse (cont'd)

But it is a far better thing to find life and joy and peace in Jesus Christ – the Light of the world. He continues to shine in the darkness of the world today, no matter how deep that darkness. His light can never be put out. Quite wonderfully, when we share His life, we also share His light, and we too can shine in the darkness.

The questions we're left with then are these. Has Jesus, the Light of the World, dawned on your life? And, if so, are you shining brightly for Him?

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 deaths of Rev Alex Green and Margaret Whiteford. 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.

#### **Thank You**

Dear friends.

I just want to thank my church family for the tremendous outpouring of support in the form of prayers, cards, flowers, phone-calls, visits etc following the death of my dear Alex. What love was shown!. Of course I and the family miss Alex so much but are comforted by the fact that he is with his Lord and that his suffering is over. 1Corinthians 8: 28.

# Every blessing, Jean.

Following the passing of our much loved wife, mum and granny, Margaret Whiteford, we would like to thank all at St Columba's Hillhead Church for all of your prayers and support over the years. Philip, Ian, Pat and the Pastoral Team - we hope you know how grateful and appreciative we all are.

#### The Whiteford Family

# The Church Family (cont'd)

# Agnes at 90



We would like to wish Agnes a very happy 90th birthday on 21/12/24 from your church family

Ruth at 90

We would like to wish a belated happy 90th birthday to Ruth Innes from your church family.



# The Church Family (cont'd)

# Rev Alex Green 29.9.44 - 26.10.24

On Saturday 26th October Rev Alex Green was called home to be with the Lord. Alex was much loved by many people, and most especially by Jean and the children - David, Jennifer and Kirsty.

Since his retirement from Strathblane Parish Church, Alex with Jean were members at St Columba's, now St Columba's Hillhead Parish Church. We all appreciated Alex's fellowship. Alex had a very natural and friendly way with people. He cared about how they were getting on. He was an encourager. And we enjoyed his sense of humour!

Alex and Jean met through a Christian choir called "His Sound". Alex always said he was allowed to join the choir for his looks and not his voice!

Alex went to Glasgow University to study Law, after having taken to work in a lawyers office. But God had other plans. Midway through his studies, Alex changed to Divinity and qualified as MA BD. He entered the ministry in the Church of Scotland. First, at South Carntyne Church for ten years. Then, at Strathblane Parish Church, for almost fifteen years.

Alex met many lifelong friends as he was studying – and during his time in ministry. When Alex was at South Carntyne, he also did a chaplaincy at Barlinnie Prison, where he thoroughly enjoyed engaging with prisoners and with fellow chaplains.

After Alex 'retired', he went on to do supply work in various churches. He served as Interim Moderator at Sandyford Henderson Church and as locum at St David's Memorial Park Church, Kirkintilloch.

Alex loved games and quizzes. He would be games-master for birthday parties and gatherings of family and friends. Some at St Columba's Hillhead may remember, and perhaps even have taken part, in the infamous 'elastic band game'!

Alex began to show signs of memory loss in his mid-seventies and was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. As the illness progressed, Alex fought it bravely, and his faith in Jesus as his Lord and Saviour remained so clear.

#### The Church Family (cont'd)

We will miss Alex greatly. However, we are reassured by the promise of the Bible that for Alex, as for every Believer in Christ, '...neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.' (Romans 8:38-39).

# Membership

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

#### The Upper Room

The next issue of The Upper Room daily Bible notes will be available for the start of 2025. The onset of a new year is always a good time to try something new, so, if anyone would like to add their name to the list of the 30 or so members already using this excellent resource, please speak to Ian or Marilyn as soon as possible.

# **Used Stamps**

Just a gentle reminder that we are still collecting used stamps at StCH as we support the wider charitable work of the Church of Scotland. Hopefully the increased mail we tend to receive over the Christmas period will again help to boost our collection, but please remember to leave a slight border of paper round each stamp.

Collecting boxes are kept in the vestibule at each of our sites but, while our services are having to be held in the hall, you can put your stamps in the box at the back of the hall or pass any contributions directly to either Mary or Marilyn.

# Prayer at St Columba's Hillhead

"As is the business of tailors to make clothes and cobblers to make shoes, so it is the business of Christians to pray". So wrote Martin Luther, a man who was greatly used by God in the reformation of the church in the sixteenth century.

Prayer is not just for the keen Christian. Every Christian is called to prayer. The Apostle Paul writes, "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

The monthly prayer diary is an excellent tool for helping us pray. It is great to see so many prayer diaries being lifted from the pile each month. If you don't yet use the prayer diary, please do give it a try. 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 prayer at 7pm during term-time. We start with tea and coffee before moving to prayer. We are usually done by around 8:15pm. You don't have to pray out loud if you don't feel comfortable doing so. All our prayers, spoken and unspoken, as well as our 'amens' to the prayers of others, are heard alike by our Heavenly Father.

#### 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. It was a special joy to have a visit from King's Cadence back in September – a Gospel Quartet with a great sound and a great message! In more recent weeks, we have been looking together at the examples of people who lived by faith that we're given in Hebrews chapter 11 – leading to Jesus the 'pioneer and perfecter of faith'.

#### Midweek Service (cont'd)

The Midweek Service is a valuable 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 Midweek Service will be a 'Carols and Readings' service on Wed 18 December – and whilst no plans have been made officially it would not be a surprise if mince pies were available afterwards! The Midweek Service will be taking a break on 25 December and 1 January (as you might expect) and will restart on Wed 8 January 2025.

# 'Hurting Hearts' Service at St Columba's Hillhead

This year, as in previous years, we are having a special service for 'Hurting Hearts'. This will be at 3pm on Sunday 8 December at St Columba's. This service will last around 30 minutes and there will be a time for fellowship over tea and coffee afterwards.

Whilst the 'Hurting Hearts' service has been helpful for some who have experienced bereavement in previous years, it is also intended for those who carry burdens of different kinds. Anyone who would like to come to the 'Hurting Hearts' service is most welcome. There is no need to let anyone know in advance that you are coming.

#### **Sunday Club**

We continue to appreciate having Sunday Club join with us as part of the regular Sunday morning service at St Columba's Hillhead. It is great to sometimes have siblings of our Noah's Ark children join with Sunday Club on Sunday mornings. In recent weeks, Sunday Club has been looking at the life of the prophet Jeremiah – and learning a few tricky names in the process!

The last day of Sunday Club and Bible Class for this year will be Sunday 8 December and both will restart on Sunday 5 January. We will be having an All Age Nativity at St Columba's on Sunday 15 December. The Sunday morning services on 22 and 29 December will also be All Age services.

# **Sunday Services**

All are very welcome to our weekly morning service held at St Columba's on Sundays at 10:30am. At the time of writing the heating system in the church is out of action, and so we are meeting in the Large Hall at St Columba's on a Sunday morning. Whilst we are sorry not to be meeting in the Sanctuary, we are very fortunate to have an alternative venue for Sunday worship on the same site. It has been good to be seated closer to one another in a warm and well-lit hall. The singing has also been excellent!

We are very grateful to all those who have worked hard to make it possible for us to worship in the Large Hall recently – including setting up a large screen week by week. We do not have the same livestream capability in the Large Hall as in the Sanctuary. However, we do record the service, and we now upload this recording to YouTube later in the day with the aim for the service to be available online by 3pm.

We are also grateful to those who have been doing a great deal of work behind the scenes to find a suitable solution to restore heating to the Sanctuary. We have had a heating survey carried out, as recommended by the Church of Scotland, by a company also recommended by the Church of Scotland. We are working through the recommendations of that heating survey and the Kirk Session will decide on next steps as soon as possible.

Many of us have appreciated being able to gather on a Sunday evening from time to time for a 'Songs of Praise' Service. The next 'Songs of Praise' service is at 6:30pm at Hillhead Halls on Sun 26th Jan 2025. The 'Songs of Praise' after that is a joint service at Harestanes Baptist Church at 6:30pm on Sunday 23 February 2025.

#### 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. Do invite friends and family as we celebrate Christmas together and worship and share Jesus, who is the reason for the season.

Sun 15 Dec	10:30am	All Age Nativity (St Columba's)
Tue 24 Dec	4:00pm	Family Christmas Eve Service (St Columba's)
Wed 25 Dec	10:30am	Christmas Day Service (St Columba's)

We are also looking forward to sharing a 'Carol Time' on Tues 17th Dec at Hillhead Halls. This will be at 6:00pm for sandwiches/ sausage rolls and/or 6:45pm for carols. We expect this event to finish around 7:30pm and we aim for it to have quite an informal atmosphere. We are hoping that it may be of interest to some who come to other events/groups at Hillhead Halls, but that may not necessarily have a church background. All are very welcome.

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

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

We do hope you will be able to support these services/events. Where possible, we will put services on YouTube (either by livestream or via a recording).

#### **Church Finances**

Now that we are two and a half years into our church union, and as we approaching the end of 2024, we felt it appropriate to give an update on our financial position.

We are grateful to God for his continued provision for St Columba's Hillhead Church and for the generosity of all those who financially support the work of the church.

The new united charge of St Columba's Hillhead Parish Church was formed on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022. At this point, Hillhead Church provided signed Accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022. St Columba's Church provided accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 as usual, however included 7 months of figures for Hillhead. The accounts now had one Scottish Charity number and apart from some unexpected costs to the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh the transition was as expected.

The 2023 finances for the new united charge of St Columba's Hillhead Church were in good order. We had a significant expense of £24000 for Hall Roof renewal at St Columba's and this was met from a dedicated fabric fund.

Finances in 2024 have proved to be more demanding due to several increases in our running costs, including building maintenance and energy costs. Our Children and Family Worker costs continue to be met from ring-fenced giving and grants.

We would ask the congregation to consider two things:

 To update Free Will Offering Envelopes to the end of December 2024.

# **Church Finances (Cont'd)**

2) Where possible, to prayerfully consider an increase in giving in 2025, either through Free Will Offering envelopes or by Bankers Orders. We are very conscious that these are challenging times financially for many people as living costs have increased. However, even relatively modest increases in giving, if made by quite a number of us, could have a big impact.

Please feel free to ask any questions to Neil Bathie, Treasurer or Willie Stewart, Gift Aid Convener.

#### **Neil Bathie Church Treasurer**



# **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 56 boxes, lots of bags of 'fillers' and knitted items and several envelopes of donations were given by St Columba's Hillhead Church to Operation Christmas Child. This is a great amount and thanks to everyone who donated.

#### The Guild

It is very hard to believe that we are approaching the end of our first half of the session. It has been very interesting with various topics.

The Christmas meal on 17th December is something we all look forward too, followed by our Burns Night when our entertainment is New Day Singers. Tickets will available soon.

Enjoy the festive season.

# Janet (Guild Secretary).

#### The Men's Club

The Club is again back in full swing with members having the opportunity to meet together on Monday nights for social activities and friendship. We have also had to adjust to the fact that our new chairman has taken to wearing a red crown as he addresses our members!

Our Billy Paterson Memorial Evening took place recently, when we were delighted to welcome back John Clayton, our previous chairman, to present the trophy to the winner of our friendly round robin domino competition.

The Club resumes in January when we will begin our various regular "highly competitive" competitions leading up to our presentation dinner at the end of the session.

#### Ian Gibb (Sec.)

# **Lodging House Mission Harvest Appeal**

The Lodging House Mission sent a Thank You Card to us, thanking us very much for the gift of food and for the £365 raised (before gift aid) from the recent Harvest appeal. It was very much appreciated.

# Carol Johnston.



# 1st Kirkintilloch Company

Thanks to Philip for conducting the Annual Dedication Service on Sunday 13<sup>tth</sup> October, thanks also to the boys who attended.

Over Friday 8<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November all members of staff, assisted by Blair, Logan and Marcus, took shifts in Tesco selling poppies on behalf of Poppyscotland. Thanks to their efforts and the generosity of Tesco's customers £647.60 was raised, a significant increase on last year.

On Remembrance Sunday all sections were represented at the services in the church hall and at the Memorial Gates in Peel Park. Thanks to Connor for laying the Company's wreath both times.

As advised in the last edition of the newsletter we will once again be offering a **Christmas Card Delivery Service** for addresses in **Kirkintilloch and Lenzie**. The post-box will be in the vestibule of the halls from **Friday 29**<sup>th</sup> **November to Sunday 15**<sup>th</sup> **December.** Despite recent Post Office price increases we are still only charging a minimum of 40p per card. All proceeds will go to Kirkintilloch Food Bank.

#### **Anchor Section**

The session is well under way, and I am pleased to report that we have kept all our influx of boys from late last year and have added a further four recruits recently bringing our total up to twenty-four boys.

As you can imagine this makes for a rather noisy and boisterous Friday night for the staff. The boys are all well on target for their badge work and if they continue at the present rate, they should all achieve their awards at the end of the session.

So far this year we have played lots of games and as for the last hundred years, dodgy ball is by far the most popular. We have covered items such as the parable of the Sower linked to harvest and how Jesus wants the seeds planted in young people to grow fruitfully into following Him in later life.

# **Anchor Section (cont'd)**

Other things we have done this year include, learning about Polio and the work done by Rotary International via their "Purple Pinkie Appeal". Some rather messy purple cup cakes were made by the boys to take home.

Of course, Halloween came along, and it was celebrated in fancy dress playing spooky games and of course 'dookin' for apples. We held a remembrance themed night on 8<sup>th</sup> November outlining the importance of this annual event.

Christmas will soon be upon us and no doubt we will manage to mark this important event in the usual party manner.

May we wish everyone a very happy and peaceful Christmas and of course a happy New Year.

# Fraser, Margaret and Lorna.

#### **Junior Section**

It's hard to believe it is magazine time again, it only seems like yesterday that we started back our new session for 2024/25. 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 enjoyed arts and crafts, learning about different logos and what they mean, games, music and of course lots of fun and fellowship together!

Some of the other activities which we have taken part in up to now have been:-

Attending a Giant Sleepover at Glasgow Science Centre with BB companies from all across Scotland. This was great fun and we learned lots about science and even got to spend some time in the planetarium! Our Halloween party, Fireworks and toasted marshmallows round the Bonfire.

# Junior Section (cont'd)

We are looking forward to the Battalion Christmas movie night and our Christmas Party!

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 times after Christmas.

# David, Ross, Matthew and all the Boys' 1st Kirkintilloch Junior Section

# **Company Section**

Despite numbers being low the boys are very enthusiastic, and we have been able to offer a varied and interesting programme of activities, assisted in part by the excellent range of materials produce by the BB.

As well as standards such as drill and football, we have had sessions on a number of bible passages, emergency aid, an introduction to the defibrillator, problem solving, remembrance, BB knowledge, basketball, badminton, table tennis, pool, dominoes and trionimoes.

In a more artistic side, a couple of the older boys produced a short video on a mobile phone while the others have started a project to design stained glass windows.

We continue to do our bit for the environment by recycling all cans, cardboard and plastic left over at the end of the evening from the tuck shop.

We are delighted to report that Mr Roy has proved to be an excellent addition to the staff of the section playing a leading role in several activities.

# **Company Section (cont'd)**

Connor, Marcus and Nathan represented the Company at the Battalion 10 Pin Bowling event at Pro Bowl on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November. Although they didn't win, they all enjoyed the experience.

Still to look forward to is a movie night organised by Strathkelvin Battalion in Campsie Memorial Hall on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December while the boys have requested that we have a film and chippy night for our Christmas celebration.

Wishing everyone a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

#### Allan Geekie and all the Team.



#### **Warm Welcome**

'Warm Welcome' continues to run on a Wednesday afternoon, 2 till 4pm. Lynne and Carol are glad to offer hot drinks and biscuits without charge in a warm, friendly space at Hillhead Halls. We are delighted that 'Warm Welcome' runs alongside the 'Kitchen Cupboard' (operated by Foodbank). It is great too that 'Christians against Poverty' also have a presence at Warm Welcome. Cassie, our Children and Families Worker, teams up with Eilidh, Children and Families Worker at Kirkintilloch Baptist Church in providing activities for children during the second half of Warm Welcome. With the colder weather now upon us, we are glad to keep Warm Welcome at Hillhead open throughout the winter. If you've not

already visited Warm Welcome, please do drop in for a cup of tea

and a chat – you'd be made very welcome!



#### 5th Kirkintilloch Brownies

We've had a busy time since the start of the session.

Our activities for the Mindfulness badge, being aware of our surroundings, learning how our heartbeat can increase and slow down depending on our activity and listing 10 things we are grateful for, let us complete our Be Well theme award.

We also had great fun at our Halloween party, we made edible sparklers with chocolate fingers and sprinkles on Bonfire Night and made poppies for the Hall to mark Remembrance Day.

In December we will be joining the other Rainbows, Brownies & Guides in our District to see Moana 2 at the Odeon Braehead and finishing off 2024 with a Christmas Party.

We wish everyone at St Columba's Hillhead Church a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

## Lynne Semple

#### The Leprosy Mission

In September we welcomed Chris Stratta, who is the Community Partnership Manager, with The Leprosy Mission UK. He had been attending various meetings in Scotland and arranged to visit the church. He told us how the Leprosy Mission had changed since the closure of The Leprosy Mission Scotland office. He showed us an updated video of The Leprosy Mission. He went to the Sunday club with children and played various games which they enjoyed.

At the end of the service, we were able to present Chris with a cheque for £100.00, bringing the total funds donated by the church during this year to £850.00, which is greatly appreciated to continue the work of the Leprosy Mission.

Once again, many thank to all who continue to collect loose change for this worthwhile cause.

Margaret McCallum

#### **Christian Aid Report Winter 2024**

The Christian Aid Advent Café was held on Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> November 2024 in St. Mary's Church Hall. The event raised just over £1,400.00 and this will be sent to the Christian Aid Christmas Appeal. Thanks to everyone who supported this fund raising event which is the last that will be held in 2024.

Christian Aid and their partners support many poor and struggling communities throughout the world and our donations really do make a difference.

Mary and I would like to wish you all a very peaceful and happy Christmas as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Saviour.

#### **Geraldine Fox**

# Friendship Club & Following Jesus Group

Both groups continue to meet regularly and are well attended. Members, carers and leaders all contribute to these happy evenings.

Unfortunately it is no longer possible for Marilyn to assist in the Friendship Club. Marilyn was a valued member of our team for many years and we would like to thank her for her dedication throughout this time. We do pray Marilyn that your health difficulties will be resolved soon.

Our groups will be wecoming you to the Christmas Cafe and reminding everyone of Jusus' love.

As always our December meetings will involve the Christmas Story and party fun. Then we have our annual trip to Pro Bowl, which is a real joy as everyone is capable of participating fully.

Thank you for your prayers and support throughout 2024.

May all our church family have a very happy Christmas and a blessed 2025

#### Pat Muir

#### From our Children & Families Worker

Hi Church! What an incredible year it has been with you all at St. Columba's Hillhead Church. I cannot believe that a year has passed since I have started as the Children's and Families Worker here in Kirkintilloch!

Over the past year, I have really enjoyed getting to know each and every one of you! I can't thank you enough for all the encouragement and help I have received from you all as I got settled in Kirky. My deepest thanks to you all.

It is a joy to be involved in Little Fishes, Busy Bees and Noah's Ark each week. I do so look forward to seeing the children each time and getting to know them and their families. Please continue to pray for these groups, their volunteers and their families.

In August, we were able to start a new Scripture Union group at Kirkintilloch High School. This has been an incredible answer to prayer! I've been able to continue with a few pupils from Oxgang Primary SU and we have welcomed a few new SU members from Milton of Campsie as well as Kirkintilloch. I also am involved in the SU group at Oxgang Primary on a Friday after school. We have also seen numbers grow here! What an amazing answer to prayer it has been for both SU groups. Please keep us in your prayers as we prepare for the Strathkelvin Weekend Away in the springtime!

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. 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

## Christmas

There is a list of folks I know, all written in a book, And every year at Christmas time, I go and take a look. And that is when I realised, that these names are a part. Not of the book they're written in, but of my very own heart.

For each name stands for someone, who has touched my life sometime.

And in that meeting they become the Rhythm of the Rhyme. I really feel I'm composed of each remembered name. My life is so much better than it was before you came.

For once you have known someone, the years cannot erase. The memory of a pleasant word, or of a friendly face. So never think my Christmas cards are just a mere routine. Of names upon a list, forgotten in between. For when I send a Christmas card, that is addressed to you. It is because your on the list of folks I'm indebted too.

And whether I've known you, for many years of few. In some way you've had a part of shaping things I do. So every year when Christmas comes I just realise anew The biggest gift that God can give, is knowing folks like you

Carol Johnston

# **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 till 11:30am on Fridays. As the church magazine goes to print, we are looking forward to a Ladies Craft Evening for Mums/Grans/Carers and Helpers on Wed 20th November. Thank you so much to everyone who is helping with that. We do appreciate our teams of helpers, and we know what they do 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.

We are looking forward to Christmas with Christmas crafts and singing, and then our Christmas parties on 18th Dec (Busy Bees) and 20th Dec (Little Fishes)! 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.



# 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 through to 1130am. It is lovely to have Noah's Ark children as part of the service from time to time and we are keen to continue this. Noah's Ark has lots of toys and playing but also Bible stories, crafts and songs. We have been learning about David and Goliath and how the Bible tells us how much God loves us.

Thank you to Tom and Moira who helped Noah's Ark plant bulbs in the church garden. We look forward to seeing them grow!

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

# The Churches Walk and Talk Group

The Walk and Talk group continue to meet on Thursdays for light exercise and good conversation. Walks are generally around 3 miles long, last about an hour, and are circular where possible. Start times are usually at 1:30pm but may be slightly earlier if there is an 'out of area' walk where a short car journey is needed first. Please note that normally at least ¾ of our walkers arrive by car and are happy to provide transport for non-car users where required.

Details of walks are available in the notice sheet on Sunday mornings. There is a WhatsApp group for those who walk regularly and information about the walks is also provided by the WhatsApp group. If you would like to join in one of the walks, then just turn up at the start location and you'll be warmly welcomed!

If you have any other questions, do get in touch with:

Trevor Patterson (St Mary's Church), who will be pleased to hear from you (trevor\_patterson@outlook.com).

# **MAF** (Mission Aviation Fellowship)

# Water changes lives - MAF Pilot Daniel Loewen-Rudgers

In northern Kenya, access to clean water is a daily struggle and water sources are often contaminated. The risk of waterborne diseases like cholera is ever-present, and the people here have endured several outbreaks due to the scarcity of safe drinking water. The situation is made worse by conflicts over these limited water sources and the worsening effects of climate change.

But on that day in Loglogo – after I'd taken off – something extraordinary happened. As the team demonstrated how to use the water filters, the villagers watched in awe as murky, dirty water was transformed into crystal-clear, drinkable water.

The look of sheer joy and relief on their faces was something the team told me they'd never forget. Many of them called the team 'angels sent from heaven,' and they could see in the people's eyes just how much these simple devices meant to them.

Marcus from Water Matters Sweden, who led the team, expressed what we were all feeling: 'MAF's commitment to reaching the most remote locations makes all the difference. Together, we're not just delivering filters; we're delivering life.' Thanks to this collaboration, we've been able to provide clean water to 17 villages, benefiting around 2,000 people. It's incredible to think about the impact this will have — not just in terms of health, but in boosting education, empowering women and children, and strengthening communities.

These flights remind me that we're not just pilots – we're a lifeline to those who need it most. And I'm committed to continuing this work, knowing that every flight makes a world of difference.

# **Graham Inglis**

# MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship) cont'd





#### Letter from the Editor

We have now transferred our 'Lines' and are members of New St Andrew's Parish Church in Coatbridge. John says "We are future proofing" for when he will be unable to drive, as the church is only a 10 to 15 minute walk from our home.

New St Andrew's Parish Church was opened in 1839 as Gartsherrie Parish Church for the benefit of the workers and their families, employed by Wm Baird & Co. Ironmasters.

"St Andrew's is a red sandstone Gothic revival church with steeple and clock tower, by architects Scott Stephen & Gale of Glasgow. It is Grade B listed. The church occupies a commanding site with a large graveyard just a short walk uphill from the town centre at the top of Church Street. It has a very fine organ by Willis 1870, which was thoroughly renovated in 1937 with some additional stops. Stained glass in the entrance vestibule is by Alfred Webster 1912."

In 1993 it became St Andrew's following a union with nearby Dunbeth and Maxwell Churches. (Interesting fact? We were married on the 19th September 1969 by the Minister from Maxwell Church and our first child Gavin was christened there. Robin, David and Kate were all christened in St Columba's.) Both churches have since been repurposed as homes and are now flats.

In October 2008 St Andrew's united with Clifton Church and became New St Andrew's Parish Church, Coatbridge.

Currently New St Andrew's is undergoing another union as part of the 'Presbytery Plan'. The proposal is, as I understand it, for six local church parishes to be combined into one, centred on New St Andrew's Parish.

#### Letter from the Editor (cont'd)

We moved from Coatbridge to Kirkintilloch in July 1971 and remained there until October 2023 when we returned to Coatbridge, where we both grew up, met at school, got engaged and then married. We joined St Columba's and all our children went to Sunday School, joined the Boys Brigade and Girls Brigade where they were encouraged to thrive and grow physically and spiritually. John attended church when he could, as he was usually working weekends and nightshifts on the Railway, until in later years he was able to get more involved and use some of his engineering and organising(bossing!) skills, in and around the church.

Being members of St Columba's benefited our family in many ways throughout the years due to our Faith and membership within the extended family of Columba's Parish Church.

We are enjoying being close to our younger grandchildren, hearing about their exploits and watching them grow up as they pass on their way to and from school every day. They are also attending church with us as part of Sunday School and Guides.

Thank you to all at St. Columba's Hillhead for your support and kindness over the years. John and I wish you all the very best for the Christmas season and for the future.

God Bless Margaret & John Clayton



# CAFE

**CRAFTS - REFRESHMENTS - GAMES** 

NOV 30<sup>th</sup>

2-4 PM

JOIN US FOR A CHRISTMAS CAFE! FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

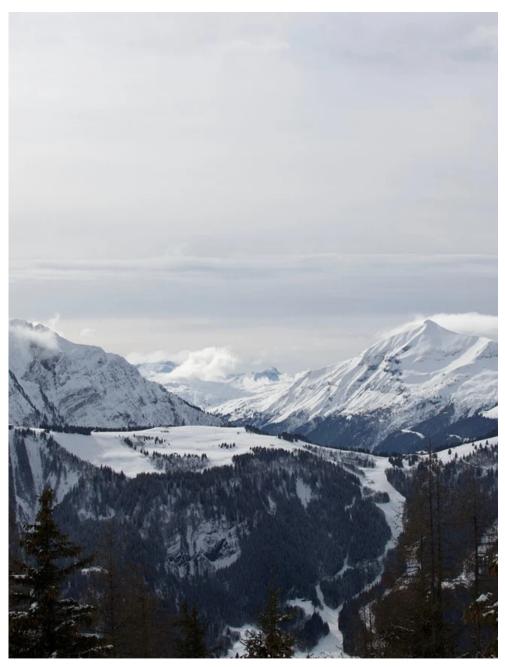
# 4-4:30 PM

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON WITH A
SPECIAL PERFORMANCE BY
THE OXGANG PRIMARY SCHOOL CHOIR

ST. COLUMBA'S HILLHEAD CHURCH OLD AISLE ROAD, KIRKINTILLOCH G66 3HQ

# Flower Rota 2024/2025

Donation	Delivery		
December 2024			
<ul><li>June Larwood</li><li>The Swann Family</li><li>22</li><li>29</li></ul>	Mr & Mrs B Ashcroft Mr & Mrs I Muir Joan Beattie Moira French Joan Beattie		
January			
5 12 Mrs J Reid 19 Mr & Mrs F McCallum 26 Mr G Smith	Glenys Swann June Larwood Gilbert French Janet Brown		
February			
<ul><li>2 Mrs Louise Huggan</li><li>9 Mrs Lydia Ramsay</li><li>16 Mr &amp; Mrs J Clayton</li><li>23 Mrs C Trail</li></ul>	Mr & Mrs B Ashcroft Mr & Mrs I Muir Joan Beattie Moira French		
March			
<ul> <li>2 Mrs Joan Beattie</li> <li>9 Mr &amp; Mrs T Sinclair</li> <li>16 Rev Jim Ferguson</li> <li>23 Mrs Margaret Boyle</li> <li>30 Mrs Anne Inglis</li> </ul>	Julie Reid Glenys Swann June Larwood Gilbert French Janet Brown		



**God's Beautiful Winter World** 

# **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"