

St. Columba's Hillhead Church Magazine



Welcome to Kirkintilloch St Columba's Hillhead Church



Summer 2025

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

In just a short time, we look forward to being back worshipping in the sanctuary at St Columba's Hillhead on Sunday mornings. It has been a significant project to install a new electric radiant heating system in the sanctuary. I am glad that by choosing an electric system, we will reduce our 'carbon footprint' as a church.

We are very fortunate to have had an alternative venue for Sunday morning worship in the Large Hall over this time. It is bright, warm and spacious. It has a good sound system. We are very grateful to those who have set up and cleared up week by week (including moving the large TV), so that we can continue to worship together on a Sunday morning.

I have enjoyed meeting in the Large Hall Sunday by Sunday. I know others have too. It has been easy to adapt the space when we have been joined by Noah's Ark. The singing has been excellent as we have sat closer to one another. Sometimes, we've found ourselves sitting next to folks we don't know so well. That is no bad thing.

It has also been a great demonstration of the truth that we read in Scripture: *'For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them'* (Matthew 18:20). There are many more than two or three of us gathering each week, but we have sensed the Lord's presence with us as we have worshipped Him together.

As we move back to worshipping in the sanctuary, we do so with a fresh realisation that the church is primarily a people, brought together in Jesus, and not a place. Let us strive then in the days ahead to *'build one another up'* in our faith in the Lord Jesus (1 Thessalonians 5:11).

*The Church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is his new creation,
By water and the word;
From Heav'n he came and sought her
To be his holy bride;
With his own blood he bought her,
And for her life he died.*

**Your minister and friend,
Philip**

The Church Family



Deaths

It is with great sadness that we record the deaths of Jane Doyle and Robert Edgar. We give thanks to God for them. 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.

Thank You

Thank you very much for the flowers and cards, which I received after my replacement knee operation.

I am out and about now and will be able to return to play golf in July!!

Thank you again for your kind thoughts.

Rita Powell

Membership

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

Prayer at St Columba's Hillhead

It is good to see demand increase for the monthly church prayer diary. This continues to be available every month at the Sunday and Midweek Services. It can also be downloaded from the church website, www.kirkintillochstcolumbas.org.uk Please be aware that, similar to last year, we will issue a 'summer prayer diary' that will cover the months of July and August.

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 a great tool for helping us do that. Please do take a copy of the prayer diary each month to pray through at home during the month.

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.

All our prayers, spoken and unspoken, as well as our 'amens' to the prayers of others, are heard alike by our Heavenly Father.

Sunday Club

It is great to have Sunday Club with us for the early part of the regular Sunday morning service. We're very grateful to Vicky and Cassie and others who lead and help at Sunday Club week by week. In recent weeks, Sunday Club has been learning about the Life of Moses, the Life of Solomon and Paul's Missionary Journeys. We look forward to an All Age Service on Sunday 22nd June when we will also have Sunday Club and Noah's Ark Prizegiving.

Over the summer holidays, from Sunday 29th June to Sunday 3rd August, we will have age-appropriate activities for primary aged children within the sanctuary each week. On Sunday 10th August, there will be an All Age 'Getting Ready for School' service. Then, on 17th August, Sunday Club will restart, ready for a new session!

Midweek Service

Each week during school term time, we continue to meet for the 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. Many 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 25th June. The Midweek Service will restart on Wednesday 20th August.

The Guild

Here we are, looking forward to the new session of the Guild. I am especially looking forward to the new session as I am the new Convenor for the next few years, as Gilbert has decided to retire from the job. I used to be the Convener at Hillhead and enjoyed it very much and I am looking forward to working with the committee. We have already met to discuss the new Syllabus and it looks very interesting. The ladies from Hillhead were welcomed and made to feel at home by every one at St Columba's, so as we move on, I wish every one a happy summer and to come back and feel refreshed.

Thank you and God Bless,
Carol Johnston

The Guild (Cont'd)

For the last four years I have had the honour and privilege of being the Project Convenor for our Guild.

So please see below a list of the Past and Present Projects our Guild has been involved with. **Gilbert French**

Projects - 1st June 2021 to 31st Mar 2025

PROJECT	National Total Raised
BEAT (There is Hope - UK.)	£89,444.48
Pioneers (Chocolate Heaven - South East Asia)	£72,181.52
Star Child (Finding a Light in every Child - Uganda)	£97,214.98
Vine Trust (Kazuznuvillage of hope - Tanzania)	£104,339.31
Home for Good (A home for good - Scotland)	£119,612.75
Unida (Hear our voice - Brazil)	£70,575.36

Projects - 2025 to 2027 (Let Us Build A House)

Project Figures from 1st January to 30 April 2025

Bear Necessities (Build my Church - Bulgaria)	£10,557.44
Release International (Operation Hope - Egypt)	£12,128.20
Scottish Bible Society (Bibles for Bairns - Scotland)	£15,372.26
Crossreach (Playful Beginnings - Scotland)	£18,689.50

The Guild (cont'd)



**LET US
BUILD A
HOUSE**

BIBLES FOR BAIRNS



Fewer than half of 0-2-year-olds are read to every day. We want to help change that.

Reading to young children helps them feel safe and loved. It builds self-esteem, grows their vocabulary, and fires their imagination. Reading the Bible can help bring a family together and closer to God.

Our vision is to offer every baby born in Scotland a free 'Share a Story' toddler Bible on their first birthday. Every birthday after that, until age five, we will send a Bible related gift. On their fifth birthday each child will receive an early reader Bible to take them through their primary school years. The Bible gifts are wrapped by volunteers each month and an individual birthday card is written to every child. Before each package is posted we pray over them, knowing that God cares for these children and their families.

This program costs just £50 per family for the five years and means that from a child's earliest memories and through their school years, the greatest stories from the Bible will play a part in shaping their lives. Our aim is to register up to 1000 babies per year, with the cumulative cost per year reaching £50k.

BUILD MY CHURCH



"Build My Church" is a project inspired by the work of the tiny Scottish Charity, Bear Necessities for Bulgaria.

Thirteen years ago Bear Necessities began supporting the children of a small, primarily gypsy village in rural Bulgaria to attend school. Currently, Bear Necessities operate a soup kitchen and medical clinic, and provide winter boots to all school aged children in the village, as well as a few other key projects, and have been doing this with the support of Ilumen Garashov, a local minister.

This project "Build My Church" will work with Ilumen to plant a church at the centre

**PROJECTS
2025 - 2027**

The Guild (cont'd)

of the large residential district of the city of Sliven. We want that church to have a truly holistic approach, meaning it will offer services for teaching and worship and prayer, but in time the vision is for the church to also provide free access to health care, food for the hungry, and training and support for the leadership of other churches in the district.

OPERATION HOPE



Egypt is home to the largest Christian minority in the Middle East with around 10-12% of the population professing faith in Jesus. However, as a minority they face varying levels of discrimination and suffer poverty and lack of education, especially in the more rural areas of Upper Egypt. In local disputes with their neighbours, Christians are often blamed regardless of fault and in some cases have been forced to leave their homes.

Working with a local partner, Release International's Operation Hope project serves Christian communities in Upper Egypt helping those who are facing extreme poverty and marginalisation. Families are provided with basic living needs such as beds, toilet facilities, kitchen appliances, food, and funds to help with construction of their homes. The project also helps families to establish micro-businesses so they can begin to support themselves, and it provides psychological and spiritual care through regular visits and discipleship programmes.

The Operation Hope project aims to support 2,000 people in around 100 villages in Upper Egypt each year.

Through the Guild's generous support multiple practical needs will be met; poverty will be alleviated, the impact of persecution and marginalisation will be reduced, Christian families will be assured of their value and given opportunities to build a future, and ultimately the wider Christian community in Upper Egypt will be established, strengthened, and enabled to flourish.

PLAYFUL BEGINNINGS



Working together for these three years, let's build a house that lays a strong foundation for vulnerable families.

Together we will support families at Sunflower Garden in Edinburgh and Daisy Chan in Glasgow.

A child's early years can have an impact that lasts a lifetime. The Guild's support will ensure infants have the best possible start in life by developing strong, positive relationships between parents and children. With the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the cost of living crisis, parents are presenting to us with more trauma and distress than at any other time. Demand, and the need for your help, is greater than ever.

Research shows that parents who attend to their own emotional and psychological needs are in a better position to respond to their infants' cues and engage with them in positive ways. The Guild will support specialist perinatal therapy with on-site support at Sunflower Garden. The team there delivers Parent and Infant Relationship Therapy. Parents can access their counselling sessions while leaving their baby in trusted hands.

Daisy Chan is a community based, inclusive, early intervention project for children under 12 and their families. With your support, the team will work to improve children's health and wellbeing through play and nurture. Your help will strengthen family relationships and support families to become more resilient. Children with disabilities, from deprived backgrounds and facing home challenges can thrive here.

Christian Aid Report Summer 2025

This year is the 80th anniversary of Christian Aid which was set up at the end of World War II to help alleviate the suffering of displaced families throughout Europe. The charity has gone on to help many poor and disadvantaged communities throughout the world. It works through local partner organisations in order to provide the most effective help to those in need. At the time of writing it is Christian Aid Week 2025 and this year the charity is supporting indigenous communities in Guatemala a country where it has been working for 48 years. Climate change is causing many of the staple crops to fail and Christian Aid is working through its partner Congcoop to train the small indigenous farmers, who are mostly women, to plant drought resistant crops and use different farming methods to combat the effects of the changing climate. So far this week St. Columba's Hillhead have raised £385.00 towards this work and the final total raised will be reported in the next issue of the magazine.

At the end of April the annual Christian Aid Service was held at Hillhead Church and we had a very interesting talk and video by Charlie Meiklejohn from the Christian Aid Head Office about Aurelia one of the indigenous farmers and her family and community.

Mary and I took part last Friday evening 16th May in a fund raising event, Kool Kurling, held at Lenzie Old Parish to raise funds for CA Week. It was good fun but unfortunately we didn't win the medal and chocolate bar prize!

More information on the work of Christian Aid can be found on their website.

Geraldine Fox.

The Men's Group

The session was rounded off with our dinner at Hayston Golf Club and the presentation of our hotly contested games trophies. Philip was there as our guest and to present the awards to a varied range of winners. We were delighted, too, that we were able to welcome back John Clayton and Murray Scott, both of whom have recently moved away from Kirkintilloch.

The men resume after the summer on Monday, 6th October, when we look forward to hopefully welcoming a few new members. It will be interesting, too, to see what new colour of crown our President decides to wear when addressing all the members on our opening night!

Ian Gibb (Sec.)

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.

1st Kirkintilloch Company

Anchor Section

Since our last newsletter article, the boys have been busy completing their badge work, and I am pleased to report that each one of them has achieved their respective award.

In addition to the usual activities, we discussed Lent and its connection with the temptation of Jesus in the desert. We created Easter-themed tea light holders, which the boys decorated and took home.

One of the requirements is that the boys engage in adventurous activities, so we took advantage of the fair weather and visited Merkland Nature Reserve, where they built shelters from fallen branches. Some structures were more sturdy than others, but everyone participated actively, including the staff who assisted in gathering materials.

We also commemorated VE Day by making medals to celebrate the occasion. The boys had fun with this craft and we have posted pictures of this and the den building on our Facebook page so why not give us a look.

Our session concluded on 16th May with a celebratory awards night. Parents were invited to join us, offering them a glimpse into the activities and achievements of the boys throughout the year. The staff were thrilled with the wonderful turnout of parents and friends who came to support the event. However, it must be said that some parents found themselves unexpectedly participating in the games, much to the amusement of everyone present.

Each year, we have the honour of selecting the best boy in each age group—a decision based on attendance, behaviour, personal development, and enthusiasm for being an integral part of the Boys' Brigade.

Anchor Section (cont'd)

This year's outstanding boys are:

- 1st Year: Blake Rooker
- 2nd Year: Callan Graham
- 3rd Year: Ben McCracken

A heartfelt congratulations to these boys for their remarkable efforts, which have not gone unnoticed. It was a fitting end to a busy, rewarding season, and we look forward to creating even more memories in the year ahead.

While the awards night on the 16th of May marked the official end of our session, the adventure didn't stop there. The very next day, 15 boys joined us for the Battalion annual trip to Heads of Ayr Farm Park. A total of 77 officers and boys participated in the event, ensuring it was a day full of laughter and fun. Scotland surprised us with its splendid weather—blue skies and wall-to-wall sunshine, a rare treat indeed!

Our journey began bright and early at 8:15am, and after an action-packed day of exploring the farm park, we returned home at 6:00pm with 15 exhausted boys and 3 officers who were, by all accounts, even more tired. It was worth every moment to see the joy and excitement on the boys' faces as they experienced the park's attractions. If you'd like to see glimpses of the fun, don't forget to check out our Facebook page, where we've shared some wonderful photographs to capture the memories.

As we wind down from such a fulfilling session, Lorna, Margaret, and I are taking a well-deserved rest until September, when the fun begins anew. In the meantime, we'd like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported us throughout the year. Your encouragement has been invaluable, and we hope that you'll keep us in your prayers during these coming months. Wishing each of you a fantastic summer filled with sunshine and joy!

Junior Section

As the session draws to a close, the Junior Section reflects on a year filled with achievements, adventure, and unforgettable memories.

This year has been marked by remarkable progress in badge work, with every member successfully completing their badges—a testament to the dedication and enthusiasm shown by both the boys and their leaders.

A special congratulations goes to Archie Low and Taylor Rooker, who have earned the prestigious Gold Awards. Their commitment and hard work have set a shining example for their peers.

Our membership numbers have remained strong, fostering a vibrant and energetic environment. The boys have enjoyed countless fun-filled activities, from engaging indoor and outdoor games, Pancake Making, Arts, Crafts and Bible Stories, Paddling in the Luggie, to the fantastic Strathkelvin Battalion trip to Heads of Ayr Farm Park—a definite highlight that brought smiles and laughter to all who attended.

However, this session is bittersweet as we bid farewell to seven of our nine boys who are moving up to the Company Section. Though it's sad to see them go, we are excited to welcome seven new faces from the Anchors, ensuring the spirit of the Junior Section continues to thrive. We wish the 7 boys' moving up to Company Section every success!

Thanks to all the parents, leaders and boys' whose contributions have been invaluable throughout the year. Your encouragement and involvement have made this session an outstanding success.

Have a fantastic summer and a well deserved rest!

We look forward to another exciting year ahead and can't wait to see everyone on the first Friday in September 2025. Here's to more badges, more adventures, and more memories with 1st Kirkintilloch Junior Section!

Junior Section (cont'd)



David, Ross, Matthew and all the Boys'

Company Section

Shortly before the clock's went forward, we went for a nighttime hike round Lenzie Moss. We had hoped to do a bit of star gazing, but an overcast sky meant that the only celestial body we saw was the moon. On the plus side though it didn't rain for which we were all grateful.

The recent spell of dry weather has given us the opportunity to get out and about and make use of the Luggie Park earlier in the year than usual. In addition, we delved into Kirkintilloch's history with a walk round the town centre starting at the Memorial Gates, walking through Peel Park, visiting the band stand and drinking fountain, checking out the price list on the West Bar Tollhouse, checking out Hillhead Basin and the aqueduct, Lion Foundry, shipbuilding , red telephone boxes, the line of the Roman Wall and the Auld Kirk.

On Red Nose Day everyone was asked to tell a joke and participate in a Lego challenge. As well as a bit of fun we looked at what the charity was trying to achieve and who would benefit. We were delighted to make a donation of £100.

Around the 80th Anniversary of VE Day we looked at some of the characters involved and considered the relief and jubilation that would have been experienced in 1945 but remembering that the war in the far east was not over until the atomic bombs were dropped on Japan.

Looking forward we are planning to continue our activities until the end of June. Activities under consideration are a mini hill walk up Bar Hill in Twechar, a visit to laser quest or climbing wall, 10 pin bowling, finishing up with a barbeque.

Four of the boys and an officer will be going to the Strathkelvin Battalion Weekend Camp near Blackpool and we hope they have an enjoyable time there and that the weather is kind to them.

Wishing all our readers a wonderful summer.

Finally, the BB will have its usual stall at the Gala Day, 14th June.

Allan Geekie and all the Team.



5th Kirkintilloch Brownies

2025 has been a busy year for the Brownies.

Seven Brownies gained their Bronze Award this year. 6 hours of unit meeting activities, 3 skill builders and two interest badges have to be earned to get a Bronze Award, we are very proud of all the girls who completed it.

Back in February we celebrated Thinking Day with a special event at Hillhead Halls. Rainbows and Brownies learned more about the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. Sunny weather on 22nd February let us have our treasure hunt outside.

In March we visited Glasgow Science Centre. We had a great day out which of course ended with a trip to the gift shop.

Good weather again let us have an easter egg hunt outside before we finished for the Easter holidays.

In May we attended the Catterburn Carnival. This fun day was held at our County campsite. The climbing wall, learning to make a circuit board, the inflatables, toasting marshmallows and candyfloss were the favourites.

And finally in June we are looking forward to going back to Catterburn for the County Brownie Camp. We will have the experience of sleeping in a tent, cook on a campfire, learn woodcraft skills. We are hoping the good weather will continue.

We hope everyone has a fun summer.

Lynne Semple

Friendship Club

We continue to meet on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month and are really enjoying hearing of how God's wonderful world was created. We looked at what He created on each of the six days and how He rested on the seventh. Our visual interpretation can be seen on the noticeboard in the small hall.

Following Jesus Group

This group meets on the first Wednesday of each month and are thinking about 'Forgiveness'. Everyone now agrees that we should have no limit on how many times we forgive each other - Matthew 18:22.

Sponsored Walk

Both groups took part in this walk in aid of Prospects Across Scotland. Indeed absolutely everyone helped with this venture, raising £1757.70. A big thank you to all who sponsored us.

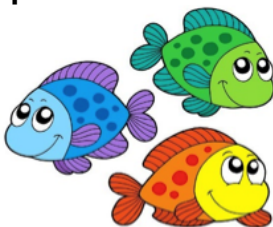
2024 - 2025

This has been a really good year for us as we have been blessed with new, much needed, help from Susan, Moira and Angela who have all settled in to our unpredictable Wednesday evenings. We stop in June for the summer break with our annual trip with the Seagull Trust - fish and chips to eat en route.

Thanks to all our church family for your support, love and prayers.

Pat Muir

Church Toddler Groups



Little Fishes has had a lovely year. We have welcomed back well kent faces and it has been great to have new families too. It has been so nice to have a good chat with a cup of tea or coffee while the toddlers are playing.



Busy Bees on Wednesdays 10-11.30 is going great! We regularly have 30 children at both groups. The teams at Little Fishes and Busy Bees are very grateful for the support and interest of the church in all we do. We do ask for your prayers for a welcoming and kind environment for the families who come, safety especially at coffee time and for the team each week.

Little Fishes at St Columba's is just drop-in during school term but there is now a waiting list for Busy Bees at Hillhead on Wednesdays. If you know anyone who would like to come then please do contact Cassie on 07546 774453 for either group, Gill on 07934460752 for Little Fishes (Fridays) or June on 07854599330 for Busy Bees (Wednesdays).



Noah's Ark Sunday Toddler Group

Noah's Ark is a smaller group on Sunday mornings during the church service 10.30 -11.30 but we are always glad to see families who come a bit earlier too! We enjoy Bible stories, craft, singing and prayers alongside lots of toys and a cup of tea. It is great to see our toddlers growing up into big boys and girls now and welcoming new wee ones too.

More details of the church's toddler ministry can also be found on the facebook page:

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

Gill Wright

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 15th June. The second 'Songs of Praise' event will take place at 6:30pm at the Hillhead Halls on Sunday 29th June. All are very welcome to either or both of these events.

The Churches Walk and Talk Group

The Walk and Talk group has combined friendly conversation with gentle walks around Kirkintilloch, Lenzie and Waterside since 2022. The pace is suitable for all ages, most fitness levels and all are welcome. There is no membership involved in Walk and Talk 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 the locations below on the appropriate date and we will be delighted to see you. Unless stated otherwise the walks start at 1:30pm on Thursday afternoons, last approximately one hour, and the start points and routes vary.

The walks on 26th June, 31st July and 28th August will be outside of the local areas. On these dates the meeting point shall be St Columba's Hillhead Church at 1:15pm. ***Please note the earlier time.*** A car sharing operation will take place. Please be aware 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.

Upcoming Walks

5t June	Merkland Nature Park
12 June	Ellisland Drive
19 June	Donaldson Street (including coffee stop at the Stables)
26 June of Campsie)	St Columba's (1:15pm for transport to Milton)
3 July	Kilsyth Road
10 July	Lenzie Co-op
17 July	Kirkintilloch Leisure Centre
24 July	Donaldson Street (walk along Christine's Way)
31 July Broadwood Loch)	St Columba's (1:15pm for transport to)
7 August	Hillhead Basin
14 August Kirkintilloch)	St Columba's (including coffee stop in)

The Churches Walk and Talk Group (Cont'd)

21 August	Waterside Bridge
28 August	St Columba's (1:15pm for transport to Auchinstarry Quarry)
4 September	Merkland Nature Park

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

Interim Moderator Duties

Our minister, Rev Philip Wright, has been Interim Moderator at Lenzie Old Parish Church since 1st May 2023. On 1st June 2025, Philip's time at Lenzie Old came to an end and he moved to being Interim Moderator at Lenzie Union Parish Church. Rev Julie Hearty, who is currently Assistant Minister at Lenzie Old has now also become Interim Moderator there. Both Lenzie Old and Lenzie Union are currently vacant as the two churches work towards an anticipated union in accordance with the Glasgow Presbytery mission plan.

KESWICK CONVENTION

The Convention was first held in 1875 when a few hundred Christians first met on a vicarage lawn in Keswick. Since then, across multiple generations, the Convention has seen 150 years of lives transformed in Christ.

Today a wonderful opportunity still exists to join with thousands of believers in worship and discipleship in the beautiful setting of the Lake District. The Convention has now grown to include what was the old Pencil Factory site in the town and last year saw more than 12,500 adults and children attended, with activities and age appropriate sessions for all. More and more families each year enjoy the thriving Kids & Youth programme.

The Convention is incredibly costly to run with outstanding international speakers, musicians, technical team etc, not to mention hundreds of volunteer helpers, all having to be fed and accommodated, but is still offered to everyone free, though collections are taken and donations are regularly provided.

The Convention is over 3 weeks in July/August and people are able to attend for as long as they wish. We have friends who will be there for the first fortnight, whereas we will only be there for the last 4 days. Daytime will see us enjoying the local scenery but the evenings will be spent sharing worship with 3000 others in the huge marquee, where we will benefit from wonderful preaching and uplifting music and singing. Sharing Communion with 3000 others is always a particularly moving experience.

A wee holiday in Keswick this summer might do you a world of good! We can commend it to you wholeheartedly.

Ian & Marilyn Gibb

Children and Family Worker

Hi Church! So much has been happening in the children's ministry for the past few months! Here's a quick recap:

Easter time was full of activities for the children! Little Fishes and Busy Bees toddler groups enjoyed their Easter parties (alongside Easter books and many sweets)! I was also able to be at both Oxbang Primary and Hillhead Primary Easter assemblies to see the children and hear their lovely Easter songs. Speaking of Oxbang Primary, we were able to run a new 2-hour long Easter workshop called "The Easter Code" with the P7s this year. This workshop brought the children through a series of stations that explained the story and significance of Easter all the way from the birth of Jesus to Easter Sunday! The pupils were incredibly interactive, and I do believe everyone (teachers included) had a great time. We have received lots of positive feedback from the school and volunteers as well. Praise God for such an answer to prayer!

I was also happy to organize our Easter Cafe children's programme. The children (and parents!) enjoyed the Easter egg hunt, prizes, Easter story trail and games! Thank you to Maryan for organizing the children's crafts - I must say they were incredible! I would also like to thank all who were so willing to help with the children's programme, whether it be crafts, prize table, games or story trail, your help was very much appreciated not only by myself but everyone who came to the cafe!

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.

I am also involved in the Scripture Union groups at both Oxbang Primary School and Kirkintilloch High School. Both groups have a steady number of pupils attending and we really look forward to being with them each week. In March, I took a few pupils from both the primary and secondary schools to an SU Weekend Away at Lendrick Muir. All pupils who attended had a wonderful time and are already packing for next year (or so I've been told)!

Children and Family Worker

Please keep me and the other leaders of these groups in your prayers that we might finish this year out strong and be able to bring in new pupils in the coming term.

Finally, please keep all the volunteers 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 incredible 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!

Cassie

Church Cycle Ride and BBQ

Sunday Club is planning a cycle ride, walk and BBQ on the afternoon of Sunday 22nd June.

We hope 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 22nd 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! Please be aware that you do not need to have walked or cycled earlier in the afternoon in order to come to the BBQ!

The Sunday Club cycle ride, walk and BBQ have been great opportunities for fun and fellowship in previous years. We very much hope this will be the case again this year!

MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship)



King Charles unveils new plane

As part of MAF's ongoing 80th anniversary celebrations this year, King Charles unveiled MAF's latest addition to its fleet at RAF Northolt in West London. The new Cessna 208 Caravan will serve Papua New Guinea's most isolated people in the coming months.

On 3 April 2025, His Majesty King Charles III revealed the new aircraft to an excited audience at MAF's special [80th anniversary](#) event at RAF Northolt – the Royal Air Force's oldest airbase in the UK.

MAF's global fleet now comprises 118 aircraft thanks to the generosity of a UK based charitable trust. This latest plane will serve the remotest communities of Papua New Guinea (PNG) – a commonwealth country where the charity has been operating since 1951.

It was a double celebration given that PNG marks 50 years of independence this year.

MAF (cont'd)

Host MAF UK CEO Donovan Palmer invited the King to press a big red button, the shiny new Cessna 208 Caravan came into view as the hangar door lifted behind him.

MAF pilot Joseph Tua has worked in PNG since 2019 where MAF has its largest programme.

Joseph – who will fly the new plane to serve his own people – proudly wore his country's ceremonial face paint for the occasion. He was particularly excited to meet the King – a fellow pilot who had learnt to fly with the Royal Air Force.

Graham Inglis

Moving House

My husband John and I both grew up in Coatbridge in the 1950's & 60's. We met at Secondary School and during this time we went around in a group of like minded pupils, which included going to what we called then 'Record Hops', the fore runner of Discos. They were usually held in local Church Halls such as Garturk Church in Whifflet, where John asked me to dance. We married in 1969 and our first son Gavin was born in 1970 at Bellshill Maternity. At that time we lived in an upstairs Council Flat in the Greenhill area of Coatbridge.

We bought our first home in Muirside Avenue, Kirkintilloch in the summer of 1971 where three more children, Robin, David and Kate, were born via Stobhill Maternity. During early 1991 we moved house again, this time to Iona Way into the residence of Elizabeth Laing a former St. Columba's Church Secretary. Our daughter Kate was 10 at the time and all the children wanted to stay in the same area, see their pals and go to the same schools. Our sons and daughter all attended the various organisations within St Columba's and the family had a lovely life in Kirkintilloch. Now they are all grown up and parents themselves. Two of our sons moved to Coatbridge with their families, so John and I decided to sell our house in Kirkintilloch and move back to Coatbridge within the same area, to be close to our youngest grandchildren and see them growing up. We are both now members of New St. Andrews Church, which we can walk to, however currently under the latest Presbytery Plan it looks like this church will be known as 'Coatbridge Parish' church, being a combination of at least six other churches in the area. Currently these negotiations are ongoing but moving forward!

We miss Kirkintilloch and have very fond memories of the area, especially St Columba's Hillhead and we will always keep in touch with our friends from there and wish everyone health, wealth and happiness going forward.

Your Editor
Margaret Clayton

Flower Rota 2025

Donation

Delivery

June 2025

1 Janet Brown & Mr & Mrs G. Kidd
8 Mrs Rita Powell
15 Mr J Stewart & Mrs M Aitken
22 Mrs M Rogerson
29

Moira French
Mrs Julie Reid
Glenys Swann
June Larwood
Gilbert French

July

6 Mrs C Moore
13 Mrs J Connell
20 Mr T Nelson
27 Mrs I Kernochan

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

August

3 Mr & Mrs N Bathie
10 Mrs M Blair
17 Sunday Club
24 Mrs I Davies
31

Glenys Swann
June Larwood
Gilbert French
Mr & Mrs I Muir
Mrs Joan Beattie

September

7 Boys Brigade
14 Mrs I Perry
21 Mrs D Morgan
28 Mrs A McKelvie

Moira French
Mrs Julie Reid
Glenys Swann
June Larwood

SERVICES

Sunday Morning Service 10.30am

**Now livestreamed on
(www.kirkintillochstcolumbas.org.uk)**

OR

A recording is available on YouTube (St Columba's Church Kirkintilloch) from 3pm.

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"**