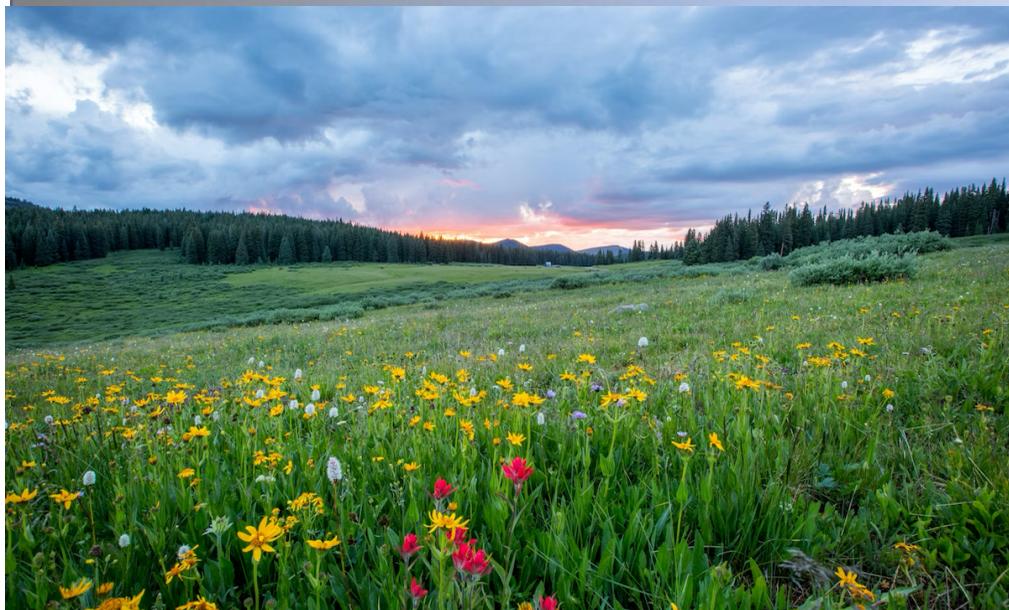


St. Columba's Hillhead Church Magazine



Welcome to Kirkintilloch St Columba's Hillhead Church



Spring 2026

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

At the beginning of February, I was glad to attend a 3-day Church of England Conference with the engaging name, 'Leading your Church into Growth'. It was great that two of our elders, Graham Inglis and Lynne Semple, could also attend. We were grateful to be given a grant from the Church of Scotland Seeds for Growth fund which covered all our costs, including travel to the Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick, Derbyshire.

We look forward to sharing some of what we learned in the coming weeks and months. In this edition of the church magazine, there is a note on an 'Invitation Sunday' we are holding on Sunday 10 May (please do read it and take note!). That idea came about before we attended the conference, but we have been greatly encouraged to move forward with it based on what we heard.

Many of us are familiar with Jesus' words at the start of the book of Acts: *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.* Acts 1:8.

These are certainly inspiring words. They are also a promise that we do not witness to Jesus on our own. We have God's Holy Spirit to help us. And yet, we may well feel out of our 'comfort zone' in sharing our faith in Jesus – if indeed we feel able to try at all.

Part of this is probably down to a lack of practice. We often get better at the things we do more often. Sometimes getting started is the hardest thing.

However, it's also helpful to recognise that God has gifted us in different ways. It may be that we're not gifted in sharing our faith in Jesus with a friend or family member. But we can let them know that we're a Christian. We can let them know that our life is the better for that. We can let them know we'll pray for them if there's something hard that they're facing in their life.

We can also invite them to come to church! Each one of us has a unique circle of friends and family members. For some of them, we may be the only Christian they know. That is a great responsibility. Let's be mindful of it. Let's prayerfully do what we can to point the people we know to Jesus.

**Your minister and friend,
Philip**

The Church Family



Deaths

It is with great sadness that we record the deaths of Chris Trail, Alistair Jardine and Jean McMillan. 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.

Membership

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

Sunday Club

We are so glad Sunday Club and Noah's Ark join with us in the church building for the first part of the Sunday Service. It is great to come together in this way as a church family to worship God. The new 'Little Lights' class for P1-3 is now well established with age-appropriate teaching and activities, whilst children from upper primary form an additional class. Sunday Club has been collecting for Mission Aviation Fellowship in recent weeks. We are thankful to Vicky and Cassie for leading Sunday Club. Please pray for them as they prepare and as they lead and teach week by week. We look forward to having Sunday Club with us for the whole service at our All Age Service on Easter Sunday.

Prayer at St Columba's Hillhead

The monthly church prayer diary continues to be available every month at the Sunday and Midweek Services. The church prayer diary is an excellent way of joining in daily prayer for the life and witness of the local church, for our mission partners, and for other matters nationally and worldwide. If you don't already make use of the church prayer diary, please do give serious consideration to joining in this ministry.

On Thursday evenings 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. We use the monthly prayer diary as a guide and prompt for our prayers. 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.

The Leprosy Mission

On 25th January, which was World Leprosy Mission Sunday, we welcomed Brian Crockett who is a representative for the Leprosy Mission. The children enjoyed his talk about Leprosy and we all enjoyed his sermon about his travels and work with the Mission. We were able to present him with a cheque for £100 during the service.

Since Brian's visit, I have received many donations and as a result of this I can now forward a further cheque for the sum of £250 to the Leprosy Mission. This includes a generous donation of £50 from Busy Bees.

With grateful thanks for all these donations and for your continued support of this very worthwhile cause, which is gratefully received.

Margaret

Holy Week and Easter Services

We are looking forward to sharing Holy Week Services this year with St Mary's and St David's Churches as in previous years. There will be services at 7:30pm on the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of Holy Week.

Wed 1 April

St David's

Thurs 2 April

St Mary's

Fri 3 April (Good Friday)

St Columba's Hillhead

Also on Good Friday, ACTS (Churches Together) Lenzie & Kirkintilloch is arranging a 'Walk for Witness' from Lenzie to Kirkintilloch. The walk will start at 10:15am from Lenzie Old Church, stop at Freeland Place at 11:00am and finish around noon in Kirkintilloch with a short service at St David's Church.

Our Easter Sunday Morning Service is an All Age Service. It will be held at St Columba's at 10:30am.

There is also a short service at 8am on Easter Sunday morning at the Hillhead Halls. This will be followed by a walk to St Mary's Church, with Bible readings and worship on the way, where there will be breakfast and worship.

Easter Café

We are delighted to be holding an Easter Café this year!

It will be at St Columba's between 2pm and 4pm on Good Friday (3 April). We look forward to a fun-filled afternoon for children and adults alike! As well as the Café, there will be Easter crafts and games for children. There will also be an Easter Egg Hunt for children.

There will be free books/literature to take home to help us think about the significance of Easter. We also plan to have an Easter Reflection, again to help bring home to us the meaning of Jesus' death on the cross for us. More details available nearer the time...

Please do support this event and invite family, friends and neighbours to join with us. Invitation flyers will be available shortly.

Invitation Sunday

A recent survey commissioned by the Bible Society in England and Wales and conducted by YouGov found that over a third of non-churchgoers said they would go to church if they were invited by a Christian friend. Even if some might not follow through on that intention, probably more people than we think would come to church – if we invited them. To that end, we are having an ‘Invitation Sunday’ on Sunday 10 May!

That gives us plenty of time to think about who we might invite to church on that day. Even more importantly, it gives us time to pray for them. We’ll be making some cards available soon that we can take away and write on them the names of up to 5 friends or family members we’ll commit to pray for and invite to church on ‘Invitation Sunday’. Please do take part in this initiative. After all, someone once shared the Good News about Jesus with us. It is our turn now to share it with others.

‘Warm Welcome’ and ‘Connect’

‘Warm Welcome’ continues to run week by week on Wednesday afternoons at Hillhead Halls. Everyone is welcome – come when you can and leave when you must! Warm Welcome is open from 1pm till 2:45pm. We serve soup and rolls as well as tea, coffee and biscuits. Around 1:45pm most Wednesdays we have a short ‘food for thought’ slot, where a thought is shared from a Christian perspective. Whilst numbers at ‘Warm Welcome’ have been a little lower in recent weeks, the conversation after (and during!) the ‘Food for Thought’ slot has often focussed on exploring what difference being a Christian makes to everyday life.

From 3 till 4pm on Wednesday afternoons, we have an after-school group ‘Connect’ for local children. We have a regular group of children who enjoy coming each week for games, activities, Bible stories and snacks. We are glad to be working in partnership with Kirkintilloch Baptist Church to serve the local community through Warm Welcome and ‘Connect’.

Please continue to pray for ‘Warm Welcome’ and ‘Connect’ week by week as we seek to develop and publicise these ministries.

Midweek Service

For many years now a midweek service has been a popular and vital part of the life and worship of our church. This short, 40 minutes, more relaxed service meets in the Small Hall at 10am. on a Wednesday morning and all are made most welcome. Currently, we have been making our way through the book of Nehemiah. After the service, there is the opportunity for fellowship over tea and coffee for those who can stay.

We have a varied programme of services, occasionally with a visiting speaker, as when Jo Crotty spoke to us in February. Last November we were particularly blessed when visited by Gabriel who had had a vision while studying at the IOCC in Glasgow to build a Christian community at home in Luwero, a rural district in Uganda. Having first purchased the land and cleared the trees his vision is now a developing reality with a church, medical clinic, farm, workshops, and primary and secondary schools, with feeding and living accommodation for all involved.

We were so moved by hearing about this, and seeing the videos, that the group decided to support the school sponsorship scheme which is currently providing education for more than 100 children whose families are unable to pay the school fees.

Our financial support, which covers tuition, dormitory accommodation, school uniform and meals, is now enabling Francis, a 10 year old boy, and Eflance, a 13 year old girl, to attend school regularly and we are looking forward to being kept in touch with their progress.

We are planning to celebrate communion together at the Midweek Service on Wed 25 March. We then expect to take a break on Wed 1, 8, and 15 April before resuming on Wed 22 April.

The Guild

Hi everyone, I'd like to wish you all the very best for this year. The Guild is a little half way to the end of the session. We have had very interesting speakers and two open nights, St Andrews Night and a Burns Supper, Which I think was enjoyed by everyone who came.

We are a friendly group and enjoy getting together. If anyone would like to join they would get a warm welcome.

Carol Johnston

Please see below a list of 'Present Projects' which our Guild have the pleasure of being involved with:-

Bear Necessities

(Build my Church - Bulgaria) £34,597.03

Release International

(Operation Hope - Egypt) £31,553.60

Scottish Bible Society

(Bibles for Bairns - Scotland) £42,927.85

Crossreach

(Playful Buildings - Scotland) £50,521.37

TOTAL £159,599.85

Please note these are the updated figures for the present projects from, 1st January 2025 to 1st January 2026.

Gilbert French (Project Convenor)

The Mens' Group

We are now well into the second half of our winter programme of Monday night meetings and our various games tournaments are well under way with our new members making all their presence felt in one way or another. Matches are all played in a good natured competitive manner and all end with a friendly handshake. March, in fact, sees our Finals night and our Club A.G.M. and will then be rounded off with our Annual Dinner and presentation of awards, which will again be held at Hayston Golf Club.

We will resume after the break on the first Monday in October, as usual, and would again be delighted to welcome a few more new members willing to share in our camaraderie and banter.

Ian Gibb (Sec).

World Day of Prayer

Each year in March there is a service held all over the world on the same day, and it is called the World Day of Prayer. It's a different country each year who prepares the service, and this year the service has been prepared by the sisters of Nigeria, and St Columba's Hillhead Parish Church is holding the service in their church. It's on the 6th of March and starts at 1.30pm and there will be tea and coffee after the service.

All are welcome to come along and join us.

Carol Johnston

Christian Aid Report Spring 2026

There was a meeting of the Kirkintilloch/Lenzie Churches on Friday, 30th January 2026. The following information was shared about forthcoming Christian Aid events for 2026.

Christian Aid Week will take place from 10th to 16th May 2026 and the theme will be support for vertical gardens in poor urban areas in countries like Kenya to help people supplement their diets by growing their own food.

There was some discussion on the annual service and information on the date and venue will be advertised in the church news sheet when these have been confirmed.

A fund raising concert is being planned for mid June in Lenzie Union with the Anderson Singers and again details prior to the event will be available in our church news sheet.

In addition to the above the Treasurer informed the meeting that a thank you letter had been received from Christian Aid for the £1,200.00 that was sent in response to the Harvest Appeal.

She also reported that a total of £1,625.00 had been sent from funds raised at the Coffee Morning in November to the Christmas Appeal.

More information on the work of Christian Aid can be found on their website. A booklet entitled 'Our Year of Impact' is also available in the church vestibule.

Geraldine Fox.



1st Kirkintilloch Company

Thanks to everyone who supported our **Christmas Card Delivery Service**. Due to your generous support we were, once again, able to donate £400 to Kirkintilloch Food Bank. Thanks to the officers and boys who ensured the cards were delivered well before Christmas Day.

Allan Geekie and all the Team.

Anchor Section

We are now well under way for our final session of Anchors 25-26. Since our last newsletter we have been busy with a good attendance by the boys, despite the many bugs and colds doing the rounds.

We ended last session with a Company trip to the community pantomime at St Mary's church halls and by the noise they made, everyone seemed to have had a great time.

At the beginning of December, the boys took part in the Battalion colouring in competition, which this year was a Manger scene. I am delighted to report that Callan Graham and Harris Brown were declared joint winners by the judges and they both received an art set from the Battalion as a prize. Congratulations to both of them.

January has been busy with us covering Burns night, the Parable of the Sower and Fire Safety. As part of the Parable the boys asked if they could visit the Sanctuary. This proved a very worthwhile exercise for some of the boys, who had never been inside a church before. They all listened intently and asked some very relevant questions about what a worship service entails.

Anchor Boys (cont'd)

Coming up we plan to celebrate pancake day, Chinese New Year and work towards completing the final elements of their badge work. We have a couple of adventures planned for later in the session, when the weather is hopefully kinder, but at the moment these are top secret and all will be revealed in due course.

Meantime we thank everyone for their continued support of our efforts and hope everyone has a lovely and blessed Easter.

Margaret, Lorna & Fraser

Junior Section: A Season of Growth and Excitement

As we reflect on the past few months, the 1st Kirkintilloch Junior Section has continued to enjoy a vibrant season filled with fun activities, games, an opportunity to share our faith, attend performances, and explore opportunities for growth.

Festive Fun and Theatrical Adventures

In December, our members enthusiastically attended the Strathkelvin Battalion Christmas Movie Night held at Lenzie Union Church. The evening was filled with festive cheer, laughter, and the warmth of community spirit as we enjoyed the classic film *'Home Alone'*.

Adding to the seasonal excitement, the Juniors were treated to a captivating performance of *'Robin Hood'* by the talented Anathallo Theatre Group. The show, with its dynamic characters and engaging storyline, left our members both entertained and inspired.

Steady Growth and New Faces

We are delighted to report that our membership numbers have remained steady, with a steady stream of new members joining us. In our commitment to continuous growth, David recently attended a Growth Workshop, returning with fresh ideas and strategies to help us expand our reach and attract even more young people to our thriving section.

Junior Section (cont'd)

Looking Ahead: Exciting Adventures Await

The coming months promise even more excitement. We're thrilled to announce an upcoming trip with the Strathkelvin Battalion to Blair Drummond Safari Park. This adventure will provide a fantastic opportunity for our Juniors to explore, learn, and bond with their peers.

Additionally, We are currently looking for enthusiastic volunteers to join us at the 1st Kirkintilloch Junior Section on Friday evenings. This is a fantastic opportunity to make a positive impact, support our young members, and be part of a vibrant community. If you're interested in learning more about what's involved or the recruitment process, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

We'd love to hear from you!

Wishing you all a good Springtime and Summer when it comes along!

David, Ross, Matthew and the Boys'

Company Section

The Company continues to offer a wide range of activities. Our faith sessions have covered St Andrew, The Faithful One, Building Bridges and Who Is My Neighbour. As a follow up to Building Bridges we had a creativity task where the boys used Lego bricks to design and build bridges.

Other creative tasks include a paper aeroplane challenge, taking photographs of crosses hidden in plain sight and, thanks to Mrs Rogerson and Mrs Robertson, baking pancakes, most of which were eaten on the premises, but I think one or two actually made it home.

Games are a popular part of the programme with physical games like ultimate frisbee, human hungry hippos (see video on our Facebook page), an unnamed game involving cones, plastic cups and plenty of running about, being played as well as perennial favourites, football, pool and table tennis.

Company Section (cont'd)

Othello has joined Triominoes as a popular tabletop game, while Jenga has also made an appearance but is rather difficult when played on a shoogly table!

At the end of 2025 we had a couple of outings to Lenzie for the Battalion Movie Night and to St Mary's Church Hall for a Panto.

Connor has been learning to play the bagpipes for a while, and we were recently given a demonstration of his proficiency. Thanks Connor. In exchange we let him use the hall for a bit of practice.

Up coming events include a Battalion Laser Quest outing and hopefully some outdoor events which will allow us to undertake some adventure activities.

Allan Geekie and Team

Following Jesus Group and Friendship Club

As always, we started the year at ProBowl which everyone enjoys. We have a snack in the cafe afterwards which gives us time to catch up on all the Christmas news.

The Friendship Club are now following the story of Noah while the Following Jesus Group, who only meet once a month, are still learning about the Fruits of the Spirit. Then it will be time to celebrate Easter.

Once again we have been blessed with generous financial donations and all our leaders are enthusiastic, spending lots of time preparing for meetings and finding new ideas on social media.

A special 'thank you' to everyone who supported our Prospects Carol Service. This was very much appreciated. Indeed, it made the event very special for us - having our Prospects friends and our church family celebrating Jesus' birth together.

Have a blessed Easter everyone and please keep praying for our groups.

Pat Muir

New Church Roof

We need a new church roof! Many of the houses near the church, that were built at a similar time, have had replacement roofs - and we now need to join them!

The current estimated cost for the work is £115,000. The elders have agreed to a target date of June 2026 to raise the necessary funds. We are in the fortunate position that we can use £40,000 from existing funds to put towards this project. We are also in the process of applying for additional grant funding. At the time of writing, three grant applications have already been submitted, and more will follow. We aim to attract up to £40,000 in grant funding. That leaves a sum of at least £35,000 to be raised locally through a combination of fundraising and dedicated giving.

We have two fundraising events already in the church diary. The first is a Daffodil Afternoon Tea held at St Columba's Halls, 2-4pm on Sat 14 March. There is a suggested donation for that event of £10 per person. Please do pass on the invitation to family and friends. And if you can help with baking, please do get in touch with June Larwood.

The second fundraising event for your diary is a concert at 7:30pm on Thursday 28 May with the Anderson Singers. We expect this will be held in the church building at St Columba's with refreshments served afterwards in the halls. Tickets for the concert will be available in due course, priced £10 per ticket.

If you are reading this and you are in one of our midweek groups, please do consider whether there is something your group can do to fundraise for the new roof. If you would like to run a fundraising event and invite the wider church to attend, then please do speak with Anne Inglis, Session Clerk so that we space fundraising events out as much as possible.

New Church Roof (cont'd)

Even with significant fundraising, we will also need dedicated sacrificial giving to fund the new roof. There will be a 'Gift Sunday' for the new roof on Sunday 26 April. Please do give this your prayerful consideration. Gifts for the new roof may be placed in an envelope marked 'New Roof Fund' and put in the 'New Roof' donation box that will be in the vestibule (entranceway to the church building).

Alternatively, for those who already give to the church by standing order, gifts for the new roof fund may be directed to the same bank account but with 'new roof fund' as the reference. If you are a UK taxpayer, if you give by gift aid that will make your gift go further. Please speak with Neil Bathie, Treasurer, if you have any questions about how to give specifically towards the new church roof.

We are grateful to God for our church buildings and for all that they make possible. Please pray that, above and beyond our plans, He would oversee this project and provide all that is needed. Do pray that the gracious hand of our God would be upon us.

Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain.

Psalm 127:1.

Safeguarding: Love in Action and Our Shared Responsibility

When we think of our church, we rightly think of it as a sanctuary — a place of peace, community, and safety. However, a truly safe church does not happen by accident. It requires proactive care, intentionality, and a shared commitment from every single member of our congregation.

Safeguarding is often misunderstood as just a set of policies, PVG checks, and "red tape." While these practical measures are essential, at its heart, **safeguarding is the theological expression of God's love.**

Why Safeguarding Matters

The Bible is clear that God has a heart to protect the vulnerable—the widow, the orphan, and the stranger (James 1:27). As a church, we are called to follow the example of the Good Shepherd, who binds up the injured and strengthens the weak (Ezekiel 34:16).

Safeguarding ensures that:

- **Everyone is safe:** Children and vulnerable adults are protected from harm, abuse, or neglect.
- **Abuse is prevented:** We create an "inhospitable environment for predators" by fostering a culture of transparency.
- **Survivors are heard:** We actively listen to and support those who have been harmed, ensuring our church is a place of healing.

"Safeguarding is Everyone's Business"

It is a common misconception that safeguarding is only the job of the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) or the clergy. In reality, it is a community responsibility. We are all called to be the "eyes and ears" for one another.

- **Be Vigilant:** If you see something that makes you uncomfortable—whether in a children's group, a home group, or in pastoral care—do not ignore it.

Safeguarding (cont'd)

- **Speak Up:** You do not need to be sure that abuse is happening to raise a concern. If you have a niggle, a worry, or a "what if" thought, it is always better to share it.
- **Know Who to Contact:** Our Parish Safeguarding Officer is Rhondda Geekie. You can reach her at rhonddageekie@hotmail.com. Her role is to provide a safe space for you to discuss your concerns.

A Culture of Safety

We are committed to creating a culture where people feel, and are, safe. This means having open, honest conversations about how we can work together to prevent abuse.

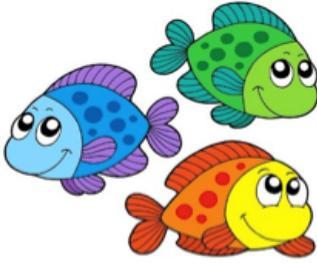
As we move forward, let us remember that safeguarding is not a tick-box exercise; it is an extension of our Christian duty to love our neighbour as ourselves.

If you have any questions, or if you are concerned about a child or vulnerable adult, please contact our Safeguarding Officer or the Diocesan Safeguarding Team.

Rhondda

Mobile 07951 526624

Church Toddler Groups



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. We had a great Christmas party with a visit from Santa. We do appreciate our teams of helpers, and we know that 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 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.



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 10.30am to 11.30am. It is lovely to have Noah's Ark families now regularly part of the service. Noah's Ark has lots of toys and playing but also Bible stories, crafts and songs. We have been enjoying water play linking to the story about Jesus calming the storm.

Church Toddler Groups (cont'd)

We would love to have some new families as some of our children are now old enough for Sunday Club. Please do think about who you could invite - do you have grandchildren you could bring or friends or neighbours who would like to come? Please do contact Cassie through the children's ministry link on the linktree, Liz for Little Fishes (Fridays), Gill for 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 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 these locations on these dates and we will be delighted to see you. Unless stated otherwise the walks start at 1:30 on Thursday afternoons, last approximately one hour and the start points and routes vary, as shown below.

Walk and Talk use a WhatsApp group to link many of our walkers both past and current. If you would like to know what the group are doing, then please use Trevor's contact details below to introduce yourself. The walks are prompted each week on Thursday mornings and a summary of the walk is usually produced on Thursday evenings. There is also the usual group chat and banter as all are encouraged to keep in touch.

The Churches Walk and Talk Group (cont'd)

If you don't like using WhatsApp then please give Trevor a call and he'll keep you informed by other means.

5 March	Merkland Nature Park
12 March	Donaldson Street
19 March	Kilsyth Road
26 March	Lenzie Co-op
2 April	Hillhead Basin, John Street

Trevor Patterson (St Mary's Church, Kirkintilloch)

07939 677523

trevor_patterson@outlook.com

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:

Christmas was an incredibly action-packed time this year! I was very glad to prepare a variety of children's programmes for our church including the Christmas Café and the Nativity. What a blessing it was to see all the children participating in the nativity this year! Sunday club also enjoyed an afternoon out bowling together and it was lovely to see the group of them playing and encouraging each other!

Incredibly enough, Easter is just around the corner, and I have been working on a few different Easter-themed activities for children in the church and in the local schools. I am so looking forward to the Easter Café this year and really hope to see you all there! It should be a lovely time for all.

I am also thrilled to be a part of a team offering an interactive Easter walk-through to our local primary school. The program is called 'The Easter Code' and will be offered to the P7 class. Please keep us in your prayers as we prepare for this and please pray for the pupils who will be attending this that this might be a meaningful and new way of hearing and experiencing the Easter story.

Children and Family Worker (cont'd)

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. At the end of March, I will be taking a few pupils from both schools to an SU weekend away. It is amazing that some of the pupils I brought last time will be returning. Please keep us in your prayers that the group times and Bible discussion times will be impactful and helpful on these children's lives.

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

MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship)

MAF helps fight against 'Biblical' disease in Guinea – leprosy

On World Leprosy Day (25 Jan), Guinea's most isolated communities are battling a 'Biblical' disease, which still persists today. Over 200,000 new cases of leprosy in over 120 countries are reported every year, according to the World Health Organisation. This infectious disease affects the skin, nerves, nose, throat and eyes. Left untreated, it can cause permanent damage, disability and deformity. The disease spreads via droplets from the nose or mouth from an untreated person. If caught early however, it can be cured with multidrug therapy including antibiotics.

MAF (cont'd)

MAF partner – The Regional Specialised Hospital Centre (CHRS) in Macenta, southern Guinea – specialises in the treatment of chronic infectious diseases, including leprosy. Its international reputation attracts patients from neighbouring Sierra Leone, Liberia and the Ivory Coast. However, without MAF, travelling on bad roads for nine hours would be incredibly difficult, explains Martha:

‘MAF is really a blessing for us when traveling from the capital to Macenta. With the state of the roads, it’s really exhausting to make this long journey, plus there’s the likelihood of insecurity. ‘With MAF, we can arrive comfortably in less than two hours and begin planning our activities immediately. We need MAF and pray that they continue to serve here in Guinea.’



Flower Rota 2025/2026

Donation

Delivery

March 2026

1 Mrs J Beattie
8 Mr & Mrs T Sinclair
15 Rev Jim Ferguson
22 Mrs Margaret Boyle
29 Mrs Anne Inglis

Gilbert French
Mr & Mrs I Muir
Joan Beattie
Moira French
Mr & Mrs I Gibb

April 2026

5 Wednesday Service
12 Mrs D Hall & Mrs A Stevenson
19 Mrs Jenny McCallum
26 Mr & Mrs G French

June Larwood
Julie Reid
Gilbert French
Mr & Mrs I Muir

May 2026

3 Mr & Mrs I Muir
10 Mr & Mrs I Gibb
17 Mrs D Russell
24 Coffee Time
31 Mrs Rena Broadfoot

Joan Beattie
Moira French
Mr & Mrs I Gibb
June Larwood
Julie Reid

June 2026

7 Janet Brown & Mr & Mrs G Kidd
14 Mrs Rita Powell
21 Mr J Stewart
28 Mrs M Rogerson

Gilbert French
Mr & Mrs I Muir
Joan Beattie
Moira French

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"**