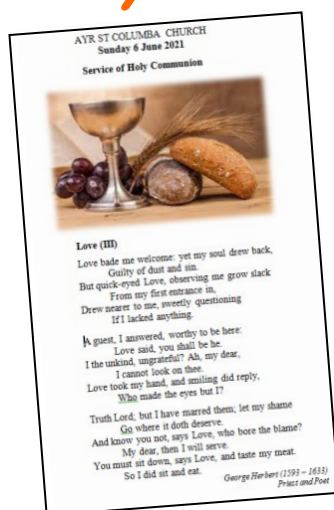


# Columba News

June  
2021  
No. 240



## Holy Communion returns



The first Holy Communion services since January 2020 were held in the Church on Sunday, June 6. A capsule with bread and wine made it Covid safe with 137 members attending the services.



## Waiting to welcome you

Sundays	Team	Leader
June 27	Team 2	Mr J. McConnachie
July 4	Team 3	Mrs M. Howie
July 11	Team 4	Mr I. McFadzean
July 18	Team 5	Mrs J. Murnin
July 25	Team 6	Mr M. Whiteford
August 1	Team 7	Mr N. Reid
August 8	Team 8	Mrs L. Sharp
August 15	Team 9	Mr D. Campbell
August 22	Team 10	Mr I Campbell
August 29	Team 11	Mrs A. Cuthbert
September 5	Team 12	Ms K. Lee

# From the manse

June 2021

Dear Friends,

The Feast of St Columba is 9 June. It had been my hope in 2020 and again this year that on the Sunday nearest to 9 June we would celebrate Columba's life not only in the service but also with a congregational meal. However, under lockdown restrictions, it was not possible to hold a meal. Next year, we'll manage it! I do hope that later this year, perhaps September or October, we will have a guest preacher to mark the 1500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Columba's birth.



Born on 7 December 521AD, Columba is the patron saint that Scotland almost had. In mediaeval Scotland, the names of Andrew and Columba were invoked as protectors of Scottish armies, including against invaders from England. In the fourteenth century, in the Firth of Forth, the monks of *Inchcolm* (meaning 'Columba's Isle'), beseeched their eponymous patron to 'save the choir which sings Your praise from the assaults of Englishmen and from the taunts of foes'. In 904AD, the 'Battle Triumph', a crozier said to have been used by Columba, was carried in the front rank of the Scottish army into battle against marauding Vikings; the crozier gave the Scots victory! In 1314, Columba's relics or bones were carried into battle at Bannockburn.

A great many churches in Scotland and Ireland carry the name of the saint, including our own. The name of Columba (or, in Gaelic, *Colum Chille*) is found in many place names, including Kilmacolm in Renfrewshire, Kirkcolm in Galloway (both of which mean 'Church of Columba'). While the Reformation disapproved of honouring saints, ordinary people across Scotland, including on the island of Iona, continued their affection for the saint and preserved stories about him through word of mouth. Columba has been described as being an ecumenical saint: he is admired by Catholics and Presbyterians, including the Wee Free. While much that is said of Columba may be considered hagiography, nevertheless, he is 'our' saint. His story is rooted in our land and, together with Ninian (saint at Whithorn), Columba helped to change and shape the course of Scottish history.

At the age of 42, Columba left Ireland on pilgrimage. For Christians

today, it is perhaps that sense of pilgrimage, of spiritual journey, which we can take from Columba. His legacy bestows on us places of pilgrimage, including Iona. These are 'thin places'; peaceful places of encounter with Sacredness. I hope that over the next year or so, some of us may be tempted to journey to Iona and walk (again) in the footsteps of 'our' saint. Columba wrote:

*Alone with none but thee, my God,  
I journey on my way:  
What need I fear when thou art near,  
O King of night and day?  
More safe am I within thy hand  
Than if a host should round me stand.*

Blessings and peace to you.

**Scott**

Revd Dr Scott S McKenna

**SUNDAY SERVICES** the Kirk Session is pleased to intimate the return to public Worship Services at Ayr St Columba Church. There will be services at **10am and 11.15am**, these services will last for approximately 30 minutes.

**BOOKING** It is **essential** that **everyone**, members and non-members, wishing to attend Church registers a place by phoning the secretary, Irene, 01292 265794 on **Tuesday** or **Thursday** morning between 9.30am and 12 noon; or email on [irene@ayrstcolumba.co.uk](mailto:irene@ayrstcolumba.co.uk). All email messages received will be acknowledged. **PLEASE NOTE** If you are unable to secure a place for the forthcoming Sunday, we will guarantee you a place on the following Sunday.

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**At the time of writing, government restrictions on visiting homes have been eased. If you would like a visit from me or our Associate Minister, David Ness, please don't hesitate to be in touch. We will follow guidelines and visit you when we are permitted to do so. Simply call the manse (01292 226075) or email me ([scottsmckenna@aol.com](mailto:scottsmckenna@aol.com)). David's telephone number is 01292 471625. The purpose of the visit may be a pastoral matter or simply an opportunity for a chat.**

## When will we meet again?

Starting off as we ended in the last Columba News, “.....don't know when.....”!

Still in Level 2 and with no sufficient light at the end of this very long tunnel, our next session, due to start on October 4<sup>th</sup>, is in a very much “will we, won't we” situation.

Like all Boy Scouts, we are prepared! The next set of speakers are ready and it promises to be an interesting set of topics that are being covered.

Hopefully most, if not all, our members are now double jagged and well protected from the Virus and able to at least manage a bit of travel outside these four dear walls we call home!

Health is our most important asset and we pray that it continues to be good.

Our next Columba News will be the bearer of good news for the Men's Association?

Keep well

**John Ferguson, Secretary**

## Keep the flowers blooming



The flower team has been grateful for all your support during these terrible months. Now that we are holding limited services a 2021 calendar is in place. If you would like to make a donation please contact Anne Drennan with your preferred date and she will add your name to the calendar.

Telephone 01292 441493 or email

[drennananne@hotmail.com](mailto:drennananne@hotmail.com)

Any donation should be put in an envelope with your name and marked "flower fund" and either handed in to the church on any Sunday or posted to the office.

Please make any cheque payable to "Ayr St Columba Flower Fund".



## Meet our new Probationer ***Gillean Richmond***



I'm absolutely delighted to be able to come and join the congregation of St Columba for my probationary period; I'm very much looking forward to meeting you all, and to getting involved in all aspects of the church life.

I'm originally from the south side of Glasgow, and moved to Ayr four years ago from North Wales in order to start my training for ministry. In what now almost feels like a previous life, I worked as a dentist until I had my children, and instead of returning to it when they became a little older, I instead found myself back at university, studying! We are enjoying our time in Ayr so far, and have really enjoyed exploring all the wonderful attractions and varied walks that Ayr and the surrounding countryside affords.

As part of my ministry training, I have spent time with congregations in Kilwinning, Kirkwall in Orkney, and Paisley Abbey, where I have thoroughly enjoyed myself. It is so interesting being amongst people and walking with them as they explore what God means to them, and how they can articulate their faith and share it with others. As this is my final placement before being ordained, I am with the congregation for a full 15 months; this should give me a good taste of what parish life is like for a

full-time minister, and an insight into how I can potentially expect my own ministry to look in the future. Those of you I have met already have been very welcoming and warm, and I look forward to sharing in worship and getting to know all of the St Columba family better.

Having previously been employed as a children's and youth worker in a couple of churches I am very keen on involvement with children's ministry, and I look forward to meeting the children who are associated with the church, and potentially, when restrictions allow, to visit Wellington School with Scott.

For fun, I have been involved in Girl Guiding for over twenty years, and I currently run a Rainbow unit in Alloway with a friend who I've known since the first time I was at university. I had wanted to take a short break from such volunteering whilst juggling the demands of family life and full-time studying, but I caved to the pressure when I was asked! In recent years I have also taken up gardening, and I'm quite keen on growing vegetables; perhaps this is because I have less success with the flowers I have attempted to grow in the past though!

It will be a privilege to join the congregation of St Columba as you engage with the challenges currently facing the national church in Scotland, and I am sure I will learn much from you all.

*Best wishes,  
Gillean*

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## The Guild

Another few months have disappeared behind us and we hope that it will not be too long before we can meet again.

Alas, at present there is not a date in front of us but things are improving gradually and the sun is shining! Let us all keep a positive attitude and we will rejoice when the day comes when we can meet together again.

In the meantime the new title has been declared for the next three-year strategy as **"Look forward in Faith"**, the theme for 2021-22 being "Lights and Bushels".

For those of you who subscribe to Life and Work, you will have noticed



that in the May 2021 issue the new set of Projects for the next three years was announced.

These projects are:-

**THE VINE TRUST:** developing a sustainable community in Tanzania called the Kakunza Village of Hope, including homes, a school and a health centre with foster parents offering homes to four or five children.

**BEAT:** a project to help develop a network of young ambassadors working in schools, colleges and universities and also with Church congregations, Boys' Brigade, Girls' Brigade and school chaplains to raise awareness of the impact of eating disorders and encourage people to seek help.

**HOME FOR GOOD:** part of their work is to help churches develop support for fostered and adopted children and find homes for a number of these children.

**PIONEERS:** Spice Island Chocolate Project, which aims to support the production of sustainable chocolate production in Indonesia.

**UNIDA:** Brazil – “Faith in the Future”, a project designed to empower young women through theological education.

**STARCHILD UGANDA** which hopes to build a centre for children with a range of learning disabilities (including autism) in Uganda and to educate community leaders.

***And now, some homework for Guild members!!!***

We usually choose to support one “home” and one “abroad” project over the three year period. If any Guild member has any thoughts on the matter and would like to propose one of the above projects to be supported by Ayr St Columba Guild once we can meet again would they please get in touch with our Secretary, Maureen Fullerton at Ayr 261944 and let her know. This would enable the Committee to discuss the matter. It is essential that we take account of the views of members.

At this point, I do not know when we will be able to convene as a Guild, but at present we aim for September/October 2021. I do hope you have a happy summer and I wish you Good Health to enjoy it.

***Dorothy Bone, Convener***

Copy deadline for the September issue will be

**Sunday, August 22**

Copy should be emailed to [editor.columbanews@gmail.com](mailto:editor.columbanews@gmail.com)

New advertisers should also send their copy to the editor Norman Reid



Scott's sermon preached from Job 38:1-7,16-18 on  
Sunday May 9, 2021

Once upon a time in the land of Uz, there lived a man named Job, who was blameless and upright. Job had seven sons, three daughters, thousands of sheep, camels, oxen, donkeys and many servants. He was 'the greatest of all people of the east'.

The Book of Job is a spectacular piece of storytelling; it is mythology at its very best. Here, at the centre of Scripture, the ancients asked the question, 'Why does God allow people to suffer?'

On 1 November 1755 an earthquake and tsunami destroyed large parts of Lisbon. It was All Saints' Day and most of the town's population was in church. At least 60,000 people died. Voltaire wrote:

These women, these infants heaped one upon  
the other, these limbs scattered beneath shattered  
marbles; the hundred thousand unfortunates  
whom the earth devours, who – bleeding and torn,  
still palpitating, interred beneath their roofs –  
end their lamentable days without comfort, amid  
the horror of their torment!

.....

What crime and what sin have they committed,  
these infants crushed and bleeding on their  
mothers' breasts?

If God is a God of love, mercy and justice, why do people suffer? In the Book of Exodus, Moses rebuked God, 'Why have you mistreated [your] people?' In the Jewish tradition, some believe that the Book of Job was written by Moses. God had not given an answer to Moses and so, through writing a novel, Moses sought his own answer.



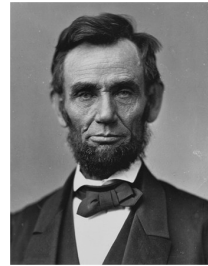
In the book, Satan invites God to test Job. Satan says, 'Job is a righteous man but take from him his happiness, wealth and status, and only then will You know how righteous he truly is.' God agrees and, through one tragedy after another, Job loses his sons, daughters, livestock and servants. Job is further afflicted with sores from head to foot (*Insert: Satan smiting Job with sores; William Blake*).

His torment leads him to curse the day he was born:

The arrows of the Almighty are in me; my spirit drinks  
their poison ... I loathe my life.

Job believes God to have 'poisoned' him and provocatively asks, 'Who will judge God?' Job's wife pleads with him to curse God and die, while his friends repeatedly say that he is being punished for the wrongs in his life. What answer is there to the suffering in our lives, to the suffering of humanity?

During the American Civil War, in the midst of bloody battles and months of uncertainty, Willie and Tad Lincoln, sons of the President, fell ill with typhoid. Tad recovered but 11 year old Willie died. During his last days, day and night the President and his wife had kept vigil at their son's bedside. The President said that Willie was, 'the most lovable boy I ever knew, bright, sensible, sweet-tempered and gentle-mannered.' After the funeral, the President visited his son's vault many times. Though historians doubt it, newspapers at the time reported that the President had the coffin opened on two occasions so that he could see his son. One son survived; one did not. We do not need to think of tsunamis or tragic and premature deaths to wonder why there is so much suffering in the world, suffering in our own lives?



From out of the whirlwind, God answered Job's complaint. Far from a compassionate response, God said to Job, 'Who are you to question me?' 'Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding.' 'Can you draw out Leviathan [the sea monster] with a fish hook, or press down its tongue with a cord?'

Drawing on the terrifying imagery of Leviathan, the English poet William Blake substituted the tiger for the sea monster:

Tyger, Tyger, burning bright,  
In the forests of the night;  
What immortal hand or eye,  
Could frame thy fearful symmetry?

In what distant deeps or skies.  
Burnt the fire of thine eyes?  
On what wings dare he aspire?  
What the hand, dare seize the fire?

The fire is the fire from the mouth of Leviathan and, in the late eighteen century when Blake was writing, England's neighbour, France, was in the midst of revolution. After the Paris massacres, some thought the revolutionaries to be a ravening beast establishing a republic of tigers. Turmoil, suffering and injustice are everywhere in human history.

God said to Job, 'Were you there when I laid the foundations of the earth?' It is possible that, in responding to Job, God is saying that humanity can never understand the complexities and inter-relatedness of the universe. Often out of misfortune, out of moments of true darkness, new life and new possibilities can emerge. It is *never* that we would invite misfortune but, sometimes though not always, from terrible circumstances, change, growth and maturation come.

The American actor, Christopher Reeves, was paralysed from the neck down when he was thrown from his horse. After the accident, he wanted to die. His wife told him that, if he asked her, she would kill him. He never did ask but went on to find new purpose in his life. Reeves said that he would *never* wish such suffering on anybody but that, because of the change in his life, he liked the person he had become better than the person he had been. His earlier life (*Insert: Reeves as 'Superman'*) had been focussed on success, money, influence and popularity while, in his 'second' life, his focus was on the welfare and wellbeing of others. This is delicate theology, and we need to be careful. However, we too may have suffered because of events outwith our control or suffered



because of our own foolishness and mistakes yet, paradoxically, we may feel that we have grown and matured as people. Events and mistakes may be vehicles for our self-transformation. We cannot speak for others; only ourselves.

For me, God's apparently cold response reveals that God heard and felt Job's suffering: through every word, sigh and silence, day and dark night, God had been there unconditionally. God's answer is not intellectually neat or satisfying but it is a source of strength and hope: God's Presence is real and loving.

The Jewish philosopher, Edith Stein, converted to Christianity in 1922

and became a Carmelite nun. She taught in a monastery in the Netherlands but when the Dutch bishops condemned Nazi racism, Stein and other converts were arrested. Before being taken to the gas chambers in Auschwitz, Stein offered this prayer:

O my God, fill my soul with holy joy, courage, and strength to serve You. Enkindle Your love in me and then walk with me along the next stretch of road before me.

I do not see very far ahead, but when I have arrived where the horizon now closes down, a new prospect will open before me, and I shall meet it with peace.

Like Job, Stein had no answers to the terrible events that befell her but, in her soul, she found the peace of God.



## Guides enjoy the outdoors

The Guides of the 9th Ayr who meet at St Columba have been enjoying their meetings outdoors since lockdown eased. The girls aged 10 and over are now looking forward to their new session after the summer. Further details on how to join are on the back cover.

## Time to table a question

The church is making an appeal to find its missing tables.

Maybe someone borrowed a few tables for an event before lockdown in March 2020 and with all the Covid problems they have been forgotten about.

It is vitally important that we locate these tables. There are ten tables missing in total and they are very expensive to replace.

If you are able to throw any light on the church's dilemma, please contact John Stewart on 07847639528. Tables can be returned to church on Wednesday mornings between 9.30 am and noon.

## Gearing up at Lochside

Like everywhere, Lochside has been very quiet over the past 15 months, with only the Food Bank continuing to operate. But as life is beginning to open up again, the local volunteers are keen to re-start the community breakfasts, and the weekly kids' club.

We have a lovely new kitchen and are in the process of making sure we comply with Food Standards regulations and are organising food hygiene training for volunteers. This needs to be in place before we can re-open. Previously breakfast was provided on Tuesdays and Thursdays but Sheena Stewart, whose initiative this is, can only manage a Tuesday now. We would love to be able to open on Thursday too but this will not be possible without a volunteer or a rota of volunteers to oversee the volunteers from the community. If you feel able to help in this way, please contact Irene in the office or myself.

Similarly we really need a representative from the church to oversee the kids' club. Again this may be on a rota basis, and again please contact Irene or myself if you feel you can help.

Helen Greig WMO Convenor 01392 520288 [hcgreig@icloud.com](mailto:hcgreig@icloud.com)

*Also at Lochside the storage container that sits behind the church is set to be sold and removed.*

*After this has been done, the fence which has become an eyesore for the residents since it is now needing repaired will also be removed and the original wall which was demolished will be replaced to match the rest of the property's boundary wall. The area will then will be tidied up and grass seed sown where the container was situated.*



Our new group began in April when we walked from Prestwick to the beach beyond the Pow Burn and had our coffee there in the sun!

Our second walk was a loop from Ayr seafront through Belleisle and although we started with our hoods up, we still managed our coffee break in the Walled Garden as you will see from the photos. At the end of June we'll be walking from Dunure harbour.

All our walks begin at 10.30 and are advertised on the Church website and Facebook pages as well as in the magazine

Some folk have said they would love to walk but fear they are too slow - All are welcome, someone will always be happy to match your pace. (To be honest, we don't go very fast to begin with!)

In addition, copies of our routes are available for anyone who can't manage on a Friday morning.

Contact Helen Greig on 07922 059368 or [hcgreig@icloud.com](mailto:hcgreig@icloud.com)

## **St Columba members get their walking boots on**



Time for a  
break and a  
chat



## *Presbytery news*

**Note of Ayr Presbytery meeting held by zoom on 4 May 2021**

**Letters of Demission:** Presbytery noted the Letters of Demission from the following Ministers:

Rev Dr Ian Stirling, Minister of Fisherton and Kirkoswald Parish Churches from 1 June 2021.

Rev Helen Cuthbert, Minister of New Cumnock Parish Church retiring on 11 July 2021.

Rev Morag Garret, Minister of Ochiltree linked with Stair Parish Churches, call to Coalburn and Lesmahagow Churches from 12 May 2021.

**Union of Presbyteries:** Presbytery noted that all six Presbyteries have now agreed to bring an Overture to General Assembly on 22 May 2021. Congregational Accounts (2020): Presbytery noted that all Congregational Accounts should be submitted to the Presbytery for Attestation as soon as it is possible to do so. All accounts must be received by OSCR no later than 30 September 2021, as the 'grace period' granted last year has been cancelled.

**Discretionary Allowance Committee:** At present, it is not certain if the discretionary allowance scheme will continue. Should the 2021 General Assembly allow the scheme to proceed, all applications for a possible reduction in Ministries and Mission contributions for 2022 should be sent to the Rev Gerald Jones by 31 October 2021 at the latest, for consideration by the Committee in November.

**Local Church Reviews:** Presbytery agreed to suspend all Local Church Reviews scheduled or outstanding since 2020 until further notice. It was also agreed to establish a Local Church Review process fit for purpose to start immediately on the formation of the United Presbytery of South West Scotland, anticipated September 2022.

***George Park***  
***Presbytery Elder***

## Did You Know?

**The Election** The Midton Road Hall was used as a Polling Station for the Scottish Parliament Election on 6<sup>th</sup> May. The preparations were meticulous and everything went smoothly. The areas used were thoroughly cleaned before and after the event and we were left with 'state of the art' automatic hand sanitisers and many unused facemasks.

**Church Capacity** The limit of 50 individuals in the Church at any one time has been removed. We can now accommodate as many as can be seated whilst maintaining social distancing. We have been asked to display the capacity of the Church Sanctuary, the Midton Road Hall and the other rooms in the building by placing a notice at the entrance to each.

**Singing in Church** Whilst there has been a delay in getting the go ahead from the Government to resume congregational singing, it has been wonderful compensation to hear Rachel and the Choir group in fine voice at each Service. It is very much hoped that congregational singing will be permitted by the time this magazine is issued.

**Assistant Treasurer** Mr Tony Greig has stepped down as Assistant Treasurer after years of excellent service. We are greatly indebted to him for all the work he has done and for the manner in which he has discharged his duties. We are delighted that Mrs Pamela Naylor has agreed to take on the role and we know she will fit in very well with the Treasurer and the Finance Committee.

**New Photocopier** The old, temperamental contraption in the Office (i.e. the copier!) has been replaced with a sophisticated new photocopier. It has already been used to print Orders of Service and once work is permitted to resume in the Office it will be put through all of its impressive paces.



**Lochside Container**

Since there has been a reduction in the volume of outreach work at Lochside since the project came to an end, it has been decided to remove the storage container from the grounds. The fence around the container will be gifted to a community

garden project. It is intended to reseed the area and to fully restore the boundary wall.

**Pastoral Concerns** The Minister is keen to be informed of any pastoral care issues or concerns relating to members. Please get in touch if there is a matter affecting you or someone you know.

**Visitations** Ayr Presbytery has indicated that the Architectural Quinquennial Visitations for this year can recommence for the churches involved, including Ayr St Columba. **Manse Tree** A tree which was leaning at an awkward angle in the Manse garden has been removed. Many thanks to John Stewart for dealing with this.

*R A Bartholomew*  
Session Clerk

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**TAKING AN ECO LOOK by Andrew Muirhead**

## **Capitalism and the Environment**

I recently bought a book: “Small is beautiful; A study of economics as if people mattered” by EM Schumacher, first published in 1973. This book is a classic view of economics from an environmental perspective. I found this interesting for a number of reasons. This book imagines the world in the future. The year 2000 is referred to as if in the distant future. Many things imagined in 1973 were inaccurate whilst others were spot on. Much of the book questions the idea that economic growth is desirable. Our pursuit of prosperity and riches must be set against the environmental harm that our lifestyle can do.

Have you noticed that many people with a green agenda advocate a lifestyle that demands idealism and willingness to forgo many of the comforts of modern life? If we all really did this, would the economy hold up with plummeting consumer demand? Would unemployment increase and what about life expectancy? What would happen to the numerous employees of companies that rely on investment from pension funds, but do not measure up to exacting standards demanded by ESG (Ethical Social and Governance) investors? Are these exacting standards really so environmentally friendly anyway? After all, environmentalists are people who use transport, eat food and buy goods. They live in houses which generate carbon emissions. We all need access to fossil fuels to survive in the modern world.



Modern economics is based on the idea that people will act in their own best interest. We will invest in what brings the biggest return. We will buy what brings us comfort and riches feed our sense of self-worth and provide a sense of security. Living in a “rich country” is much more comfortable than in a “developing country”. Unfortunately, the carbon emissions generated by the wealthy are much higher than by poorer people. One book I read on how we might reduce emissions even suggested that individuals should strive to reduce their working hours and their income so that they spend less and that by itself would reduce their environmental impact. The difference in carbon emissions between the rich and poor parts of the world is stark. The average citizen in the USA generates around 18 times more CO<sub>2</sub>(e) than in the poorest countries. In the UK we are not so much better when you take into account the carbon footprint of imported goods.

The debate on how to decarbonise the economy will go on for many years. We must watch out for sleight of hand routinely used by politicians. Every year China manufactures nearly as much steel as the UK has done in its entire history. No wonder the average CO<sub>2</sub>(e) in China is creeping up! The new road bridge over the Forth is constructed using Chinese steel. Imported goods do not count towards UK emissions. Our government can encourage other

countries to manufacture consumer goods which we import and we still look good. We can import as much Australian beef as we want and this very important source of emissions will not be attributed to us. We must be cautious when interpreting government statistics.



*The restored monastery at Monte Cassino, the site of the abbey founded by St Benedict*

How can a Christian faith affect our view of environmental matters? The Creation is the environment after all. At present the Church discussion

group is considering a book on the life and influence of St Benedict. Both St Benedict and St Francis were interested in ordinary people and ordinary activities. St Francis went further with his love of nature. I think that the Christian tradition encourages us to respect others and see each other as equal. If we feel valued and worth something, then we should not need so much external reassurance in the form of “things” to bolster our image. I think that Christianity is therefore a defence against modern advertising that tries to create artificial needs which can then power a distorted economy to the detriment of nature.

St Benedict encouraged moderation, balance and reasonableness as a formula for living in a community. Perhaps he had a point that still rings true today.

There is something missing in modern consumerist capitalism. The response of some people is to reject capitalism entirely. Unfortunately, no simple alternative has proved to be any better. We do now have to pay much more attention to the environment. Our current lifestyle will cause very severe problems for our descendants if left unchecked. I do not have any simple solutions to hand but maybe it is time to move away from being too concerned with narrow self interest and become more protective of Creation.

**Andrew Muirhead**

**Volunteer, Living Lighter project.** This was a Scottish Government funded project designed to gain support for reducing carbon emissions.

My contact details are tel 07526662044. Email [a.g.muirhead@gmail.com](mailto:a.g.muirhead@gmail.com)



*St Benedict's rule. 8<sup>th</sup> Century copy from the Bodleian library Oxford*

# Magazine Dates - Session 2021/ 2022

The dates below indicate the schedule relating to the Columba News in the coming year.

Issue	Occasion	Copy Deadline	Collation Day (Publications Comm)	Publication Day
September	Start of Season	Sunday, 22 August	Friday, 3 September	Sunday, 5 September
Autumn	October Communion	Sunday, 3 October	Friday, 15 October	Sunday, 17 October
Christmas	Christmas	Sunday, 14 November	Friday, 26 November	Sunday, 28 November
Winter	January Communion	Sunday, 2 January	Friday, 14 January	Sunday, 16 January
Spring	April Communion	Sunday, 27 March	Friday, 8 April	Sunday, 10 April
Summer	June Communion	Sunday, 29 May	Friday, 10 June	Sunday, 12 June

## St Columba's Kids

Since the Easter Holidays our kids were keen to have something other than Zoom meetings for St Columba's Kids, however we were unable to return to the halls in person for a few weeks, so St Columba's Kids headed for the great outdoors. We held two special events aimed at the entire family based from outside the church in Carrick Park.

As our first outdoor event we organised a family treasure hunt, taking our families out to Rozelle and Belleisle, via Alloway. We saw a good number of our families and familiar faces from Messy Church take on the challenge - following the clues, finding certain items and coming up with a family team chant. It was great



to see our youngest to oldest kids, parents and even grandparents taking part! When everyone returned we heard a wee bit about the theme of the story of Joseph and added to the Messy Church Prayer Tree. At the end, each child received a craft kit and every family received a Family Film Night kit, with a copy of the DVD of Joseph: King of Dreams, some popcorn, hot dogs and sweets to enjoy all together that evening.

The following week we stayed outside again to remain within restrictions and held a special event for Thy Kingdom Come - the global prayer movement that takes place between Ascension and Pentecost. Families went round a series of different activity stations all about a different type of prayer.

- We planted Sunflower seeds in cups to remind us to pray to grow in faith.
- Creating a 3D giant map of the United Kingdom with crepe paper and glue to remind us to pray for the country.
- Dropping stones into a basin of water reminded us to pray for the Gospel to spread like the ripples in the water.
- Painting portraits of each other reminded us to pray for each other as we journey together.
- We blew bubbles as we thought about things that worried us - giving up our worries and cares in the same way to God.
- We added the names of people we wanted to pray for to the Messy

### Church Prayer Tree

Dropping vinegar and food dye into bicarbonate of soda reminded us that we should be praying explosive prayers - big and bold prayers to make a difference.

We finished together focussing on a blow up globe as we prayed together for the whole world and for God's Kingdom to come on earth as well as in heaven.

**BACK IN PERSON!** Just before the May bank holiday we met together again for the first time indoors in person. It was wonderful to be able to work in small groups to explore the word of God again. On our first Sunday back it was Pentecost, when we celebrated the birthday of the church - complete with confetti canon and Stuart almost setting a Victoria sponge on fire!



Since returning we have explored Hope in Christ and created some crafts that will soon make it onto the wall for when we can all return to events in the church. Just now we are unsure what we will be able to do for the end of term, but we are looking forward to next year when we will be able to sing

praise again, play games and do some messy challenges and get our families back inside for a breakfast as a church family.

St Columba's Kids, as I write is just a couple of weeks away from finishing up for the summer, but we will be back after the summer and would love to see any new faces aged 3 to p.7 coming along and joining us. Over the summer keep an eye out - we will be looking to find out from you how we can adapt after COVID and how we can best minister to our children and families in Ayr St Columba Church.

**Stuart McKinlay, Sunday School Co-ordinator**

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## Parish and Congregational Register

April – June

Elizabeth Carr	Queen's Nursing home Prestwick
Lorna Macfarlane	Gearholm Road
William Wallace	Dundonald Care Home
Anne Cooper	St Phillan's Avenue, Ayr
Patricia Barbour	11 Stonefield Park, Ayr
John Halliday	31 Auchentrae Crescent, Ayr



*God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." Hebrews 13:5*



Who to contact

**Minister:**

Revd. Dr. SCOTT S. McKENNA.  
scottsmckenna@aol.com  
Tel:- 01292 226075

**Associate Minister:**

Revd. DAVID T. NESS, LTH,  
17 Winston Avenue, Prestwick.  
Tel:- 471625

**Session Clerk:**

ROBERT A. BARTHOLOMEW,  
30 St Leonard's Road, Ayr. Tel:- 265794

**Depute Session Clerk:**

WALTER MUIR, 1 Corsehill Place, Ayr  
Tel:- 282931

**Treasurer:** TOM CAIRNS,

15 Longhill Avenue, Ayr KA7 4DY  
Tel:- 443271

**Director of Music:**

MATTHEW HYNES,  
20A Academy Street, Ayr KA7 1HS  
Tel:- 870449

**Gift Aid Convener:**

PETER G. MACDONALD,  
23 Dongola Road, Ayr. Tel:- 264059

**Free Will Offering Convener:**

GRAEME SAVAGE,  
27 Newark Crescent, Ayr. Tel:- 445347

**Roll Keeper:**

MARGARET DONCASTER  
20 St Cuthbert's Road  
Prestwick KA9 2EB  
Tel:-477381

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**Church Secretary:**

IRENE E. BARTHOLOMEW,  
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Office 269524  
[irene@ayrstcolumba.co.uk](mailto:irene@ayrstcolumba.co.uk)

**Beadle and Church Officer:**

JOHN STEWART,  
6A Ronaldshaw Park, Ayr.  
Tel:- 07847639528

**Church Office:** Carrick Park, Ayr.

Tel:- 269524 Office hours: 9am-noon, Mon,  
Tues, Thurs and Fri

**Church Services (Midton Road):**

9.30am - Family Service;  
10am Sunday School,  
11.15 - Morning Worship;  
6.30pm - Evening Services  
(Last Sunday of the month)

**Church Services (Lochside):**

10am Morning Worship

**Webmaster:** Iain Bartholomew,  
email: [website@ayrstcolumba.co.uk](mailto:website@ayrstcolumba.co.uk).  
[www.ayrstcolumba.co.uk](http://www.ayrstcolumba.co.uk)

What's on in the halls

**MONDAY**

5.30pm **RAINBOW BROWNIES**  
Aynsley Bell, 07914 842118

7.30pm: **THE GUILD** (fortnightly):  
Mrs D. Bone, 441651

7.30pm: **MEN'S ASSOCIATION** (fortnightly):  
Mr T. R. Swinn, 441896

7.30pm: **LADIES FELLOWSHIP** (fortnightly):  
Linda Sharp, 286951

**WEDNESDAY**

2pm: **HOLY COMMUNION** (4<sup>th</sup> Wed):  
Church Office, 269524

2pm: **FITNESS with FRIENDS:**  
Mrs Margaret Doncaster, 477381

5.45pm: **9<sup>th</sup> AYR BROWNIES,**  
Mrs E. MacDonald, 445529

7.30pm: **GIRL GUIDES:**  
Susan Christie, 442374

7.30pm: **9<sup>th</sup> AYR RANGER GUIDES**  
(every second Wednesday):  
Susan Christie, 442374

**THURSDAY**

10.30am: **OASIS CAFE:** Mrs Rene Kidd

10.20am: **LADIES BADMINTON:**  
Mrs Elizabeth MacDonald 445529

2pm: **MEN'S ASSOCIATION GAMES:**  
Mr R. Park, 268788

6.30pm: **CUB SCOUTS:**  
Mr D. Hope, 263376

7.30pm: **SENIOR CHOIR:**  
Church Office 269524

**FRIDAY**

6pm: **BEAVER SCOUTS:**  
Fiona Wilson, 290414

7.30pm: **SCOUTS:**  
Jereon Bolte, 07511489755

**SATURDAY**

4pm: **MESSY CH4URCH**  
(last Saturday of the month):  
Irene Bartholomew, 269524

**Church Charity Number:** SC014338

## Tuning in to our services

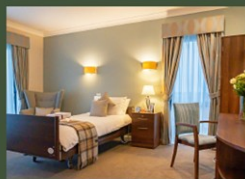
In recent months, St Columba Church has been providing services online:

**Website:** Full Service (see 'Worship Services' tab) Sermon (script and audio) at [www.ayrstcolumba.co.uk](http://www.ayrstcolumba.co.uk)

**Facebook:** Full Service

**YouTube:** Full Service on our YouTube Channel

**Dial-a-Sermon:** Audio 01292 851074



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For more information, please contact Susan Christie on 07751219601 or email [christie.susan@yahoo.com](mailto:christie.susan@yahoo.com)

