

Columba News

June
2022
No. 246



It's prize time

Sophie and Belle our eldest and youngest of our Sunday School group being presented with their prize books by Scott as they could not attend the prize-giving on June 12 as both were on holiday . See P8-9



Waiting to welcome you

Sundays	Team	Leader
June 19	Team 6	Mr J. Hunter
June 26	Team 7	Mrs N. Mortimer
July 3	Team 8	Mr P. T. MacDonald
July 10	Team 9	Mrs C. McLaughlin
July 17	Team 10	Mrs A. Swan
July 24	Team 11	Mr A. Muirhead
July 31	Team 12	Mr W. Muir
August 7	Team 1	Mr R. White
August 14	Team 2	Mrs F. Taylor
August 21	Team 3	Mrs A. Hope
August 28	Team 4	Mrs A. Drennan
September 4	Team 5	Mrs S. Mills

Evening Services:
June 26, Team 7



From our Probationer

June 2022

Dear Friends,

As we come through spring into summer, we can feel our hearts and minds lifted by the improved weather and lighter evenings. Living near the coast, I find it such a blessing to be able to see the sea from my windows, and to gauge the mood of the day's weather according to whether or not we can see Arran.

My neighbours tell me that when we can't see Arran it is raining on the island, and when we can see Arran it will be raining there soon! How true this is in winter-time when the sea and skies are grey and imposing, but in summer, when we can see the beautiful mountainous peaks on Arran and the gentle waves along the coast, Ayrshire can feel quite blissful.

For so many of us, God is experienced and felt closely when we are in nature, whether sitting in a quiet, peaceful garden, walking along the sea-shore, or at the top of a hill, being blown about. In these moments we often find our mind drawn to the creative hand of the Mystery intimately involved in all of life, from tiniest insect to the largest whale in the ocean. The author of Psalm 8 felt this sense of awe in the world, of intimate connection to nature, and also speaks of the responsibility we have for caring for our environment:



‘When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;
what are human beings that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?’

Yet you have made them a little lower than God,
and crowned them with glory and honour.
You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet,
all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,
the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.’

As we move into the coming summer months with the various activities and all the challenges that the summer months bring, I hope that we are all able to find a moment to stop and be present with nature, that we can all feel the Magnificent Mystery that we call God, and to experience a moment or two of Divine Peace and be refreshed, energised, and comforted through God in company with us.
Blessings and peace to you all,

Gillean

Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated in the church on Sunday, June 26.

There will be three services at 10am, 11.15am and 6.30pm and as was introduced during the pandemic, the small capsules will be used for the bread and wine.

Coffee time for the Scouts

The 18th Ayrshire Scout Group (St Columba) made a total of £1948.63 excl expenses at their coffee morning which was an incredible result after two years having been unable to organise the popular event.

Also some of our Scouts that are going to the 25th World Scout Jambo-ree sold plenty of their wares.

Many thanks to all members of the congregation who supported us and came for a wee cup of special Rocket Monkey coffee and some home-baking to go with it. It was nice to see so many people turning up and it really gave a nice buzz.

One of the activities that we can partially fund with the money is our group camp that we had last weekend which was also a great success.

The weather was kind and with 53 boys and girls attending they had a lot of fun canoeing & kayaking, high ropes, crate stacking, and other activities.

Jeroen (Yuri) Bolte (Group Scout Leader)



Sophie and mum step out in the Kiltwalk for charity cash

Sophie, one of our Young Leaders at Ayr St Columba Kids recently took part in the Kiltwalk and said: "The Kiltwalk was great and we managed the 22.7 miles in just over six hours.

"We also raised £420 for the local charity Beautiful Inside and Out and the Sir Tom Hunter Foundation boosted it by 50% so it was definitely worth the sore feet."

A huge well done to Sophie and Lee from all of us, we are so proud of you and to everyone who took part.



Sophie and mum Lee before the off

Busy time at Presbytery

Note of Ayr Presbytery meeting held on 3 May 2022 within Troon Old Parish Church

Presbytery Protocol: Presbytery noted that the Presbytery Protocol was used once during the past year. The Protocol is to be used when complaints and matters of concern involving Ministers, Readers, Ordained Local Ministers, Auxiliary Ministers and Deacons are received.

Moderator of the Presbytery of the South West: Each existing Presbytery has been requested to nominate one of its number prepared to serve as Moderator, if elected. Ayr Presbytery nominated the Rev Brian Hendrie, Minister of Ayr: St Leonard's and Dalrymple to be considered for election as the first Moderator of the Presbytery of the South West.

Cumnor Hall Friend's Group: Presbytery noted with sadness that the Cumnor Hall Friend's Group has now been disbanded due to a decrease in the number of Friend's Group volunteers.

Presbytery Mission Plan: Presbytery instructed Kirk Sessions to nomi-

nate up to three representatives to meet with representatives of Presbytery and their new charge partner congregations to discuss their future building requirements. Discussions will be based on Local Mission Plans, AMBA audit results and a preliminary clarification of buildings by the Buildings Review Committee. Full information will be provided in advance of the meetings.

Presbytery agreed that the target date to agree the Presbytery Mission Plan will be extended to 23 August 2022.

Attestation of Presbytery and Congregational Records: With the easing of Covid 19 restrictions, Presbytery agreed that the attestation process can now be resumed and that all Presbytery and congregational records should be examined and attested before the final meeting of Ayr Presbytery.

Accounts Attestation Committee: A number of congregations including Ayr St Columba are permitted by Presbytery to submit their Accounts and Trustee Reports to OSCR, along with their annual returns.

Homes for Ukraine: Presbytery noted that any Minister wishing to make use of the manse to host families under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme must first seek approval from the Kirk Session and from Presbytery including informing the Presbytery Property Convenor.

Presbytery noted that any congregation who wish to make use of their vacant manse to host families under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme must seek approval from the Kirk Session in the first instance, then arrange for the property to be inspected and confirmed as fit for habitation by the Presbytery Property Convenor prior to obtaining the approval of Presbytery and the General Trustees in keeping with guidance issued from the Church of Scotland Law Department.

Anticipated Final Meeting of the Presbytery of Ayr: Presbytery agreed that the potential final meeting of the Presbytery of Ayr will now take place on Tuesday 20 September 2022.

George Park
Presbytery Elder

Copy deadline for the September issue will be
Sunday, August 21

Copy should be emailed to editor.columbanews@gmail.com

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



What's happening at Session

A meeting of the Kirk Session, chaired by the Moderator, The Revd Dr Scott McKenna, were held on 8th February 2022. A summary of issues discussed at this meeting is given below:

- The Moderator referred to a draft document entitled “Five Marks of Mission”. This was based on current practices at Ayr St Columba, Ayr St Andrews and the Auld Kirk and was intended to form a working plan for collaboration between the three churches which would go to Presbytery and to the Church of Scotland for approval. All three Kirk Sessions were being asked to consider, revise and eventually approve the plan.
- The Clerk had received a letter from Mr Stuart McKinlay indicating his resignation as an Elder. Stuart is now living in Paisley. The Clerk had written to him to express the gratitude of the Kirk Session for all that he had done for the Church and to wish him well for the future.
- The Clerk informed Elders that Ayr St Columba Church had been designated as a Polling Place for the Local Elections on 5th May. The Midton Road Hall and the Struthers Room would be used.
- The plaques to commemorate the service of former Ministers, Bill Christman and Fraser Aitken, to Ayr St Columba Church had been dedicated on Sunday 12th December. Photographs of the two Ministers had been placed in the Carrick Park Vestibule at the same time.
- As the Christmas services had been cancelled due to Covid, very little had been donated for charity. It was agreed that that this money be held over for a further year and be added to whatever was collected at Christmas 2022. The charities chosen by the Kirk Session would still be the beneficiaries. These were Ayrshire Cancer Support and Crossroads (South Ayrshire).
- Members of Session approved a proposal that money donated via the ‘20s in the Pews’ jar in the coming year should go to promote lung health, noting that a group meeting in the Church under the guidance of Mrs Rachel Hynes was created for this purpose.
- Mrs Laraine Christian outlined plans for a street party on 5th June to celebrate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. It would be necessary to contact various authorities to obtain permission and she and Mrs Jane Hunter would speak to each of our neighbours in the street. They would be welcome to attend the event which would be open to all. It was proposed that participants provide their own food and drink.

- Mr Keith Fullerton said that, following the departure of Stuart McKinlay, responsibility for the Sunday School was now shared by a number of volunteers who help on a monthly basis. The children enjoyed being in Church and their work now corresponds to the content of the Service. Mr Fullerton again said that more volunteers were needed and he urged Elders and members to step forward to help this important work with the children.

R A Bartholomew
Session Clerk

Farm park outing for St Columba Kids



On Sunday May 22 we were delighted to see our eldest Sophie Hart and our youngest Belle Morris being presented with their prize books .

Each Sunday sees the team offer a morning of songs, craft, games, challenges, snack and reflection on the Bible story that we are focussing on that week.

We look forward to prize-giving on Sunday 12th June and also to our end of year trip, which this year will be at the Heads of Ayr Farm Park .

We are always delighted to welcome new faces to St Columba's Kids – so if you have or know of a child between 3 years old and primary 7 then please bring them along to join us.

A huge thank you to all the helpers, parents and children who join us every week .

We thank you for your enthusiastic support which is very much appreci-



ated and without which we could not continue.

St Columba's Kids restarts on Sunday, August 28 for all children from pre-school to p.7, for a mixture of songs, games and challenges. We warmly welcome you to come along to our meetings every Sunday between 10-11am



Pastoral Advertisement

A member of the congregation, Fraser Low, is looking to employ a

Wheelchair Attendant/Chauffeur/ General Odd Jobs

Work

1. Loading and unloading battery driven wheelchair, with elderly lady occupant, into wheelchair car with electric winch
2. Pushing wheelchair on arrival at church, shop, clinic, restaurant etc.
3. Changing wheelchair battery and charging it
4. When necessary, driving one of three vehicles on local journeys in Ayrshire
5. Doing minor household tasks involving step ladder – like changing light bulbs.
6. Shopping for toiletries, cosmetics etc.

Requirements

Friendly and caring personality.
Clean driving licence (UK driving history over 10 years with no accidents in last five years)

Earnings

Hourly rate is £13, which means 4 hours per week equals £2,704pa; 6 hours per week equals £4,056pa

Sample work schedule

Regular

1. Sundays: 10.30am - 12.30pm (wheelchair to church service and back)
2. On second Monday of each month 11.30am – 3.30pm, wheelchair to Troon for lunch and to lecture, at two venues.

Occasional.

Monday to Friday:

- 11.30am – 2.30pm wheelchair to lunch
- 2.00pm – 4.00pm wheelchair to clinic appointment
- 2.00pm – 4.00pm wheelchair to shopping
- 2.00pm – 4.00pm wheelchair to walk along promenade.

Very occasional

Any day of week including Saturdays.

6.30pm – 10.30pm wheelchair to hotel dinner, concert, theatre etc.

Contact

Fraser Low on 01292 269840
cwfraserlow@gmail.com



*Gillean's sermon preached from St John 20:119-31
on Sunday, April 24, 2022*

I wonder how long you have considered yourself a Christian. I wonder how long you have been attending church, any church, not just this one, today. How long have you been attending services, listening to sermons, singing hymns, giving your 'So be it' to a prayer with the word Amen. How many times you have said the Lord's Prayer? How often you've volunteered to help out in the church, whether with putting up and putting away tables, or doing a baking, or raising money, or doing the flowers, or visiting someone from the church community that is alone at home, or in hospital. Of course, my starting question of 'how long you have been a Christian' isn't really a fair one, is it? Especially if we are of the Scottish Presbyterian tradition! Many of us don't have a specific moment when we realised we were a 'Christian'. For lots of us, it is a slow-growing feeling that we would like to align ourselves to the values we see exemplified by Jesus. That we believe in something 'other', some force that guides or leads, or is experienced.

Of course, you don't have to be a Christian to feel like that! Its less common now that people continue to go to church in the same fashion that they were traditionally taken by their parents on a Sunday morning. And yet, when we talk to people out-with the church, they frequently say that they are spiritual. Often that's rapidly followed by 'but I'm not religious'. The 'spiritual but not religious' is a well-known phrase in our society, and it indicates that people are very open to something, they just aren't particularly keen on the religious institutions that they perceive hold the power of spiritual encounter.

We recognise that our numbers in the national church are dwindling, and too regularly we reach for the same solutions that haven't worked in the past. It is naive for us to expect that strategies that worked 60 or 70 years ago, in the heyday of the church, to work for us now, in our current world. Often we hear requests for more children to come to church, when we all see the football pitches and tennis courts full of children doing extra-curricular activities on a Sunday morning. Parents see these activities as having more value for their children than coming to a church, and it doesn't matter how good our Sunday schools are, unless they can compete with a soft-play party on a Sunday morning that allows their child to remain within their peer group, then people will simply not attend. If we see the church as they do, I wonder what we would realise. And what that realisation would make us think about our future.

There are many great minds who have contemplated what our church future will look like, Karl Rahner being one of them. Rahner, a Jesuit theologian once said: “the Christian of the future will be a mystic or will not exist.” Almost forty years after Rahner’s death, the “will not exist” part seems to be coming true faster than anyone would like. Is a mystical Christianity the key to a thriving renewal of the faith — not only in the future, but now?

We are certainly not the only people in the world to wonder what is going to happen to our future in the church. Throughout human history people have sought meaningful ways to relate to the Divine force they’ve felt present in their lives. Our 21st C world has different expectations; we live with the knowledge that scientific endeavour has brought us, and we need to find a way to honour this in our faith traditions if we want to remain relevant and of value in our societies. To resonate with them in their lives. Many of our ‘spiritual but not religious’ friends have found other ways to encounter the Divine in their lives in various spiritual practices. Meditation, chanting, breathing exercises, rituals, visualisation, affirmation, and prayer are some of the many ways to achieve this. In some branches of the Church, there is apprehension about these practices. But they are far from new. And they are frequently to be found deeply embedded in the Bible stories we encounter each Sunday. Jesus was a man who embraced silence – he frequently withdrew from the crowds to be on his own, to pray and be with God. Jacob wrestled with God - he had a spiritual encounter that left him changed. Moses visualised God in the burning bush. Enoch ‘walked’ faithfully with God until God ‘took him away’. Abraham entertained angels, giving them food as they rested under a tree. Paul was moved by the Divine on his road to Damascus. Thomas saw the risen Jesus. These people had mystical experiences and knew God. Their individual experiences were not the same. What holds them together is that they experienced God, they recognised God in that moment, and they were profoundly changed.

In John’s gospel, Thomas wasn’t there when the rest of the disciples encountered Jesus that first Easter evening. The next time he is with the other 10, they tell him of their experiences, and he understandably says that unless he sees for himself, he cannot believe. Thomas wants his own 1st - hand experience, and he gets this later on. It’s significant that in this scene, there is no condemnation of Thomas for his questioning and his desire to experience God. Thomas had a mystical experience in which he felt and knew God. The author of this gospel is clear – ‘Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book’. And the examples in John’s gospel are so that we can understand

and come to see God as lived out by Jesus. ‘That through believing you may have life in [Jesus’] name’.

Many of us, who consider ourselves relatively ‘normal’ would likely claim that we’ve not had a mystical experience, where we have met God. Author and theologian Marcus Borg suggests this is perhaps because we are not connected with our environment in quite the same way as our ancestors were. We are too connected to the internet: we no longer have the same interaction with silence and peace or the environment that generations in the past experienced. But also, our scientific age makes us sceptical of our mystical experiences. I could add too, that our traditions of how we worship and how we have set up our churches, and how we have, perhaps, been encouraged to understand God as being elsewhere, distant from us, have discouraged us. But I wonder if perhaps, we *have* had a mystical experience – we simply haven’t called it so. Who here has not ever been moved by a magnificent sunset, or found peace in an empty church, or found lighting inspiration in a conversation with a friend, or felt profound contentment amidst family?

Borg says:

‘God is everywhere. We are in God like fish are in water. Now of course, water is in the fish, but it is more important that the fish is in the water. The fish might not even know it is in the water until it is removed. If, as the mystics suggest that God or the sacred can be experienced, God is not far off, but right here, all around us. When we talk of God, we don’t talk of a supernatural being who may exist, but about a glorious radiant, luminous mystery that is right here, and sometimes glimpsed, sometimes experienced.’

If indeed, our ‘spiritual but not religious’ friends are seeking meaning in their spiritual journeys, what are we saying to them in our religious and faith lives? Is our responsibility as Christians not to look backwards all the time, and to use the same old formulae that no longer work? To instead, look forward to, and create new ways of engaging with seekers that shows our Christian tradition has lots of value for those on a spiritual journey. In our modern world, can we find ways to encourage others to know that God, the Divine, is not the scary man with a white beard who lives in the sky who punishes us when we make mistakes? But rather that we are in God, like fish are in water. When we change our thinking about our experience in God, we may become more open to, and can sometimes glimpse the Divine. Perhaps we can even have the courage to share that with others to empower them on their spiritual journey too.

Amen



Coffee time for Ukraine

The special
event held in the
church hall
raised £1500 to
help Ukraine
refugees



Magazine Dates - Session 2022/ 2023

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, 21 August	Friday, 2 September	Sunday, 4 September
Autumn	October Communion	Sunday, 2 October	Friday, 14 October	Sunday, 16 October
Christmas	Christmas	Sunday, 13 November	Friday, 25 November	Sunday, 27 November
Winter	January Communion	Sunday, 1 January	Friday, 13 January	Sunday, 15 January
Spring	April Communion	Sunday, 2 April	Friday, 14 April	Sunday, 16 April
Summer	June Communion	Sunday, 28 May	Friday, 9 June	Sunday, 11 June



Afternoon calling for the Guild meetings

Whose we are and Whom we Serve

It is just over three months since our last Guild Meeting and I hope that this finds you all well and looking forward to the summer days' ahead.

The Syllabus for next session is almost complete – just a few things to finalise before the Committee see it at our next meeting and then it will be ready to have it printed in the office.

At our Annual General Meeting in March, Dorothy put forward to the members present that it had been suggested that The Guild meet in the afternoon. The members voted overwhelmingly for the change. So, beginning in October, all our meetings will start at 2 p.m. We hope that this time will be more suitable to the majority of our members. Since Covid and the various lockdowns most people have, in some way or another, made changes to their lives resulting in not being so keen to be out on a winter's evening. We hope, therefore, that more of our members will feel more able to come along on a Monday afternoon. We look forward to welcoming everyone again and also any new members who would like to join us – you can be assured of a warm welcome and an afternoon of friendship and fellowship.

The opening meeting will be on Monday, 3 October at 2 p.m. Our Minister, Revd Dr Scott McKenna, has kindly agreed to come and speak at our opening meeting and also dedicate The Guild and give us encouragement for the work we hope to do during the coming Session.

In the meantime, on behalf of Dorothy and the Committee, we hope that you all continue to keep well, stay safe and enjoy the Summer – when it comes!

Maureen Fullerton
Secretary

IT WAS A RIGHT ROYAL MAUNDY EXPERIENCE

When an envelope, with a postmark from Buckingham Palace, drops through the letterbox containing an invite to Windsor Castle, one is not going to be washing one's hair that day! Nor turn down the opportunity for a new outfit! Such an envelope was delivered to our home and to Sheena Stewart's. Neither of us knew the other was heading for London in Holy Week, but both of us were speechless. It was humbling to receive such an honour. The invitation was extended to Bob and to Matt, which was really lovely.

With no information about who nominated us, or why, and having to maintain a level of secrecy it was all very exciting! The invitation came with a request for some personal information. I am not usually at a loss for words but writing about oneself is another thing altogether! The focus was on Christian service, which is really difficult to articulate. When an opportunity to help or support presents itself you just do whatever you can and I cannot think of this as unusual. However, most recently I was responsible for the daily Lockdown diaries with which folks seemed to identify. I wrote about our seniors Keep Fit class and my hobbies, including my interest in stage makeup – particularly of the gruesome kind!

Sheena has been a member of St Quivox and then St Columba for close on thirty years and has been very active in helping the local communities, most recently at Lochside. She was greatly honoured to be chosen to receive the award and to be part of a wonderful event in such a beautiful location.

96 women and 96 men had been invited, one for each year of the monarch's age, to be a recipient of Maundy Money. We knew in advance that Her Majesty would not be attending and that the honours would be presented by HRH the Prince of Wales. The service was to be held in St George's Chapel, Windsor followed by a reception in Windsor Castle.

Maundy Thursday was a lovely day and, dressed in our finery, we





walked the short distance from the hotel to the Chapel. There was a lot of security, but everyone was friendly and welcoming - and so the adventure began. Inside the Chapel we were escorted personally to our seats.

The Chapel is magnificent, it is a large but not a vast Sanctuary, the windows were amazing, the high vaulted ceiling and the fabulously decorated organ pipes were splendid and there was a wonderful buzz in the air. The Orders of Service were very comprehensive and we knew exactly what was going to happen and when. They also contained a lot of information about the history of the presentations, which was most interesting. We were given instructions from the Almoner and advised not to do as a previous recipient had done when she presented The Queen with a pot of home-made marmalade!

The music was superb. The organist played, the choir sang and the congregation were in good voice. It really was magnificent. The Pageantry was, as you might suspect, second to none. What a privilege to be there in the midst of it all. There was a great deal of symbolism too, which brought a real measure of humility to the proceedings. Many of the clergy wore white linen cloths over their cassocks to symbolise the cloths used to wash the feet of the traveller, I found this very moving. The hymns and readings were so appropriate and the service proceeded seamlessly. Prince Charles spoke to every recipient; he was gracious and sincere, and I was extremely nervous!

Each recipient of the Maundy money received a red and a white leather purse from the Prince. The red purse contained a £5 coin and a 50p coin and the white purse contained 1p, 2p, 3p and 4p coins to the value of 96p, this being the Monarch's age. All the coins, which were formed from sterling silver, were specially minted and inscribed and were sealed in special cases to keep them in mint condition.

After the service we were invited to the Castle for the reception. This

was a superb event. Rubbing shoulders with interesting people from all walks of life like an Admiral, a Bishop, the florist, Nuns and commoners, all with a story to tell. The canapés and wine were first class and we had a truly splendid and memorable day!

Irene



TAKING AN ECO LOOK by Andrew Muirhead

Rich in natural resources as the fight goes on between Russia and Ukraine

Does environmental awareness link to other values?

I have written about various matters of ecological concern over the past couple of years. It is easy to consider eco matters in isolation, almost as a substitute for a broader moral and religious perspective.

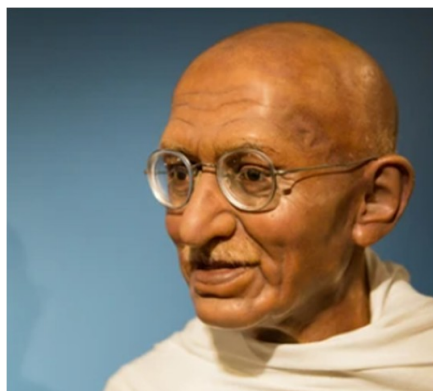
Is there linkage with other principles that fit with our faith? I think so.

The Church of Scotland has developed 5 articles of mission. Amongst these, we are expected to preserve the environment, promote peace and respect other Faiths.

The war in Ukraine is appalling from every perspective. We should consider the way news is presented. There is reference to how “Mr Putin” is attacking Ukraine and battles are fought to repel “him”. In reality, there are soldiers on each side who are exposed to different stories about how the other side is bad and maybe how God is on “my” side. From the perspective of the West, there is a very good case to support Ukraine and resist Russian aggression

Both Russia and Ukraine are very rich in natural resources which is probably an important motivation for this conflict. Energy and food prices have been manipulated by Russia to assist in bringing the West to heel. At present the west assists Ukraine largely by supplying military material, intelligence and training. We assist Russia by paying inflated prices for fossil fuels and food. We can choose to assist Ukraine by non-violent methods and in doing so, we can promote a better vision of how to live. It can be instructive to look at examples from elsewhere and other faiths.

At one time, we British were seen as aggressors and manipulators by others, in particular by Indians. Gandhi (right) decided to use peaceful methods to resist. Gandhi based his non-violent policy on tracts of the Bhagavad Gita, Hindu scripture. He encouraged Indians to stop buying manufactured British goods. He promoted self-sufficiency. He set up model villages such as Rasulia. His idea was to promote Panchayat Raj, a decentralised



form of government which was designed to be a viable alternative to the British colonial system and one that would make centralised rule very difficult. His idea of a good life involved a very small carbon footprint if looked at from today’s perspective.

Not all of Gandhi’s ideas have stood the test of time. One thing does however stand out. Britain has maintained good and respectful relations with India after independence. There was no war of independence.

Peaceful opposition to an aggressor is not a soft option. Russian rulers

consider the West to be decadent and in decline. If we believe that our values are worth something, then we should be prepared to strive for them.

It is easy to say that our government is responsible for our foreign policy and as individuals we can do little to influence world events. It is rather more difficult to reduce the power foreign governments have over us by individual action. Maybe the Ukraine war will promote a change in lifestyle that is overdue.



Wealth in the west often equates to a large carbon footprint. Oil and gas sourced by Britain comes mostly from the north sea. However, if we reduce our fuel consumption, more will become available to other nearby countries and the price will reduce. This will reduce the power that oil and gas exporters have over the west. It is a non-violent form of resistance that allows for restoring good relations with the Russian Federation in future.

I have found that measurement of consumption of energy has been key to making reductions. For example over the past 3 to 4 years we have reduced home gas consumption substantially. I have been surprised by what measures have been the most effective. The most effective changes we have made were definitely not what we expected based on Government advice.

Much of our food is imported and shortages mean that the price is rising. Poorer countries risk being tipped into famine. Can we reduce our food consumption? No I am not advocating fasting! According to Mintel, a global marketing company, 49% of Britons have reduced their meat consumption. This includes vegetarians and vegans but also 38% of the population who have reduced meat consumption for reasons of animal welfare, religious, cultural, health and environmental concerns. It is much more efficient to eat mostly vegetables because animals do not convert all their feed in to meat. How much meat do we need? By the way, I enjoy eating meat and continue to do so but much less than previously..

In conclusion, at present we support both sides in the Ukraine conflict. By developing our environmental credentials we can oppose aggression in a non-violent way and create the conditions for a more peaceful world..

Andrew Muirhead

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Maundy Thursday at Windsor Castle

Sheena and Irene would like to thank the many kind folks in the Congregation and beyond who took time to send letters, cards, flowers and messages of congratulations. Each and every one was much appreciated.

Congregation and Parish Register



April - May

*"I am with you always to the
end of the age"*

Matthew 28:20



Archie McAlpine	Lothian Road, Ayr
Wallace Allan	Longbank Road, Ayr
John Davidson	Sedgefield, formerly of Doonfoot
Chris Dunnachie	Redford Nursing Home
Madge Steven	Templeton House Care Home
Linda Sharp	formerly of Eglinton Terrace

Who to contact

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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 Charity Number: SC014338

Church Services (Midton Road):

10am - Family Service;
10am Sunday School,
11.15 - Morning Worship;
6.30pm - Evening Services
(Last Sunday of the month)
2pm: HOLY COMMUNION
(Last Wednesday of Month)

Church Services (Lochside):

10am Morning Worship

Webmaster: Iain Bartholomew,

email: website@ayrstcolumba.co.uk

www.ayrstcolumba.co.uk

What's on in the halls

MONDAY

5.30pm **RAINBOW BROWNIES**

Aynsley Bell, 07914 842118

2pm: **THE GUILD** (fortnightly):

Mrs D. Bone, 441651

7.30pm: **MEN'S ASSOCIATION**

(fortnightly):

Mr T. R. Swinn, 441896

WEDNESDAY

2pm: **HOLY COMMUNION** (4th Wed):

Church Office, 269524

2pm: **FITNESS with FRIENDS:**

Mrs Margaret Doncaster, 477381

6.15: **9th AYR BROWNIES,**

Emma Daniels, 07856245801

THURSDAY

10am-noon: **OASIS CAFE**

Mrs M. Doncaster 477381 Mrs P. Naylor
570020

2pm: **MEN'S ASSOCIATION GAMES:**

Mr A. Hawthorn 267688

6.30pm: **CUB SCOUTS:**

Mr Jereon Bolte 07511489755

7.30pm: **SENIOR CHOIR:**

Church Office 269524

FRIDAY

6pm: **BEAVER SCOUTS:**

Fiona Wilson, 290414

7.30pm: **SCOUTS:**

Jereon Bolte, 07511489755

SATURDAY

4pm: **MESSY CHURCH**

(last Saturday of the month):

Irene Bartholomew, 269524



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

Facebook: Full Service (monthly)

YouTube: Monthly Service on our YouTube Channel

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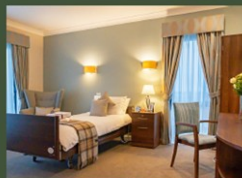
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