

Columba News

June
2023
No. 252



Coronation kitchen



Getting ready for the Coronation street party. More photographs on pages 14, 15, 16 and 17

Waiting to welcome you

Sundays	Team	Leader
June 25	Team 11	Mrs J. Paterson
July 2	Team 12	Ms H. Cousins
July 9	Team 1	Mrs C. Morrison
July 16	Team 2	Mr A. McKinlay
July 23	Team 3	Mrs C. Naismith
July 30	Team 4	Ms G. Watson
August 6	Team 5	Mrs N. Mackie
August 13	Team 6	Mr J. Hume
August 20	Team 7	Mrs H. Fullerton
August 27	Team 8	Mrs F. Boyd
September 3	Team 9	Mrs E. Gardiner
September 10	Team 10	Mr G. Park
September 17	Team 11	Mrs J. Paterson
September 24	Team 12	Ms H. Cousins

Evening Services:
September 24: Team 12

From the manse

June 2023

Dear Friends,

A tree alight with the fire and flames of God; or, so it seems with the sight or insight of the inner eye. If, like Moses at the burning bush, we stop and turn aside, we too may glimpse the glory of God as the sun sets over Arran.

By the time you read this, we will have been blessed with visits from both the Alma Choir from the United States and the Clare Chorale from Northern Ireland. It has been quite wonderful to have these choirs enrich our weekly worship.

Over the summer months of July and August, we will be having a two-month trial of holding one morning service only at 10.30am followed by tea, coffee, and biscuits in the hall. In part, the purpose is to nurture greater fellowship between our two morning congregations and afford us a better opportunity to welcome visitors and new members. At the end of August, there will be an opportunity to comment on the pros and cons of the trial.



At a recent meeting of Kirk Session, two new committees were set up to help the Session and congregation consider new ideas and possible changes to the building. Both committees have had their first meeting. The Research Committee's remit is to offer ideas which will help celebrate our commu-

nity, its faith and service, and to do so in a way that makes sense in the 21st century. The Planning Committee is working to help future-proof our building. If you have any suggestions, good or crazy, which you think will

help shape the future of St Columba Church, either to strengthen the community or improve the building for current (and future) users, then please don't hesitate to email me or speak to me on Sunday morning. Thinking outside the box is to be encouraged!

It is great to have a new student minister with us. A former teacher, David Donaldson, is a welcome addition to the ministry team albeit for a very short time of 10 weeks. Already he has made a very positive impression, not only with his positive contributions in meetings but also in the quality of his public worship.

And, what of Rosie? There have been two or three notable episodes, but not all of them can be readily shared in this publication! She did catch a sick or injured crow one morning on the golf course. While she carried it for a distance, the crow played 'dead'. As we approached the moment I needed to get Rosie back on the lead, Rosie stopped and dropped the crow in the expectation that she would receive a treat.

Once dropped, the poorly feathered crow burst back to life (Lazarus-like) and, as it did so, pecked Rosie on the nose!

Fortunately, I was able to separate them, and on she and I went for the rest of our walk.

It is always a pleasure for me to see you at church and, if you are able, I very much look forward to welcoming you.

Blessings and peace to you.

Scott

Revd Dr Scott S McKenna

Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated in the church on Sunday, June 25.

There will be two services at 10am and 11.15am..

The Kirk Session has decided that the Communion services in June this year will continue to use the small capsules of bread and wine due to Covid being still around.

This style of Communion will be reviewed in time for the October Communion.

SUMMER SERVICES

For a trial period of two months, July and August, we will have **ONE** morning service only at **10.30am**. The service will be followed by tea, coffee, and biscuits in the hall, to which everyone is welcome.

The purpose of the trial is to encourage further a **sense of community** and **friendship** within the church community. It is hoped that this will also make it easier for visitors and potential new members to meet and mingle with existing members of the congregation. As part of our Christian witness, it is important that members and visitors are welcomed each week at the door and in the pew.

The opportunity afforded with **hospitality** after the service will hopefully enhance our ministry of welcome. At the end of the trial, the Kirk Session will invite your comments on the trial and assess how we might move forward.

We ask for your support and good wishes in this venture.

Bob Bartholomew, Session Clerk

*To this end, if you would like to volunteer to help at the tea, coffee, and biscuits on one of the Sundays during July and August, please give your name and contact number to **Margaret Doncaster** on **07962234748**. Many thanks!*

Visit to the Central Mosque

On Wednesday, May 3, a coach load of folk from St Columba set off for the Central Mosque in Glasgow.

We were joined by members of the Auld Kirk and St Andrew's Church.

We then stopped off in Troon to collect Gilleen Richmond and some folk from her congregations.

Our guide was Omar, a very pleasant young man, the father of three children, who was very informative and encouraged us to ask as many questions as we liked- and we did!

Adjacent to the Mosque itself is a spacious hall which belongs to the Muslim community, which they let out for public use.

When we were there it was being used by the NHS for Covid vaccine boosters.

The Mosque itself is very spacious and carpeted in green.

Omar told us that green is the colour of heaven! It has a capacity for 1800 men and 600 women(they sit upstairs) and up to 300 children attend classes there. Because the Koran was passed on orally by Mohammed's followers who learnt it by heart, the oral tradition has remained central to how Muslims approach the Koran. 80 students are learning to memorise it in Arabic, including women, you'll be pleased to know!

There are also scholars, again including women, who study the text of the Koran. Ongoing learning is important to Muslims.

We were all impressed to see 20-30 men coming in to pray, presumably during their lunch break. Muslims are supposed to pray 5 times a day.

Omar said that prayer reminds everyone of their " natural disposition" which is to "seek God and His consciousness."

In Islam, Jesus is regarded very highly as a prophet (he is mentioned 78 times in the Koran) but not as the Son of God.

Mary too is highly revered. Important to their faith is the Resurrection. They also believe in Judgement Day and Heaven and Hell. We didn't discuss the details of what these meant to believers!

We were fascinated to learn that Muslims are required to give away 2.5% of their wealth to the poor not as charity but because the world is unjust it is the RIGHT.

Once in a lifetime Muslims make a pilgrimage to Mecca where Mohammed was born.

The Mosque is not just a centre for prayer- there are also meals and fellowship provided for the vulnerable and elderly. Our tour finished up with a cuppa and biscuits!

We all found it a very rewarding experience. Meeting Muslims in person and being able to ask Omar questions in the peaceful atmosphere of the Mosque has left a long lasting impression.

Although there are clearly essential differences between Christianity and Islam, there are many strands that unite our faiths too.

It was good to discover them .

Muriel Wilson



Keep-fit ladies take a break



This group has had a number of variations of name during its life-time! But it always morphs to simply Keep Fit. However, it is about so much more than the exercises in which we participate, or pretend to, each week.

This is a happy, friendly, supportive Group who enjoy the 50's and 60's music, the chat, the relaxation (or short nap if you are lucky) and, of course a cuppa – we shan't mention the chocolate biscuits, but they are also good! To join this merry band, you do not need to be agile, flexible or anything like that, you just need to be willing to have a go!

We enjoyed our end of session lunch in the Stage Door Café.

We restart on Wednesday 13 September at 1.45pm

Irene

Copy deadline for the September issue will be

Sunday, August 20

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

Yikang's energy investigation



At the invitation of John Ballantyne and others, St Columba is fortunate to have a student at University College London to assist us with research into our energy usage at the church.

Studying for his MSc in 'Smart Buildings and Digital Engineering', Yikang Tong is working on his dissertation which examines the building energy performance at St Columba Church.

Apart of his work, he is constructing a building energy performance simulation model of our church building.

Yikang's first degree, Bachelor of Engineering in 'Architectural Environmental Engineering' was read at the University of Nottingham, at its campus in the city of Wuhu, China.

Yikang, is pictured with John Ballantyne, John Stewart, and Andrew Muirhead with an image of the simulation model on the facing page.

Abbas Rest collection - Grand Total

At the wonderful Coronation street party in the sunshine, the sum of £1100 was collected for the folk in Malawi. This fantastic sum includes a generous donation from the Ukelele band and from St Columba funds.

Several people who'd not been at the street party, also added to the total later.

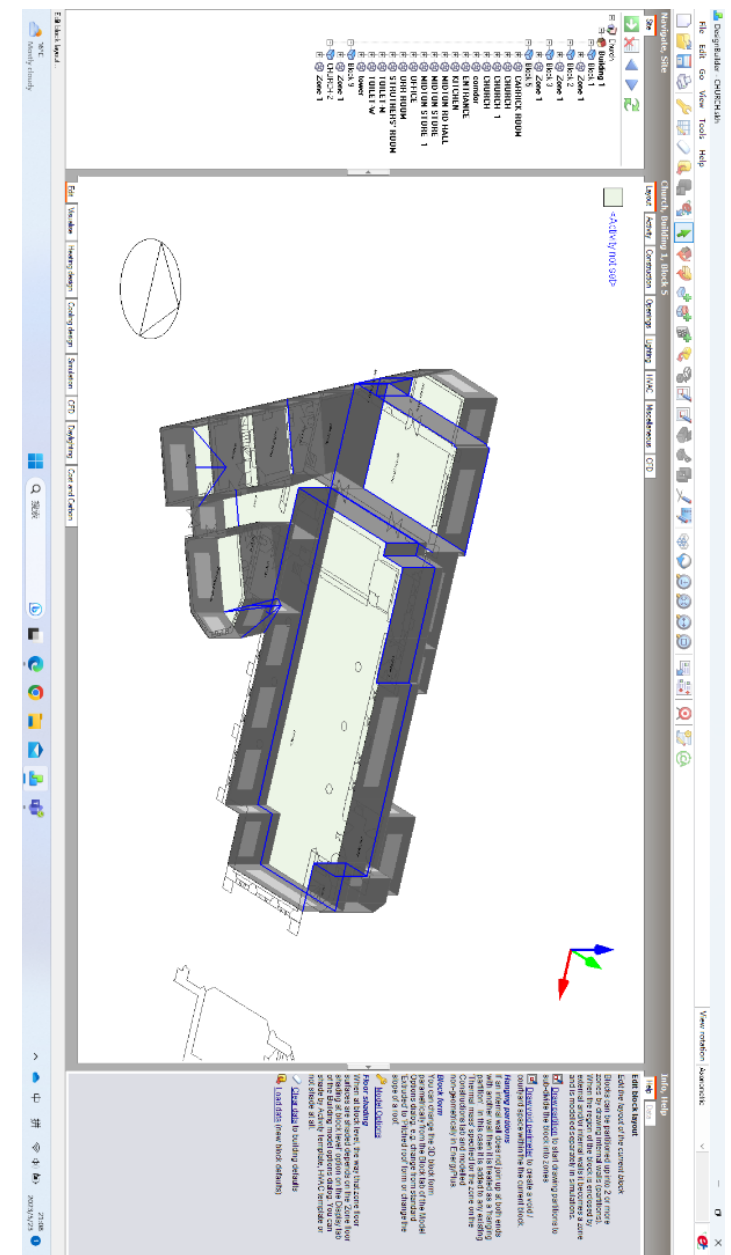
These funds will be banked in our Abbas account here in Ayr and when we make our trip to Malawi in August we will be looking at the best way of spending the money.

As I mentioned before, Cyclone Freddy wreaked havoc in the south of Malawi which is where our projects are sited. The generosity of St Columba congregation will be able to make a huge difference there.

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

Muriel

Computer model to help with church energy



*Scott's sermon preached from St Luke 24 44-53
on Sunday, May 21, 2023*

Then Jesus led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them.

While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven.

St Luke 24: 50, 51

On this day, churches of varying traditions and denominations around the world, through sacrament, prayer, sermon, and song, mark the ascension of Jesus; the lifting up, or raising, of the Risen Christ into heaven. In Luke's account, Jesus led the disciples out from the city of Jerusalem to the nearby village of Bethany, the home of Martha, Mary, and Lazarus.

The very mention of the name Bethany at this poignant moment suggests resurrection: it was from a stone-cut tomb in the village of Bethany that Jesus had raised the man who had been dead for four days. To Martha, Jesus had said, 'I am the resurrection and the life'.

In the sequel to the Gospel of Luke, in the Book of Acts, the disciples of Jesus watch and witness as Jesus is taken up and disappears into a cloud. In mediaeval stained glass there are quaint pictures of the ascension of Jesus: we see His feet projecting from the underside of a fluffy cloud. Like Elon Musk's star ship, Jesus lifts off from earth into space. In our 21st century secular society, what are we to make of the ascension of Jesus?

Are we able to reach beneath the literalism of the text, decode the religious meanings, and let the poetry of our ancient Scriptures speak afresh, and speak meaningfully?

Though we are most familiar with the ascension of Jesus, in the ancient world the concept of being lifted 'up' into 'heaven' was a common one. Fifteen hundred years before the birth of Jesus, in the Egyptian **Book**



of the Dead, we read of the dead being taken up into the presence of the god Osiris. Four hundred years before the birth of Jesus, the Greek philosopher Socrates taught the cultivated Athenian youth of the immortality of the soul. He said, 'Have you not discovered that our souls are immortal and never perish?' Is that a claim of the 'rising and ascending' of all people?

In the Jewish tradition, there are stories of the ascension of **Enoch, Moses, Elijah and Ezra**.

In the Roman world, the emperor, **Caesar Augustus**, ascended into the company of the gods, the Roman pantheon, in full sight of the senators. Romulus, the legendary founder of Rome, was taken up in a cloud, into heaven. In Islam, through mystical flight, the Prophet Muhammed ascended through the heavens to the divine paradise. In the Gospels, Jesus told His listeners that the three patriarchs of Israel, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, were alive in God; they had already ascended to the Father. What might the ascension of Jesus mean for us?

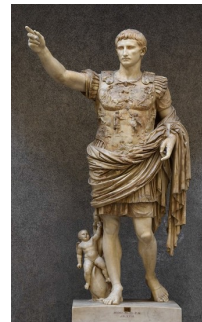
The spiritual writer, Sara Maitland, who lives in the Galloway Hills, says that 'Myth is the poetry of the soul', while the German author, Thomas Mann, said, '**Myth is the way things never were, but always are**'.

Over the centuries, Christian martyrs have looked to the heavens as they died. In 1556, on the instruction of Queen Mary, the Archbishop of Canterbury, **Thomas Cranmer**, was put to the stake. One account of that day records:

*His body did so abide the burning of the flames
with constancy and steadfastness....his eyes were
lifted up into heaven....and using the words of
Steven [the first Christian martyr, said] 'Lord, Jesus,
receive my spirit'. In the greatness of the flame,
he gave up the ghost.*

What do you make of the story of the ascension? In the Gospel of John, on the night before Jesus died, He sat with His disciples and He said, 'In my Father's house are many mansions....I go to prepare a place for you'.

Written in the religious framework or understanding of the ancient world, I find the imaginative story to be compelling and, dare I say, spiritually uplifting. If we enter the scene, and let ourselves stand with Jesus, with the other disciples, may we not see and sense the nearness of Jesus and hear the interaction for ourselves?



Like the surrounding arms of the forgiving father in the Parable of the Prodigal Son, the cloud envelops Jesus, the Jesus we know. If ever there was a symbol for the presence of God, it is a cloud: luminous, visually impenetrable, and always moving and changing shape. The cloud envelops, embraces, the Risen and rising Jesus.

And, spiritually, if Jesus, you and me also. I don't mean that we will be swallowed by a cloud, but our life is lived each day, every minute, in God and, at death, we will be embraced by the Sacred, the Essence of Eternity, and somehow in some way the journey in some form will go on. I find the story of the ascension immensely comforting.

In the ancient world and perhaps today also, people spoke of the soul; the life, the breath, within us. Not for nothing people believed that they were more than the physical body that they could see and touch. In our time, rather than the soul, we may more readily speak of our consciousness. If scientists could take us apart, separate us atom by atom, they would not find the consciousness. It is our deepest mystery. It is the life within us; more than anything else, it is who we are.

I believe that in the same way that our consciousness is invisible to us and to everyone else but is the essence of who we are, so in the universe, in all creation, in however many universes there may be, **God, the Sacred, the Mystery, is Consciousness.** I believe that the universe is conscious, and that our consciousness rests in the consciousness of God. We are always in God: we always have been, and we always will be. The mythology of ascension captures something of this journey. We are made in the image of God: the essence of who we are is part of the essence of the Divine. The whole of the Divine dwells in you and me.

Fleetingly, on occasion, in this life we may feel ourselves to be lifted out of ourselves.

Perhaps through the beauty of art, poetry, music, or nature but, through whatever means, we feel ourselves to be part of a larger whole. It is this intuition, these life transforming moments, we are to trust. There is nothing fanciful about the ascension of Jesus or of any other historic figure; it's just written in another time. We are trust our sense of who and what we are.

Thanks to the church Wednesday team

Jane Hunter and the Hospitality Committee would like to thank John Stewart and the Wednesday team for decorating the church grounds and Carrick Park for the Coronation street party



Marking the Coronation with a street party

Photographs by Keith Fullerton







Fiona takes Table Talk to Africa

Members of the Table Talk group in the church heard of Fiona Boyd's Life in Africa at their last meet meeting.

Fiona married Alistair Syme in 1974 and it was he who took her to Rhodesia. She thought she had come to paradise as the sky was constantly blue, the sun shone relentlessly and warm and everyone smiled. Alistair had been appointed journalist in the editorial department of the Rhodesian Printing and Publishing Company.

Fiona spoke of her early visit to many of the interesting places in the country – Fort Victoria to see the spillage of the new dam there, the Great Zimbabwe Ruins, Wankie Game Reserve, The Amazing Victoria Falls and the beautiful Lake Kariba, playground for those with money.

In 1978 Alistair was transferred to Umtali in the Eastern Highlands to be Editor of the Umtali Post. Now they were in the centre of the Black and White war. They were mortared five times, travelled on landmined roads and often went by convoy with Annie Get Your Gun in the lead – pistol and rifle at the ready!

Britain was anxious to make the country independent and brought Mugabe in to power to do just that. It did not take him long to show his true colours.

Sadly Alistair lost his job and returned to Greenock but due to difficulties they divorced in the early 80's. By this time Fiona had become close friends with Squadron Leader Don Howe and they married two years later.

She represented Don at the Battle of Britain celebrations in September 1995 and enjoyed an amazing flypast, and march of the oldies from Buckingham Palace grounds, having a special seat in Westminster Abbey and enjoying afternoon tea in the rotating tower of the post office with wonderful views over London.

Don died in February 1998 and we were privileged to have a group of the top Zimbabwean Air Force personnel who flew down from Harare by helicopter. When the coffin was carried out of the car by the boys of the new Air Training Corps a buglar played The Last Post and all noise in that busy square stopped. It was so respectful.

The scattering of Don's ashes was another interesting story as they were laid in a peaceful glade at the top of Cross Kopje (hill) but Fiona and her Hospice friend had to have the escort of the Border Police as it was a dangerous area.

Fiona knew her third husband, Alan Boyd, since 1978 as a good friend but gradually their relationship became closer and they married in November 1999. Her life was different – they entertained many of the sales people from Head Office in Harare and others in different walks of life. Alan was trained in Gray’s Carpets, Ayr and specialised in dying.

One notable friend of Fiona’s was Meryl Harrison who was National Chairman of the ZNSPCA and was granted permission to go on to the farms where the owners had to leave in a hurry to rescue animals left there. She was a very brave person, suffering abuse, rudeness and huge obstacles. She was also renowned in South Africa and was flown to Britain to the BBC Animal Awards Ceremony to receive a Special Award in 2002 for the work she was doing. A book was written by Cathy Buckle of this called ‘**Innocent Victims.**’

Jean’s 90th birthday thanks

Jean Stewart would like to thank everyone for the kind monetary gifts that she received on her 90th birthday. The total was £2520 for the Whiteley Retreat.

Jean hosted 90 guests at an afternoon ladies tea in the Kylestrome Hotel to mark her special birthday.

Magazine Dates - Session 2023/ 2024

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, 20 August	Friday, 1 September	Sunday, 3 September
Autumn	October Communion	Sunday, 1 October	Friday, 13 October	Sunday, 15 October
Christmas	Christmas	Sunday, 12 November	Friday, 24 November	Sunday, 26 November
Winter	January Communion	Sunday, 31 December	Friday, 12 January	Sunday, 14 January
Spring	April Communion	Sunday, 31 March	Friday, 12 April	Sunday, 14 April
Summer	June Communion	Sunday, 2 June	Friday, 14 June	Sunday, 16 June

David joins us at Ayr St Columba

First of all, let me introduce myself. My name is David Donaldson and I will be with you for ten weeks this summer for my final student placement.

I am a candidate for full-time ministry of Word and Sacrament and have completed placements in Kilmaurs, Mauchline and Sorn and Alloway. I study Divinity at the University of Glasgow and up until the Easter holiday I taught in an additional support needs school.

I live in Kilmarnock with my cat Mattie where I attend St Marnock's Parish Church. I am very much looking forward to journeying with you all over the next while and praying that we will all grow in faith together.



I want to thank all of you who have welcomed me into your church family here at St Columba. We must never underestimate the power of a heart-felt and warm welcome. Let me share with you how a welcome at a church door helped to bring me back into the fold.

Apart from the odd baptism, I had not attended Sunday worship for well over ten years. I really felt that God was encouraging me back to church, but I was wary due to past experiences. However, I decided to be brave and look for a church that I would feel comfortable in, try before you buy if you like! On one particular Sunday I attended a local church, I enjoyed the service and thought I'll come back again next week for a second look.

On my arrival I was surprised to find a lady waiting for me at the door. She said that she had spotted me at the back the previous week and that she had a feeling I would return. She smiled at me, told me I was welcome and took me by the arm and asked if I would sit with her and her niece. Her kind words really moved me, and I thought for the first time I had found the church family I was looking for. I stayed at that church and became a member. A few years later, I preached my first sermon there.

Christians have always been a people of welcome. The apostle Paul in his letter to the Romans wrote: "Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." Christ's welcome of us provides the basis and model for our ongoing welcome of one another. In church, we must make the effort to welcome the stranger and ask ourselves, how can I make people feel genuinely welcome here? A small thing like a smile and a friendly word can make a really big difference to someone.

Blessings, David



At the end of April we met at Boswell's Coach house and did a figure of eight walk round by the house and back via the Gorge Walk.

Since it was two years since the group began (when we were only allowed to meet outdoors - remember?) we celebrated with lunch in the coach house. For those who haven't been it's well worth a visit as the surroundings are lovely and the food is good!

By the time you read this we will have had a woodland walk to the Swan Pond at Culzean.

The walks are always the last Friday in the month, generally meeting at Halfords at 10am to share cars, or at the venue around 10.30.

On June 30 we will be walking a loop round Irvine Harbour starting from the Asda car park.

On the July 29 we will walk at Straiton and have a picnic lunch, weather permitting!!

Due to holidays there will be no walk in August, please note!

Walkers enjoy Culzean and also lunch at Boswells



All aboard for the senior outing

Royal Yacht Britannia

Friday September 1, 2023

Coach departs Church	9am
Dobbies, Loanhead	11am tea / coffee
Britannia visit	1pm to 3.30pm
Redstone Hotel, Larkhall	5pm High Tea
Arrive back at Church	7.30pm

COST.	Royal YACHT	£18.50
	High Tea	£14.95

(collect money on coach)

If you would like to join the trip please add your
name and telephone number to the sheet in the
Carrick Park corridor

In order for our booking to be accepted payment in full was
required , for ease of booking the church has kindly paid for a
block booking which will be reimbursed when payment is
collected.

Money will be collected on the coach and if I could ask if eve-
ryone could put £35.00 in an envelope with their name clearly
marked. This amount covers Britannia Tour and High Tea.

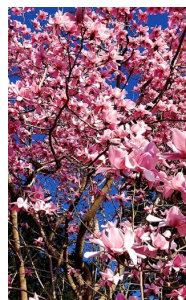
Surely environmentalists are just a bit crazy?

Over the past few days I have helped draw up an environmental policy for a small organisation and watched 2 U-tube videos. One of these videos was of a Tuesday afternoon “reflection” presented at the Scottish Parliament. Once a week, at the start of business for the afternoon, someone is invited to speak to the parliament. They may be from any faith or none.

A retired GP spoke about being a “good ancestor”. Dr Leslie Morrison outlined how a lady she admired made all her clothes, she wasted nothing, her garden was loved and beautiful and her gate and door were always open.

She and her late husband were pillars of the community. She was active in opposing nuclear weapons.

She saw a connection between peace and our ecological system. She went on to say that peace, social justice, racial justice and climate justice are all interconnected. She continued, that the climate crisis is a health crisis. She said that all of us, politicians especially, should look at the problems of the world through the lens of the climate crisis. She wrapped up by suggesting we ask ourselves “Are we being good ancestors?”. At the end of this speech, I was left feeling uncomfortable. I could not put my finger on just why, as I broadly agreed with many things she said. Somehow the logic of her speech failed to connect numerous threads.



A few days earlier, I was invited to take part in putting the final touches to the environmental policy of a small organisation. This was done over zoom. The draft policy included new items that were recently added, related to food. The organisation has moved from a mainly Christian meat eating community to a more Eastern leaning vegan group over the last 50 years. I had a similar feeling of discomfort with the preliminary wording of the policy. A vegan diet was being pushed as the carbon friendly choice. It also chimed with the ethic of the organisation. I am not vegan myself and the discomfort is therefore understandable. A vegan diet is not essential for a sustainable diet if one looks at the evidence.



The second Utube video was an interview of Dr Iain McGilchrist a neu-

roscentist, author and philosopher. He spoke on the structure of the human brain and the way we perceive the world. The manner in which each of the hemispheres of the brain perceive the world is different. There are numerous interconnections and up to 17% of human neurones have an inhibitory function. He illustrated this by explaining that without these checks, we can be misled into believing that “voices” arise from an electric socket. This belief can come because there appears to be no other explanation for what is perceived. We need a reality check from the right hemisphere when the left “fact” based hemisphere goes down a logical route that is unlikely to be real. When these checks go wrong, we develop mental illness. There was much more of course, but the nub of his thesis was that the human brain is designed to determine what is balanced, reasonable and moderate. From my reading, I am aware that these 3 qualities are at the heart of Benedictine philosophy, a formula that has stood the test of time.

It is my belief that people are different for a reason. When one person develops a passionate belief, it can sway a community. The ideas of an individual should be moderated by their own “right sided brain” but also by others or else things can go wrong. Let me take the example of the GP giving her speech to the Scottish Parliament. Her decency and sincerity are not in doubt. Her allocated time was brief, even so her offering seemed unbalanced to me. The friend she admired had a wonderful garden, wasted nothing and made all her own clothes. Is Parliament meant to support that? No mention was made if a gardener was employed. No mention was made about paying someone to repair furniture, or anything that might keep the economy ticking over. The formula being offered could not possibly be widely copied without economic consequences. The linkage to numerous other causes then began to look shaky to me. She may be correct but, for me, she failed to convince.

Let us move to the environmental policy. I found myself saying to a group of very decent employees, that it was time to loosen up a bit! They are already in the group that is responsible for only a tiny fraction of emissions. Modest levels of comfort should be expected, and no, winter office temperatures below 16 degrees C are not acceptable nor are they legal. It is not in my view necessary to be vegan for environmental reasons and that should not be implied on an environmental policy. Being vegan out of conviction is a different matter of course and the carbon footprint is likely to be lower than for a meat eater, but not necessarily so.

In our secular age, Christianity has suffered some loss of reputation for various reasons. Sometimes, groups espouse various beliefs such as anti-

vaccination. Sometimes professed Christians fail to behave with kindness or integrity. These human failings are not really Christian failings but can be perceived that way.

There are many other things somewhat closer to home. For example, take environmental matters, what does your “sense checker” tell you about that? Is this real? Do we share some responsibility to make changes? How does the reputation of the Church relate to environmental matters? Dr Iain McGilchrist presented material to support the view that we are created with the ability to make a judgement on the subject.

Andrew Muirhead 07526662044, a.g.muirhead@googlemail.com

Congregation and Parish Register



April– May

BAPTISM

Charlotte Di Vito Waterston, daughter of
Simonetta and Kenneth Waterston

WEDDINGS

Taylor McFarlane and Blair Agnew
Devon Stirling and Trevor Dailey

NEW MEMBERS

Neil Gilmour
Grace and Ian Tweddle

DEATHS

Flora Buchanan
William (Bill) Cunningham
Isobel McIlwraith
Mrs Lily Clark
Alexander (Alex) Hanning
Andrew (Drew) Taylor
Rosina Farrell
Margaret |Cardie

Who to contact

Minister:

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

Associate Minister:

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

Session Clerk:

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

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

'Columba News' Editor:

NORMAN REID,
4 Hawthorn Drive, Ayr. Tel:-262144
editor.columbanews@gmail.com

Church Secretary:

IRENE E. BARTHOLOMEW,
30 St Leonard's Road, Ayr
Office 269524
irene@ayrstcolumba.co.uk

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

2pm: **MONDAY FELLOWSHIP**

(fortnightly):

Mr T. R. Swinn, 441896

TUESDAY

10am: Knit and Natter

Carol Morrison, 07999444200

WEDNESDAY

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

Church Office, 269524

2pm: **FITNESS with FRIENDS:**

Mrs Margaret Doncaster, 477381

5.45pm: **9th AYR BROWNIES,**

Sally Bentham 07817169436

THURSDAY

10am-noon: **OASIS CAFE**

Mrs M. Doncaster 477381 Mrs P. Naylor
570020

6.30pm: **CUB SCOUTS:**

Mr Jereon Bolte 07511489755

7.30pm: **SENIOR CHOIR:**

Matthew Hynes, 870449

FRIDAY

6pm: **BEAVER SCOUTS:**

Fiona Wilson, 290414

7.30pm: **SCOUTS:**

Jereon Bolte, 07511489755

Diamond days for Mary and Neil

A huge thank you to everyone at St Columba for the beautiful flowers received by us on the occasion of our Diamond Wedding Anniversary. This was very much appreciated.
Many thanks again.

Neil and Mary MacLeod

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