

# Columba News

September  
2024  
No. 259



## Checking out the cheque!



*The children of St Columba Sunday School presented a cheque for £252 which they raised by making Easter Cards and treats and selling them earlier in the year. Catherine Ness accepted the cheque on behalf of Whiteleys Retreat. More Sunday School pictures on pages 6 and 7.*

## Waiting to welcome you

<b>Sundays</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>Leader</b>
September 8	Team 3	M. Johnston
September 15	Team 4	I. Storm
September 22	Team 5	A. Mooney
September 29	Team 6	L. Murray
October 6	Team 7	C. Kennedy
October 13	Team 8	M Fullerton
October 20	Team 9	I. Sutherland
October 27	Team 10	A. Swan
November 3	Team 11	K. Muirhead

### Evening Services:

*September 29, Team 6: October 27, Team 10*



# From the manse

September 2024

*Dear Friends,*

It's been a wild summer! Over the summer months, we've had the blessing of three different voices in the pulpit: David Ness, John Matthews, and Stanley Okeke.

In addition to Communion at the end of June, we've had two glorious baptisms in recent weeks! It is such a joy to share the love of God through the water of baptism.

Looking forward, on Sunday, September 29, I shall be preaching in Troon as Interim Moderator. That day, the new congregation of Troon Church of Scotland will be electing a Nominating



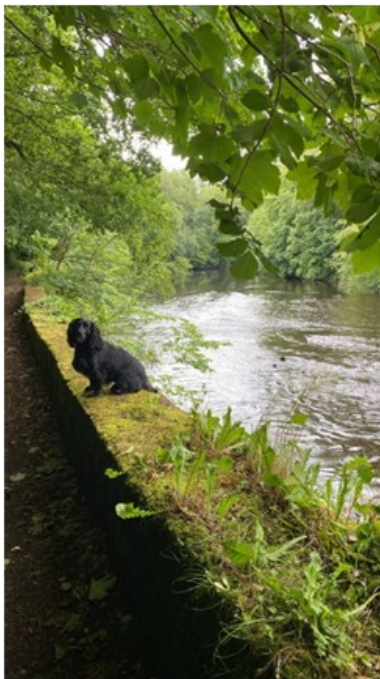
Committee to find two new ministers.

The Revd Gillean Richmond will be preaching in St Columba. Our Creation Covenant Service (Harvest) will be on Sunday 6 October.

On Sunday, September 8 in the Struthers' Room, I shall deliver a talk on the Bible: what is the Christian Bible? How many ways are there to interpret Scripture? Who wrote the Gospels? Where were the Gospels written and for whom? All welcome.

Regularly at the door of the church, members of the congregation ask about Rosie! I've included two photos: one while walking at Auchincruive and the other on the pebbled beach at Dunure.

How do we think of God? One metaphor I use is to think of God as the 'consciousness' of the universe. In the same way that your consciousness and





mine are imperceptible in our physical bodies, so the Consciousness I call God is imperceptible in creation: not only in the sunset over Arran, but in our perception of beauty as we gaze into the light and darkness; orange, reds, black, greys, and the steel blue of the Clyde.

For me, the more we can escape the notion of 'God' as a being like other beings the better. 'God' is the greenness of grass, the grass itself, the thought of grass, the beauty perceived of grass, and the Life force that gives it existence and life. Always elusive, 'God' is mystery.

Shalom.

Be assured of my prayers and very good wishes.

*Scott*

Revd Dr Scott S McKenna



## Always time for tea

Fancy a cuppa, well St Columba is the place to be.

You can enjoy a cuppa in the hall after the morning service every Sunday. As well as the tea you will enjoy the fellowship of other members of the congregation.

On a Thursday morning you can nip in to the church hall and enjoy tea or coffee plus lots of delicious home baking at the Oasis Cafe. Doors are open from 10am till noon.

### Fire drill planned for church

The church will be holding a fire drill on Sunday, November 3. This is to help the congregation to note what exits to use in case an evacuation is required. More details in the October Columba News.



# Guild calls it a day after many years of fellowship

At our Annual General Meeting in March this year, little did we know that it would be the final meeting of The Guild in its present form. Since that meeting we sadly lost our Treasurer, Elizabeth Gardiner, whose life was ended by an inoperable cancer in May. We all miss Elizabeth and her always cheery nature and give thanks for the work she did for the Guild both expertly and willingly.

Earlier that Session we also lost a very loyal Guild member for many years in Margaret Black, who did a great deal to promote the Guild fundraising projects for some time. We respected those two ladies greatly and give thanks for their loyal service to St. Columba.

Due to an ageing membership, two years ago it was decided to move all the Guild meetings to the afternoon, knowing full well that this change would preclude younger members and those still working from attending.

This did indeed make a difference in that in the last year 74% of our members were in the senior age range and only three were under the age of 70. Since the A.G.M. in March it has been impossible to fill the vacant and necessary positions on the committee. At an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Guild on 23<sup>rd</sup> July it was unanimously agreed to follow the recommendation of the Committee to disband St Columba Guild and encourage our members to join The Monday Fellowship which meets on alternate Monday afternoons. I thank our Minister, Revd. Dr Scott McKenna, for his support and guidance in this difficult situation.

The Monday Fellowship follows a similar form as The Guild, the main difference being that it is not a National Organisation and is therefore not governed by the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh. The Fellowship meetings include worship, speakers arranged by their committee and finish with a welcome cuppa and chat.

The first meeting of The Monday Fellowship is on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 2 pm in the Midton Road Hall and I invite and encourage all existing members of the Guild to attend and enjoy a continuing afternoon of fellowship and friendship, remembering *Whose we are and Whom we Serve*.

In conclusion, my sincere thanks go to those who have served the Guild either on the committee or in attendance in recent years and I look forward to renewing our friendship and fellowship in the coming autumn.

***Dorothy Bone***



*Time for a break after all the fun at the Farm*



**Gregor  
McNish with  
his trophy**

**End of session prizegiving**





*Sunday School staff take a well earned and deserved break*

## End of session fun for the youngsters



## Gillean returns

We welcome back the Revd Gillean Richmond to the pulpit on Sunday, September 29. Scott will be at Troon in his role as interim moderator to the Troon churches.

## Communion time

The next Wednesday afternoon communion will be in the church on September 25 at 2pm.

## Gas leak

Our Lochside building had to be evacuated recently due to a gas leak. This was quickly made safe.

Ayr St Columba  
 Wednesday  
 1.45pm - 3.30pm  
 Gentle exercise  
 good breathing  
 loads of laughs  
 breathe  
 friends  
 relaxation  
 Fitness and Relaxation  
 and tea!

**Copy  
 Deadline**

The copy deadline for the October issue of Columba News will be Sunday, September 29

# Keeping up to date with all the Kirk Session business

*Meetings of the Kirk Session were held on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024, chaired by Revd David Ness, and on 11<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> June 2024, chaired by Revd Dr Scott McKenna. A summary of issues discussed at these meetings is given below:*

The Clerk had received an email from the Presbytery Clerk in which she had expressed great concern at the treatment given to Presbytery officials at meetings with churches whose members were unhappy with the Presbytery Mission Plan. She said that the treatment was unchristian and unacceptable and urged everyone to treat each other with respect when discussing difficult matters.

*The Clerk was pleased to report that, following the purchase of the Bute Way Manse, the sale of 3 Upper Crofts was now complete and the monies had been received. There was a surplus in our favour following the transactions. This would be held by the Church of Scotland but would be available to us for fabric purposes.*

The Clerk informed Elders that the Business Committee has had its first meeting with our two new convenors, John Ballantyne and Kathy Smith, present. They had settled in very well. The Committee would consider the remits of all the Session Committees in the coming months.

***Safeguarding:** The Clerk reminded Elders that Mrs Mills had moved to live in Irvine and that she was seeking a new church there. We would therefore require a new Safeguarding Coordinator. He was very pleased to say that one of our new Elders, who was eminently qualified for the role, Mrs Millie McNish, had agreed, subject to the approval of Session, to take on this position. Mrs McNish had worked with the Sunday School for a long time and she would liaise with Mrs Mills to determine what was required. The Clerk asked for the approval of Session for Mrs McNish to take on the role of Safeguarding Coordinator at a date to be decided in consultation with her, Mrs Mills, the Minister and himself. This approval was given.*





Mr John Ballantyne reported that matters relating to the replacement of the church boilers were progressing as expected. He urged all Elders and especially those on door duty to become fully aware of procedures for dealing with individuals who became unwell in church. The procedure could be viewed in the Carrick Park Vestibule. Elders should also be thoroughly familiar with the emergency evacuation procedures. Mr Ballantyne said that practice evacuations would take place more regularly in future. The Clerk said that copies of the procedures for dealing with unwell individuals and for emergency evacuation of the building would be sent to all Team Leaders, who could assign tasks to members of their teams.

*Ms Muriel Wilson reported that 9 adults, 4 children and 2 dogs (both named Rosie!) had taken part in the walk to Cornish Hill. The two-hour walk around and up the Hill had been most enjoyable. Another event being planned for the summer involved a drive to Largs and a possible visit to Nardini's.*

Referring to Pastoral Care, Ms Wilson said that she was discussing possibilities with Mrs Fiona Taylor and Mrs Christina Kennedy. This area of provision required a coordinator. It was intended to seek support and identify needs via messages and leaflets in the Order of Service and to consider the congregational responses when deciding the next steps. The Moderator emphasised that members were very appreciative of visits from Elders and that it was a privilege to visit those who were lonely or in need.

*Student Minister: The Moderator welcomed Mr Graeme Stewart to his first meeting of the Kirk Session. He indicated that, as Mr Stewart would complete his placement with us at the coming weekend, this would also be his last meeting. Mr Stewart was thanked for all he had done in his time with us.*

Lochside Church Anniversary: The Moderator said that the Service conducted by the Right Revd Sally Foster-Fulton to mark the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lochside Church had been exceptionally good. The level of communication by Rt Revd Foster-Fulton had been excellent. He read out a letter the Clerk had received from Revd Roddy McNidder which contained a warm expression of gratitude from the congregation at Lochside to Matthew Hynes for his excellent Organ

playing, to Kathy Smith and the Fellowship Committee for the wonderful lunch and to Ayr St Columba Church for providing commendable support for Lochside for so many years.

*Interim Moderator: Revd Dr McKenna is currently Interim Moderator at Troon Old Parish Church. The current three charges will be closed on 30<sup>th</sup> June. The Moderator has been appointed as Interim Moderator of the new united charge in Troon: Troon Church of Scotland. The work will include involvement with the Nominating Committee of the charge This will be a challenging task and he was privileged to have been asked to serve in this way.*

Church Treasurer: The Clerk reported that he had met with the Treasurer and Mr Cairns had informed him that he intended to step down as Church Treasurer. He was not resigning immediately and would continue in his role whilst a successor was sought. He would also be happy to help any successor to fit into the role and would continue to help for as long as required.

The Clerk expressed his great regret that Mr Cairns would be leaving the position, but said we had to respect and accept his decision. He was very grateful that the Treasurer and the excellent team in the Finance Committee would continue to ensure the smooth running of our financial affairs. This was essential to the well-being of the church and its members.

*The Clerk reported that South Ayrshire Council had requested the use of the Midton Road Hall as a Polling Station for the General Election on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July. This would mean that the Hall would not be available for a number of days before and after whilst the cubicles were set up and then dismantled. As the election was to take place in the holiday period our organisations should not be affected.*

The Clerk said that it was necessary to add another person to the Safeguarding Panel in the Church following Lindsay Miller's departure some months ago. He was pleased to say that Dr Helen Hunter had agreed to join the Panel, subject to the approval of Session. Members of Session gave their warm approval for Dr Hunter to join the Safeguarding Panel, the members of which would be the Minister, the Session Clerk, the Safeguarding Coordinator, Mrs



Millie McNish, and Dr Hunter.

Generally, in respect to Safeguarding, the Clerk said that we would need to keep proper procedure at the front of our minds when dealing with activities in or connected to the church which involve young people or vulnerable adults and also when recruiting volunteers. He was sure that Mrs McNish would help keep us on the right path, but emphasised that this was everyone's responsibility.

*Mrs Bartholomew said that it was very important that anyone (Church Groups and private Groups) looking for the use of any room within the Church environs should complete a "Hall Lets Form" and sign off on the other documentation. If any Group was likely to require multiple Lets over the course of the year only one set of signed documents would be required.*

Mr George Park had indicated his willingness to continue as Presbytery Elder for s further year. The Clerk had returned a form on behalf of the Kirk Session nominating Mr Park for the position. He asked that this action be homologated. Members of Session indicated their approval for Mr Park to continue in the role and homologated the Clerk's action.

**Appointment of Treasurer:** The Moderator referred to the fact that Mr Tom Cairns had decided to step down from his position of Treasurer after many years of excellent service. It was therefore necessary to appoint a new person to the role.

The Moderator, Clerk and Depute Clerks had met with Ms Sharon Lindsay. Ms Lindsay was a Church member and was a qualified Chartered Accountant. She had recently retired and during her professional career had held a number of high-level posts in finance. Ms Lindsay had indicated that she was willing to take on the role of Treasurer, subject to the approval of Session, and she had provided a brief biography which had been circulated to Elders.

Several members of Session spoke positively about their experience with Ms Lindsay, both at work and in church activities. She was a pleasure to know and to work with and they wholeheartedly recommended her for the role of Treasurer. A proposal that Ms Lindsay be appointed as Treasurer at Ayr St Columba Church, with a start date of 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024 was unanimously approved by members of Session.

***R A Bartholomew***

**Session Clerk**



## Walkers enjoy coffee time

On the last Friday in June we had a walk at Eglinton country park. It's hard to believe, as it feels like it's rained all summer, but we had a lovely day for it, and ended up sitting in the courtyard having some lunch.

We were also lucky at the end of July when we walked at Auchincruive, ending up with coffee at the Bothy coffee shop ( there seems to be a theme developing here!)

The walk in August is along the sea-front and up the river to the Secret Garden coffee shop. Yes, definitely a walking and coffee group!!

In September we will have a walk in Prestwick, starting from the car park at the soft play at 10.30.

We don't walk far or fast but we are a friendly group and are always happy to have new folk join us. Contact Helen Greig for further information.





## Leading choir to visit from Northern Ireland

We have the good fortune to welcome back the singers from **Ballyclare Male Choir**, for a concert on Saturday, October 19 and it will commence at 7.30pm in the church.

The choir made a previous visit to St. Columba in May 2018 and their accompanist at that time, Sheelagh Greer BEM, returns on this occasion as the recently appointed Musical Director.

Admission will be free, with a retiring offering towards expenses, and listeners can be assured of an entertaining evening from this renowned choir.

*Matthew Hynes*

## Speakers announced as the Monday Fellowship gets underway

We are opening our new session on Monday, October 7 at 2pm in the Midton Hall.

Our opening speaker is Christine Murray, Presbytery Clerk, who will be telling us about her life and her time as the Clerk to Presbytery.

Following Christine on the October 21 is Rev. Jill Clancy, Chaplain to Barlinnie and Kilmarnock Prisons. Both of these speakers will bring a depth of life experiences to us and are to be commended for sharing their stories with us.

The speakers for the rest of this year are:

**4th November** - *Ian Watkins who returns with Spontaneous Events - London Underground*

**18th** - *Jane Dare will be recounting a journey from Victoria to Cape-town.*

**December 2nd** - *Terry Wright is our first speaker from our nominated Charity: The War Graves Commission*

**16** - *Andrew Girvan is going to tell us about the Carrick Resilience Organisation*

As always, our meetings are open to anyone, either from our congregation or elsewhere, and we would be delighted to have you with us. We meet at 2pm in the Midton Hall.

**John Ferguson, Secretary**



## Day trip to Cardwell Garden Centre and a stop off in Largs

A peaceful scene yet quite serene  
Still can make us feel like queens  
Lead by Our Loving Lord and King  
He who makes our hearts to sing  
Glory to the King of kings  
Was a happy day along Largs quay  
And Nardini's sure always gets a say  
So we sat on the benches, tubs or cones  
And this day had a joy of its own  
The sky was almost assure blue  
And to our Leaders was a loud thank you  
*Agnes Fisher*



**Lorna Paterson reports on a trip up the coast**



**THE SUN HAS GOT HIS HAT ON**.....and he certainly had on Saturday, July 27 when 17 cheerful members and friends of St Columba met up for the planned congregational outing to Largs!

The sun split the sky all day and its warmth was a welcome bonus after the rain and gales of the previous Saturday, the original choice of date but changed in view of the likely heavy traffic on local roads because of the golf Open Championship at Troon.

The group was grateful to the various car drivers and their vehicles for transport to and from the venue although two intrepid members made good use of their bus passes instead and joined in, via the local bus service. Because Largs was heaving with holidaymakers and tourists, no Largs eatery had been able to accommodate our group. However, the magnificent Cardwell Garden Centre just beyond Largs, had been very pleased to take our booking and staff made us so welcome.

On the journey alongside the Firth, there was wonderful visibility and perfect views of the scenery all around, looking even more beautiful in the sunshine.

On arrival at Cardwell, first stop for several was the coffee shop where re-

**Continued on page 16**

**Continued from page 15**

freshment and chat were the orders of the day. Many of the group had never been there before and were astonished to find it a vast emporium of all sorts of goodies – not only in flowers, plants and gardening equipment - but in cook ware, greetings cards, china, glassware and the clothing shop where a marvellous Sale in full swing ensured that this part of the retail therapy, offering a host of bargains, received full attention from many in the group.

By the time shopping was over, a delicious lunch was being served and everyone did full justice to the wide variety of tasty dishes on offer before making the jour-



ney back along the Firth to lovely Largs itself. No prizes for guessing where the group headed next!

As expected, the famous Nardinis had a queue stretching round its corner and a packed restaurant, too, but the wait for service was not too long and the various ice cream treats were greatly enjoyed on such a hot day. Afterwards a short stroll along the front to view the sparkling Firth allowed some pictures to be taken. Then, tired, but happy, after a most enjoyable outing, our cars filled up again for the beautiful homeward journey, still in sunshine.

Thanks are due to those who arranged such a pleasant day out: Muriel Wilson, Colin and Anne Naismith and our indefatigable Church Secretary, Irene plus the kind volunteer drivers.

Now! *When's the next outing?*.....

.....

## Catch up with all the news from the Presbytery

Our Presbytery elder reports on the meeting of the South West which took place within Upper Annandale Parish Church, Moffat on 15 June 2024 . As a large Presbytery, this report in detail focuses on some local decisions





and approvals.

**Keynote Speaker:** The Rt. Revd Dr Shaw Patterson, the new Moderator of the Church of Scotland outlined some of the challenges facing the Church with falling attendances. His message was one of encouragement, we need to build together and all have got a calling to serve God. He outlined that fear can be worse than reality and we must trust that God has a vision for us. We can be so busy that we block out God but we have to keep moving forward as a church. The power of the Holy Spirit is with us.

**Tributes:** A number of ministers were recognised for their length of service since their ordination including our own the Revd Ian Paterson who was congratulated on his 60th anniversary of his ordination since 4 June 1964 which is a significant milestone in his ministry, ably supported by his wife Lorna.

**Guild:** Mrs Rae Lind, National Convenor outlined that the Guild has been undergoing a review nationally to streamline its function, making it more efficient and representative today. Following the review, in Ayrshire, there will be two Guild Together Convenors instead of the three at present. South Ayrshire currently have three members on the National Council but this will reduce to two. Where congregations are uniting, it is expected that their Guilds also unite.

**Property:** Presbytery continues to struggle with the location and condition of many of the manses and acknowledge the ongoing transactions to unions and linkages across the Presbytery and note that it will be a little longer before matters settle down and the Property Committee can deal with the buildings and land stock that remains.

*New Cumnock Church Manse:* Approved expenditure of £21,000 to upgrade the Manse with roof repairs and window replacements.

*Barr Church:* Approved alterations including removal of pews, alterations to heating, toilets, new kitchen/servery area and create permanent access ramp. Total costs excluding VAT is £26,990 and as Barr has a long linkage with Dailly Church, which is due to close at the end of the plan period, the Kirk Session at Dailly have agreed to transfer £11,000 from their reserves to support the project at Barr. This will enable Barr Church to convert from Category B to Category A under the Presbytery Mission Plan. Barr will unite with the two Girvan Churches and Dailly Church in the Plan.

*Arran Churches:* Approved that the following church buildings will be disposed of: Lamlash Church and Hall; Corrie Church (closed) and Kilmory Church (closed).

*Ballantrae Church:* Approved removal of 6 pews (3 each side of the central aisle) to create a more flexible space with 50% of the replacement chairs to have arms.

*Dalrymple Church:* Approved move to next stage of move from Category B to Category A with a flexibility study to take place.

*Cumnock Trinity Church:* Approved urgent/essential repairs costing £7,350 for the ongoing protection of the Church building.

*Loudoun Church:* Approved disposal of Loudoun Church building. The congregation voted on this on 5 May 2024 - number present 23 and 23 agreed disposing of the building.

**Planning:** Presbytery Mission Planning has been active across the whole of the Presbytery meeting Ministers, Kirk Sessions and Congregations to progress a number of adjustments.

The following Bases of Adjustments have been approved.

*Troon:* The Union of the Troon congregation (Troon Old, Portland and St Meddan's Parish Churches) and the new parish will now be entering into a Vacancy Procedure and will call a Team Ministry of two FTE Ministers of Word and Sacrament. The Rev Scott McKenna has been appointed Interim Moderator of the new Troon Church with effect from 1 July 2024.

*Girvan Valley:* Proposed date of union is 1 July 2024 for the Congregations of Barr, Dailly, Girvan North and Girvan South Parish Churches.

*Prestwick:* Kingcase and St Nicholas: Date of deferred union dependent upon translation/demission/retirement of current incumbent for the congregations of Kingcase and St Nicholas Parish Churches.

*North Carrick:* Date of deferred union dependent upon translation/demission/retirement of current incumbent for the congregations of North Carrick, Kirkmichael and Straiton (St Cuthbert's) Parish Churches.

**Ayr Legacy Update:** 16 groups requiring adjustment, 5 complete involving 16 Congregations. Throughout Presbytery, 23 adjustments have been completed involving 74 Congregations. 29 groups remain to be adjusted involving 80 congregations. However, some of these adjustments are not possible under Ministers with Unrestricted Tenure.

**Finance:** The Presbytery Dues for 2024 will be based on 1.5% of assessable income. This is the same percentage base as last year. Presbytery Dues will be sent out in due course.

**Mission:** Presbytery encourage congregations to submit ideas for Seeds for Growth funding to the Mission Committee for evaluation. More information on the grants available (from just trying something missional or researching possibilities to major projects) can be found on the Church of



Scotland website. Any questions can be forwarded to Gavin Niven, Convenor, Mission Committee.

The Mission Committee are looking for someone to act as a Presbytery contact person for Messy Churches in the Presbytery. The role is to develop a list of Churches involved in Messy Church and distribute relevant information e.g. news of training events etc. Anyone interested should contact Gavin Niven.

The Mission Committee has been reviewing the Local Church Review process to assist in minimising the administrative burdens on Churches. They propose to synthesise as much as practical from existing returns plus existing reviews carried out by other committees; seek and annual review and update of congregational plans by each Kirk Session and ask for independent Presbytery contribution from a local church grouping of around 6 congregations; create a questionnaire for Kirk Sessions to complete 5 yearly. During 2024, the Mission Committee propose establishing local church groupings and initiate annual reviews of the Mission plan.

**Safeguarding:** The Safeguarding Committee recommend that the communication from the legal department which the Presbytery Clerk sent to all congregations should be discussed by Kirk Sessions.

*George Park*  
*Presbytery Elder*

Our annual Harvest service will be held in the church on Sunday, October 6 at 10.30am. An envelope comes with this edition of Columba News and donations can be placed in the collection plate at the church door on a Sunday morning.

## Flower team make an appeal

The flower team at the church provide lovely little posies of flowers for the members of the congregation who may have been ill or suffered a bereavement or who simply need cheering up.

If you know of someone who would benefit from a little gift of flowers **please** get in touch with Scott, David, your elder or the church office and we will do our best to make sure they receive a posy.

**Copy  
Deadline**

**The copy deadline for the October issue of  
Columba News will be Sunday, September 29**







## Great day out on the seniors' outing to the city

The annual senior outing this year headed to Glasgow and the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum. As well as the visit the company enjoyed high tea and fellowship.



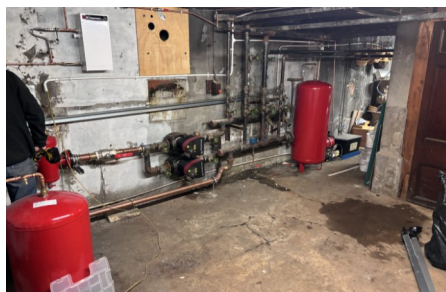
## Getting ready for a cosy winter in the church



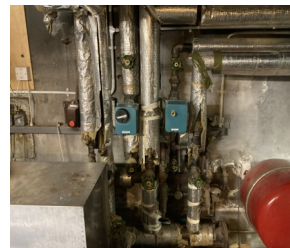
*Work progressing with the new boilers in the Carrick Room*



*The old boilers have served us well*



*The old boilers have gone*



*Complicated old pipe work*

Currently work is progressing to install a new heating system in the church.

The old boilers in the basement have been removed and the new ones now positioned in the Carrick Room.

Once the work is completed and the system fully commissioned, we can look forward to a more reliable and efficient heating system.

More details in the October Columba News



## Changes to your habits can have a big impact on carbon footprints

### [Individuals really matter](#)

*Key words: Carbon footprint; organic milk.*

I often hear from people that it is governments and big organisations that have a responsibility to reduce carbon footprints. Also, Britain is responsible for only 1% of global CO2 emissions and it is China and countries with rapidly expanding populations that are the problem. What difference am I going to make?

Camilla Cavendish was a political advisor and head of the 10 Downing street policy unit. Now she is a journalist and writer. She does not think that either governments or scientific innovation are providing a solution to climate change.

[In a recent article she wrote](#) “This is the climate change paradox. The more obvious it becomes that the weather is changing, the more we seem determined to enjoy the last hurrah”. The solution she proposes is “The middle class in rich countries would have an outsize impact if we changed our own behaviour. Not only because we burn the most carbon, but also because the better-off can set a tone”.

To be fair, when I speak to others about carbon footprints, they already recycle and have reduced their use of plastic. It is worth knowing that food recycling is especially important. [According to zero waste Scotland](#), food waste makes up 18% of household waste by weight but 30% by carbon impact.

The contents of food caddies are fermented and the gas used to generate electricity and the solids create compost. Food waste in a green bin, cannot be used for compost and capture of methane from dumps is incomplete.

Whilst recycling is a great start, much more is needed if we are going to respond to the challenge set by Camilla Cavendish.

Should we stop all the things that bring us pleasure and become militant eco-warriors? Well of course not! I do suggest that we all take a look at the countryside and its wildlife and consider if we want it to be available to our grandchildren too.

All of us really can do things that will make a difference in the four big

domains that influence our carbon footprint. These are:

1. Food
2. Home heating
3. Purchased goods
4. Travel

We can aim to reduce our carbon footprint year on year. In time we can also reduce our footprint to below “average” for the UK. These aims are not extreme but are a realistic response to the challenge posed by Camilla Cavendish.

[The wwf footprint calculator](#) is quick and simple to use. It will give you a good idea of where you stand at present. It does not show up some of the subtle changes you may choose to make in your lifestyle. For example, if you travel with 2 in a car, this halves your footprint for the trip. You may be able to drive at 60 mph instead of 70 and the saving will not show up on the calculator.

I have already written several articles on food. A healthy diet has a low carbon footprint. The big change is to eat mostly vegetarian food cooked from scratch. Buying organic food is sometimes very costly, but it will help preserve wildlife and topsoil. Malcolm Prior of the BBC wrote [about the cattle farmed in sheds](#) all their lives. This farming method may be economic, but is environmentally terrible and maybe not so great for the cows either! The cost premium of buying organic milk is modest and you can be sure none is sourced from cows that live indoors all their lives. The benefit to the countryside and biodiversity is disproportionately large. Is it time for the Church and those attending to ditch cheap milk and buy organic? [Scottish organic milk marketing](#) records that a family that switches to two pints of organic milk per day, will be responsible for converting 1200 sq meters of land to organic farmland. [The Yeo valley blog](#) elegantly sets out the benefits of organic milk. These include 50% more wildlife on organic farms and combating climate change because topsoil is retained.

In the other domains, it is possible to reduce gas consumption from home heating. Turning down the thermostat will help but there is plenty more we can do to improve gas consumption from gas boilers at low cost. I will write about this shortly.

The goods we buy have a carbon footprint that can be surprising. Buying high quality to last helps. Some people recommend that we make electronic devices last for at least seven years. Buying second hand, especially clothes and books really helps.





Foreign holidays and visiting people abroad are both wonderful, but air travel comes at a heavy cost in carbon footprint. Fewer, longer trips are one recommended method of making an improvement. Others are to fly direct to your destination, avoid first or business class flights and travel by bus or train when you reach your destination.

**Andrew Muirhead** Email [a.g.muirhead@gmail.com](mailto:a.g.muirhead@gmail.com)

References

Camilla Cavendish article

<https://www.ft.com/content/13c889e1-d278-4127-832f-2493ad4fc3b9>

Carbon emissions benefit from recycling

[https://cdn.zerowastescotland.org.uk/managed-downloads/mf-y5i\\_ahfv-1678114637d](https://cdn.zerowastescotland.org.uk/managed-downloads/mf-y5i_ahfv-1678114637d)

Wwf footprint calculator

<https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/>

Malcolm Prior article on trends in British cattle farming

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cy4ldkpz1klo>

Scottish organic milk benefits

<https://scottishorganicmilk.org/organic-benefits>

Yeo valley blog

<https://www.yeovalley.co.uk/blog/where-the-grass-is-always-greener-the-benefits-of-organic-milk>

## Congregation and Parish Register



*June-August*

### **BAPTISMS**

Lucy Muir  
Orson Mortimer

### **DEATHS**

John Gilardi	Ann Vance
Susan Bell	Lorraine McCracken

## Who to contact

### **Minister:**

Revd. Dr. SCOTT S. McKENNA.  
scottsmckenna@aol.com  
Tel:- 01292 891238

### **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

### **Treasurer:**

SHARON LINDSAY  
4 Gower Place, Ayr KA7 4SL  
Tel:- 445182

### **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](mailto:editor.columbanews@gmail.com)

### **Church Secretary:**

IRENE E. BARTHOLOMEW,  
30 St Leonard's Road, Ayr  
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 Charity Number:** SC014338

### **Church Services (Midton Road):**

10.30am - Morning Worship;  
10.30am Sunday School,  
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](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

2pm: **MONDAY FELLOWSHIP**  
(fortnightly):

Mr T. R. Swinn, 441896

### **TUESDAY**

**10am: Knit and Natter**

Carol Morrison, 07999444200

### **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,**  
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



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## Magazine Dates - Session 2024/ 2025

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, 25 August	Friday, 6 September	Sunday, 8 September
Autumn	October Communion	Sunday, 29 Sept	Friday, 11 October	Sunday, 13 October
Christmas	Christmas	Sunday, 17 November	Friday, 29 November	Sunday, 1 December
Winter	January Communion	Sunday, 29 December	Friday, 10 January	Sunday, 12 January
Spring	April Communion	Sunday, 30 March	Friday, 11 April	Sunday, 13 April
Summer	June Communion	Sunday, 1 June	Friday, 13 June	Sunday, 15 June

# LIFE AND WORK

THE MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND



SEPTEMBER 2024  
£3.50

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Church of Scotland Guild's  
new partner projects

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The season of Creation Time

**Our presbyteries**  
Shining a light on the presbytery  
of England

**30 years of Fairtrade**  
Milestone for movement

**Building on Christ's  
foundations**  
Message from the Moderator

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