

Columba News

April
2025
No. 263



Photos courtesy of Revd Dr Stewart Gillan, Minister,
St Andrew's Church of Scotland Jerusalem & Tiberias

Easter in the Holy Land



Palm Sunday at the Mount of Olives 2023



Easter sunrise service 2024, with Lutheran partners. From left to right: the Rev Sally Azar, the first Palestinian woman pastor ordained by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land; the Rev Meghan Aelabouni, now Rt Rev, Bishop of the Rocky Mountain Synod in the US; and Deacon Marc Falconer, from Aberdeen

Waiting to welcome you

Sundays	Team	Leader
April 13	Team 9 (old10)	Alan McHarg
Holy Week	Team 10 (old11)	Linda Hunter
April 20	Team 11 (old12)	Kerrie Bennett-Lee
April 27	Team 1	Hazel Steele
May 4	Team 2	Jo Bruce
May 11	Team 3	Ann Naismith
May 18	Team 4	Iain McCrae
May 25	Team 5	Jane Murnin
June 1	Team 6	Bill McCulloch
June 8	Team 7	Terry Swinn
June 15	Team 8	Wendy Campbell
June 22	Team 9	Alan McHarg
June 29	Team 10	Linda Hunter



From the Interim Moderator

Dear Friends,

I write this pastoral Lenten letter as we are reflecting and thinking about the meaning of Easter for us today. Easter is not just about looking back at the past, but looking forward in these post modern times about the triumph of life over death; a powerful spiritual symbol of transformation, to encouraging us to embrace change, forgiveness, and the opportunity to seek a deeper connection with God and others.



Our world is increasingly filled with challenges and uncertainty; Easter offers a beacon of hope, reminding us that even in the darkest times there can be certainty. It provides the personal opportunity to examine our faith, our relationships, and our commitment to living a life that reflects the values of love, compassion, and service - both in the natural world and in our own spiritual journey.

Reflecting more particularly, I sense that the congregation, in this time of vacancy, have become more together as a worshipping community; a church family looking forward with hope and optimism, excited to embrace the possibilities that lie ahead. I say that because the numbers are staying up and the tone of our services are confident, cheerful and warm.

The ministry team are working well and the invited preachers are keen to return to conduct worship because of the warmth of our welcome. They too feel blessed!

As Interim Moderator I am continuing to make contacts within Presbytery that will assist us in obtaining the right to call our own minister once our cluster (St Andrews, The Auld Kirk and St Columba) is clearer.

Once again I thank you for the warmth with which you have welcomed my appointment - it is a great personal encouragement to me.

John

Interim Minister

Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated in the church on Sunday, April 27 at 10.30am .

As previously the Communion services have reverted back to the traditional style of serving the elements.

Congregational walk

The Faith Nurture Committee hope to have another congregational walk on Saturday, April 12. We will meet on the Dam Park car park, at 10 am and walk along the north bank of the River Ayr returning along the south bank.

If interested please contact Keith Fullerton on 07788651221.

Coffee time

The Scout group that meets in the church are holding their annual coffee morning on Saturday, May 31 from 10am till noon.

As well as coffee and cakes there will be book stalls plants stalls and lots more.

Support our Christian Aid appeal

For over 70 years Christian Aid has worked with people of all faiths to achieve dignity, equality and justice for all.



Once a year Christian Aid appeals for our support to help those people who are much less fortunate than us. This year the appeal will focus on the poverty in the communities of Burundi where 70% of people face hunger and poverty every day.

Christian Aid Week this year is Sunday 11th May until Saturday 17th May and it would help this year's appeal greatly if you could give a donation using the envelope in your Columba News and return the envelope to the church on a Sunday morning, to Irene in the church office or by contacting Mo Howie on 07963513620

Easter Day early service

Rev'd Ian Stirling will be taking our early morning Easter Day service on the Low Green at 8am on Sunday April 20.

Remember the Oasis Cafe is open every Thursday morning from 10-noon in the hall for coffee and cakes.





**Ayr St. Columba Church
Services for Holy Week
and Easter**

PALM SUNDAY

13th April Morning Worship Revd John Matthews

GOOD FRIDAY

18th April at 7.00pm
Evening Worship Revd David Ness

During Holy Week the Church will be open for quiet reflection
Tuesday – Friday 11.00am – 12 noon

**EASTER SUNDAY
20th April 2025**

8.00am Low Green
Early Morning Service Revd Ian Stirling

Followed by Breakfast in the Midton Road Hall
(sign in sheet in the Carrick Park vestibule from 30th March)

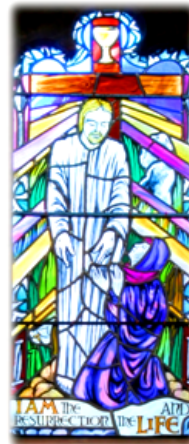
10.30am Morning Worship Revd David Ness

**ST COLUMBA KIDS
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

6th April No Classes
13th April Palm Sunday - No Classes
20th April Easter Sunday - No Classes
Easter Egg Hunt in Church at 10.30am

SUNDAY 27th APRIL

10.30am Services of Holy Communion





Cinema outing to see classic film



St Columba members met up at the Tudor restaurant on March 4 for a delicious meal and the 22 enjoyed happy fellowship before going to the screening of Jesus Christ Superstar. Six more joined at the cinema.

It's astonishing to remember that the premiere of the film took place in 1971 which is 54 years ago!

It still works its magic on the audience and is a very powerful interpretation of the Passion. Much of the plot centres on Judas and his dissatisfaction with the way Jesus is leading his disciples.

The film ends with Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross, portrayed in all its tragic and harrowing detail.

We are not shown the Resurrection.

We all left, moved by the experience - the acting, singing and music were superb. It was a good way to begin Lent.



Session Clerk's Address to the Stated Annual Business Meeting

Tonight, it is my great privilege to express our gratitude to those amongst us who have done so much to keep our Church moving forward during the past year. This is a year which has been incredibly eventful and challenging. We have been faced with events which to many other churches would have been devastating, but events which, due to the wonderful support of our Elders and our members, we have responded to and from which we have emerged strongly.

In the course of the year we have witnessed the departure of our Minister, the departure of our Treasurer, the departure of our Safeguarding Coordinator, of our Fabric Convenor and of our Fellowship Convenor. We owe much to those who have left office for various reasons, and I will speak to this shortly, but I must clearly emphasise that we owe a great deal to those who have stepped up to replace them and to those who have supported these new incumbents so well.

Within the Church, the past year has been as busy as usual. There have been several major events. Perhaps the most momentous has been the transfer of responsibility for Lochside Church and Parish from St Columba to Newton Wallacetown Church. At various meetings over the years, and again at our most recent Session Meeting, I have expressed our gratitude for the outstanding work done by many of our members who became involved with Lochside.

The input of Revd Roddie McNidder has been immense and Morag McPherson has represented the worshipping community so well. Our volunteers there have made a significant impact and the whole community has benefited from their considerable efforts over the years. I hope the future for the church there is bright and we offer our very best wishes for many happy and eventful years ahead.

Can I make special mention this year of our caretaker at Lochside, Michael Hall. For the last few years Michael has looked after the building and prepared it for services and for other users, such as the Foodbank. He has unparalleled knowledge of the building. He has always been available for special events and he voluntarily worked unpaid during January to ensure activities would continue after a change was made in the date of transfer. He also volunteered to work unpaid once Newton Wallacetown took over, though this offer was not taken up. We are extremely grateful to Michael for all he has done at Lochside.

One of the special events at Lochside this year has been the 90th anniversary of the building on 5th May. The occasion was marked at a special service conducted by the Moderator of the General Assembly, Revd Dr Sally Foster-Fulton. It was a memorable occasion and we express our thanks to Kathy Smith and the Fellowship Committee who catered so well at the after-service gathering.

Of course, there is much more to be grateful to the Fellowship Committee for. They organised a trip to Kelvingrove for senior members and also the excellent Congregational Christmas Lunch at Western House and the Seniors' Christmas Party. In addition to all this, they provided catering for two visiting choirs as well as for a Safeguarding Training event in the Church. So, we offer a very big thank you to Kathy and all those who helped at these events.

Speaking of catering, it is a great pleasure to acknowledge the tremendous work undertaken by those providing nourishment at the Oasis Café on Thursday mornings and in the Church Hall after our Sunday services. The quality of the treats available is first class, as is the friendly service with which it comes. Many thanks to Margaret Doncaster and her stalwart Sunday morning team and to all who help with the Oasis Café. Your baking, your tea, your coffee your smiles and your fellowship are all very much appreciated.

It is said that Hospitality is the art of making your guests feel at home even if that is where you wish they were! Everyone feels at home at these wonderful social gatherings and that is a testament to all those who organise and all those who cater.

Our Faith Nurture Committee, under the inspiring leadership of Muriel Wilson, has also been busy this year. As well as organising an outing to Largs, various energetic walks, visits to Gurdwaras and Temples and a trip to the cinema, the Committee have been working hard to develop our pastoral care provision and they were substantially involved in the arrangements for the World Day of Prayer held in the Church last week.

The Committee also organises our Church Sunday School and it is such a joy to see the young folk coming into Church on a regular basis. Our thanks to Keith Fullerton and all the helpers for their dedicated work with the Sunday School and our thanks to Muriel and the Faith Nurture Committee for all they have done in the past year.

I am extremely grateful to the good folk who make up the Administration Committee. Under the gentle and delicate leadership of our Church Secretary, the Committee keeps the essential wheels of the Church turning. Organising duty teams and districts, maintaining the Church Roll,



managing funerals, producing the Church magazine, organising the Sound Team and keeping the Ministerial Team and the Office Bearers under strict control. At times it almost feels like being at home ! A warm thank you to all in the Admin Committee for their considerable, consistent and invaluable contribution to the Church in the past year.

The Fabric Committee have been in the headlines for much of the past year. It is difficult to quantify the considerable contribution of time and effort which has gone into sorting out the heating problems in the Church. As the old boilers broke down and the new boilers went through teething problems, John Stewart, John Ballantyne and Andrew Muirhead went above and beyond to deal with the issues. It was not unusual to find a John or Andrew in the Church at 2.00am on a Sunday morning dealing with problems which had arisen. John Ballantyne was congratulated by Presbytery for his exemplary setting out of specifications for the new boilers. The nature of our building meant that very few suppliers in the country were prepared to quote and our thanks go to John for seeing the matter through in a professional manner which was overseen and supported by the Church of Scotland designated expert, Andrew McOwen.

Many other matters have also been taken on by the Fabric Committee and by the redoubtable Wednesday Team. We are grateful to all who have served the Church so well in this area over the past year.

We have witnessed this evening clear evidence of the great work being done in our Finance Committee. This has been a difficult year for members of the Committee. The impact when our last Treasurer resigned was truly profound. It is a testament to the commitment of the Committee that, despite their deep and genuine upset, they worked on to ensure the finances of the church kept running. This was absolutely essential to the well-being and to the future of our Church community and I am extremely grateful for their dedication.

I am also delighted that our new Treasurer, Sharon, has settled in so well. These are difficult financial times for all churches and it is very reassuring to have such a capable individual leading such a wonderful team. Thank you to all members of the Finance Committee for your commendable efforts in the past year.

I must also express thanks to our Depute Session Clerks, Gillian Watson and Keith Fullerton. Their work and advice throughout the year has been invaluable and I am very grateful for all they have done. I am grateful also to our redoubtable Presbytery Elder, George Park, for his succinct reporting of Presbytery matters, for his advice and for his support of many church activities.

As I mentioned at the start, quite a number of key individuals have left office this year. To say that this has been difficult is really a way of acknowledging how much these individuals gave to the Church. I have mentioned how much our former Treasurer, Tom Cairns, meant to those he worked with. His input to the Church over many years was considerable. This went well beyond his excellent work in Finance. We very much miss his contribution to general church matters where his attention to detail and unreserved commitment added a great deal to our considerations. The loyalty shown to him by Finance Committee members is a clear indication of his personal qualities and of his value to the Church. Since leaving, Tom has been there to help our new Treasurer fully understand the role and this help is ongoing. We thank him again for all his work on our behalf.

Our Safeguarding Coordinator, Anne Mills, moved house to Irvine and left us to join a church there. Anne was an excellent Safeguarding Coordinator. Her attention to detail and her great organisational skills, as well as her interpersonal skills, meant that she was ideally suited to the role and she carried it out in an exemplary fashion. Anne also contributed to the wider church, notably during the Covid crisis, and her input will be missed. We wish her well in her new abode and thank her for her work at St Columba.

I have spoken of the work of our various Session Committees that take forward many of the vital activities of the Church. In the course of the year two of our long serving Committee Convenors stepped down after many years of faithful service. Jane Hunter had led the Fellowship Committee and its previous bodies since the Committees were set up when we moved to a Unitary Constitution in 2011. Over many years Jane led her team which provided catering of a standard we had not seen before. The gasps of members entering the Hall when she had set it up like a royal banquet really brought home how much planning and effort went into her work. Jane also arranged major Church events such as Fraser Aitken's retirement celebrations, a number of Street Parties and countless Christmas Parties and Congregational Lunches. Her input has been considerable and she fully deserves the opportunity to step back and take on a supportive role for the new Convenor. I thank Jane for all her efforts on behalf of the Church for so many years.

Like Jane, John Stewart has been in post since the Unitary Constitution was adopted. His leadership of the Fabric Committee, combined with his role as Church Officer, has ensured that fabric matters have been dealt with comprehensively and efficiently for many years. It has always been reassuring to know that if any concerns arose regarding the building or the



manes, we could be comfortable in passing the issue to John, who would unfailingly ensure that the matter was dealt with. John has also led the Wednesday Team, who meet each week to tackle the regular upkeep jobs around the building. We are indebted to each of them.

It should be noted that John has stepped up again to look after fabric matters during the illness of his successor. We thank him for that and we offer our sincere gratitude for all his work on fabric matters over many years.

In paying tribute to these people who have served the Church so well, I should also offer a massive thank you for those who have stepped up to replace them. All have slotted into their role smoothly and have ensured that we soldier on strongly as a Church community. So, I extend a big thank you to Sharon Lindsay, our new Treasurer, to Millie McNish, our new Safeguarding Coordinator, to John Ballantyne, our new Fabric Convenor and to Kathy Smith, our new Fellowship Convenor. It is both a joy and a relief to know there are such capable people prepared to contribute their talent to the Church. We look forward to working with them and note the fine starts they have all made.

Can I also thank Hazel Steele, our outgoing minute secretary for the Business Committee, for all her careful work in making a record of our discussions. We wish Hazel well and extend a warm welcome to her successor, Fiona Taylor, who will enjoy her first meeting in the coming days.

There has, of course, been another major departure which I must record. Following a much shorter stay than we would have wished, and after earning the admiration and love of the entire church community, we were very sad to see the departure of Rosie when her owner decided to demit his position as Minister! Rosie and all the stories of her adventures will be much missed.

And, of course, Scott will also be missed. In his five years with us Scott presented us with a different way of interpreting the Bible. He encouraged us to imagine that we were there with the crowds in the stories and he inspired us to seek the sacred deep within ourselves. Scott also developed the planning base of the Church and he encouraged wide participation in planning and in decision making. Unlike others I have mentioned, Scott has not yet been replaced with a new Minister. This critical search will start as soon as we have the go ahead from Presbytery.

I say that Scott has not yet been replaced, but I am sure we are all aware of how fortunate we are to have Revd John Matthews as Interim Moderator during our Vacancy. John has been leading worship, moderating meetings of the Kirk Session, seeking Guest Preachers and pestering Presbytery

in grand style. His input, both when addressing us from the pulpit and also behind the scenes, has been tremendous. He is determined to maintain a strong church and we are indebted to him in more ways than I can mention. John, thank you for your intrepid leadership in the Church and for your strident representations on our behalf at Presbytery.

It is a joy to record that our worship has been maintained at a pleasingly high level by a number of our own qualified members. As well as John, we have been so well served by our Associate Minister, Revd David Ness and by Muriel Wilson, who is a Deacon in the Church. In addition, we have been delighted to welcome another Minister to the team in the form of the very talented Revd Dr Ian Stirling. We thank all of these exceptional people for their inspiring work and for their valuable nurturing of our Church family. As we travel through the Vacancy we need to keep our identity and our sense of togetherness. The splendid work of our Ministerial colleagues has done a great deal to ensure that this happens.

David Ness is a tireless worker for the Church. In addition to his preaching duties, he undertakes many pastoral visits and conducts more than his share of parish funerals. He has done this consistently for many years and we continue to be very grateful for his dedicated input.

Muriel Wilson is heavily involved in Church activities. She leads worship and she leads the Faith Nurture Committee. She has been involved in the organisation of numerous events, from gentle walks to serious retreats and from trips to the cinema to trips to Temples and Gurdwaras. She has a wonderful personality and is a genuine gem in our church community.

Ian Stirling is a very welcome member of our Ministerial team. His experience and his natural gift of relating to each of us, both young and old, has added significantly to our services. Ian and his wife, Mandy, have hosted retreats for our members at their wonderful home in the Carrick Hills and I reckon that reports of their hospitality would be the envy of many five-star establishments. Many thanks to Ian for his valuable input to the church.

It is very comforting to have such a strong ministerial team working on our behalf and, on behalf of all our members, I offer them our grateful thanks for a job being very well done.

The work of the ministerial team is strongly supported by the quality and commitment of our employees and, of course, by the work of our Elders.

The Church office is run by Irene, with the valuable assistance of our Roll Keeper, Margaret Doncaster. Irene also leads the Administration Committee and she runs the Ladies Fitness Group. She is very much the person in the know when it comes to what is happening in Church or how



is a particular member, or past member, doing. She is forward thinking, pro-active and always quick to suggest ways of dealing with situations which emerge. She is innovative and she consistently rises to any challenges which confront her. So much so that I often find myself sitting at home and thinking how glad I am that she is in the Church ! We thank Irene for all that she does.

Can I also thank Margaret for her contribution to the Church. In addition to helping regularly in the Office, Margaret carries out the duties of Roll Keeper very efficiently, she organises the after-service fellowship each Sunday and she is an Assistant Treasurer. Margaret operates with great efficiency in all these areas and we are very grateful for her ongoing service to the Church.

I make no apologies for mentioning John Stewart once more, He is a remarkable Church Officer, taking on countless tasks in a quiet and efficient way. John's great knowledge of the Church and his engineering background make him the ideal person to have in post. He cares deeply about the Church and regularly steps up to help when the need arises, be it helping with the heating, leading the Wednesday Team, taking on the Fabric Committee when the Convenor was ill or setting up for numerous events and organisations. We owe so much to John and we thank him for all he does.

Matthew continues to play the organ with consummate skill. Our members appreciate his input so much that never a Sunday goes by without a round of applause for his wonderful voluntaries. Matthew has also arranged the visits of a number of choirs, which have entertained us and have joined in our worship services. He has become an Elder and he has joined the Kirk Session. This is a clear demonstration of his commitment to the Church and we are so fortunate to benefit from his work. We thank Matthew for his outstanding contribution to our services and to our church life.

I extend gratitude to Anne Drennan and the Ladies who arrange the wonderful flower displays in the Church. Thanks also to Margaret Johnston and Ann Naismith who arrange flowers to be sent out to members after our Sunday services. We are grateful to Alastair Swan and the members of the sound team for their time and expertise. Many others also contribute to the life of the Church and I apologise to anyone I have not mentioned.

All our Elders play their part in maintaining Ayr St Columba as a vibrant and successful organisation. They visit members, they carry out welcome duties at the door and communion duties in the pews. They attend Session Meetings, where they offer vital support and make critical decisions and

many of them contribute to Committees, to Organisations, to Events and to Charities. We must never take these contributions for granted and we are extremely grateful for all the work being done. Our Elders are the life-blood of the Church and they are able to make a positive difference to the lives of our members. I thank each and every one of our Elders for their commitment and for their support.

I would like to take the opportunity this year to give a special word of thanks to our members who attend so faithfully each Sunday morning. This is a challenging time for our Church. We are in a Vacancy and we have been partnered with other churches in the Presbytery Plan. It is very important that we remain a strong church community at this time. This will greatly aid us as we seek the best outcome regarding both the Vacancy and the Presbytery Plan. It is therefore very heartening indeed to see the church so full each Sunday morning and I thank all our members for their continued support.

And I thank all members who have contributed during the year by organising, helping, attending or supporting any of our many events and activities. Each contribution is welcome and helps to maintain this special community which we value so much.

The coming year will shape the medium and the long-term future of the Church. Let us go through that year united in our determination to keep our Church alive and working in the way we want it to be. This needs the support of all our members. If we have that, then I can guarantee that our Interim Moderator, our Senior Office Bearers and our Kirk Session will do all they can to ensure a positive and meaningful future for Ayr St Columba Church.

Bob Bartholomew. Session Clerk



The ladies of the flower team really appreciate the chance to provide arrangements to enhance the beauty of our chancel. These are appreciated by the congregation each week and also anyone spending time of quiet reflection during the week. Although these displays usually last for two weeks, we would like to assure all our wonderful donors that each week fresh flowers are sent to members of the congregation who perhaps have been ill, suffered a loss or simply need cheering up. We receive many lovely notes saying how much they are appreciated.

Thank you once again to everyone who contributes to the flower fund which benefits our whole congregation.

Ann Drennan





Knit and nattering creates some very impressive blankets

The ladies of Knit and Natter have been very busy over the past few months.

In February we sent 16 knitted blankets to an Ethiopian woman's hospital.

We are well on our way to our next batch being ready. It is not all work though and Shrove Tuesday brought a fabulous morning with pancakes made especially for us by Rine.

If you would like to be part of this lovely group we meet every Tuesday in the Struthers Room from 10 till noon. A warm welcome and a cup of tea or coffee awaits.



**Copy deadline for the June issue will be
Sunday, June 2**

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

Treasurer's report on the annual church accounts

The Annual Accounts of Ayr St Columba for the year to 31 December 2024 were approved at the Annual Trustees' Meeting held on Tuesday 11 March. Immediately after the meeting, the approved accounts were received by those members of the congregation present.

The main points from the Accounts document are:

The Accounts for 2024 show a reduction of funds of £49,000 once the gain on the Investment Funds of £35,000 is included. Without the gain on Investments there is a reduction in funds of £84,000, this is almost all accounted for by the net costs of the boiler replacement.

Overall income is higher in 2024 by £35,000 when compared with 2023.

This arises from the significant recovery of VAT, mainly, in relation to the cost of the boilers; and, the surplus generated from the sale of the manse in Upper Crofts and the purchase of the manse in Bute Way.

It is worth noting that offerings and the associated gift aid recovery have fallen by £5,000 from 2023, being 2.7%.

There is an increase in expenditure of £110,000 compared with 2023. The increase relates primarily to the costs associated with the boiler replacement of £95,000.

Other causes of the increase in expenditure are pay inflation, significant increase in energy tariffs, costs related to the new manse and the resolution of an employment issue to facilitate the transfer of Lochside to Newton Wallacetown church as agreed in the Presbytery Plan.

The most significant area of expenditure is the Giving to Grow Contribution. This contribution is based on the congregation's income. The reducing level of income reduces the contribution. The level of contribution will be lower in 2025.

Investments held at 31 December 2024 are valued at £548,000 compared with £603,000 at 31 December 2023. This is despite realising £90,000 to manage the cash flow. The total gain on Investments is £35,000. The Investments are split between the Growth Fund and the Income Fund.

The performance on the Income Fund compares well with the benchmark. The performance on the Growth Fund (13.0%) compares reasonably with a large number of charity investors (13.3%) but not against the benchmark (16.9%).

In the Balance Sheet the Cash at bank and in hand is higher than at 31 December 2023. Sufficient investments had to be sold to ensure there were



adequate funds to pay the invoices for the boiler. The recovery of VAT on the boilers was recovered after the invoices were paid
Collections for Third parties show a reduction in the income from Special Collections, Donations and fund-raising events for special events falling from £8,000 to £3,000. However, the income generated by Church organisations rose slightly. The success of the Oasis Café generating £4,600 in 2024 is to be commended.

In summary, Ayr St Columba is in a fortunate position to be able to meet the exceptional cost of replacing the boilers and remain with net funds of £602,000

For information, a copy of the full 2024 Annual Accounts document can be found on the Church's website.

Session agreed the budget for 2025 at their meeting in December. The budget is based on routine expenditure exceeding income by £32,000 (2024 £28,000). In addition, provision was agreed for £25,000 of exceptional building maintenance costs. The bank balance at 31 December of £60,000 should cover the projected shortfall of £57,000; however, to ensure cash flow is managed some investments will need to be sold. It should be noted that £57,000 represents 9.5% of the funds available at 1 January 2025.

Sharon Lindsay, Treasurer

Time for the first cut



Wednesday maintenance team member Colin Hope gives the church grass its first cut of 2025

Holy week reflection

The church sanctuary will be open during Holy Week for quiet reflection from Tuesday to Friday 11am till noon

Kirk Session meets

The Kirk Session is due to meet on Tuesday, April 8 and June 10





A country Lenten Retreat



Discovering your own Faith

Once again it was a pleasure to be invited to Ian and Mandy Stirling's home to spend a day with members of St Columba, contemplating faith at the start of Lent.

The programme was led by Ian, Mandy and Muriel.

The day began with a poem by Malcolm Guite, an Anglican priest and poet. It's called the "Singing Bowl" and Ian mentioned it as he gently hit a Tibetan prayer bowl to signify the beginning of the session.

*"Begin the song exactly where you are
Remain within the world of which you're made.
Call nothing common in the earth and air
Accept it all and let it be for good."*

Continued over the page

For the theme of the day, Ian drew on James Fowler's theory of The 6 Stages of Faith, moving from intuitive and projective faith in childhood to universalising faith in adulthood, each representing a different way of approaching, understanding and deepening our faith.

We participated in songs and prayers, and we were encouraged to share our early experiences of faith. Leading on from these special memories, we were also encouraged to think about inspirational objects of faith – be they artwork, poetry, people, bible passages or even places. It was a privilege to hear of some precious moments in other people's lives and the positive influences they experienced on their journeys of faith to where they are now.



Muriel spoke beautifully of her relationship with Julian of Norwich, whose writings, 'Revelations of Divine Love' written in 1373 laid emphasis on God's love for humanity, rather than judgement. She describes Jesus' love 'tenderly wrapping us around' like a shawl or a scarf and 'that he never leaves us'. Love was (and is) His meaning.

We were blessed with beautiful warm sunshine and were able to sit outside for lunch and breaks, enjoying the Spring blossom and bulbs in the garden.

As always Mandy excelled herself, providing us with a beautiful lunch, and we were spoiled by a wonderful selection of home baking to have with our tea and coffee. Nourished in both body and soul!

Thank you to everyone who participated, I think I speak for us all when I say we left feeling relaxed, restored and rejuvenated. And of course a special thanks to Ian, Mandy and Muriel for the time, care and attention they invested to make this another very special retreat.

LB

The Carrick Hills With Our Hosts

Off to the Carrick hills we go
What to expect nobody knows
What a Wonderful day of sunshine,
blue skies fluffy clouds
as the story unfolds
A beautiful cottage set out in the hills
Peaceful surroundings signs of His care
Encircled by woodland all nature unfurls
Fresh clear air, Creation, Gods Glory
Tables set with covers and a sumptuous feast
Of homemade soup, bread, scones and cakes
To nourish our bodies, tireless volunteers.
To our Hosts raise a toast,
The sounds of Heaven stirring gave us comfort there.
Like the sound of a smile that fills a voice with praise
Praise to Our King of Glory the great sound we raise
Praise to the Lord of Glory Keeper of our days

By Agnes Fisher 2025





The Sunday School have been busy making Easter cards and treats which they sold to the congregation to raise cash to go to Bfriend at the South Ayrshire Befriending Project.

They have also been doing their own postcard (pictured) on what a new minister to St Columba would be like.

Stamp Appeal

Remember to save your used stamps for the Bone Cancer research project.

They can be placed in the box under the glass notice board unit in the Carrick Park corridor.

Try our Easter puzzle

Courtesy of MATHSWEEK.SCOT Solution on Page 35

City Trip Logic Puzzle (Level 2)



	NAME	SOUVENIR	DESTINATION
	Tavish	Snow Globe	Berlin
	Anya	Postcards	Copenhagen
	Hassan	Keyring	Rome
	Ruby	Fridge Magnet	Prague
SUITCASE	Red		
	Yellow		
	Green		
	Orange		
DESTINATION	Berlin		
	Copenhagen		
	Rome		
	Prague		
SOUVENIR	Snow Globe		
	Postcards		
	Keyring		
	Fridge Magnet		



Four friends are chatting about their plans for the Easter holidays. They are all going on city trips to Europe with their families. Can you work out where each friend is going, what colour their suitcase is, and which souvenir they want to buy?

- The friend with a green suitcase is not Tavish.
- The friend going to Copenhagen does not want to buy a snowglobe.
- Hassan is not going to Rome.
- The friend who wants to buy postcards has a suitcase in a colour that starts with the same letter as their first name.
- Anya does not want to buy a snow globe or a keyring.
- The friend with the yellow suitcase is Hassan.
- Of the friends wanting to buy a fridge magnet and a keyring, one is going to Rome and the other has an orange suitcase.
- The friend going to Berlin is Tavish.
- Either the friend with a red suitcase or the friend with an orange suitcase is going to Copenhagen.

Taking us through the vacancy

Revd John Matthews

John was born and brought up in North Glasgow and on leaving school served a five year apprenticeship. At the age of 22 he married Mabel and set him on the road to better things! In 1980 he made an unusual career move returning to Glasgow to study at the University of Glasgow before entering the Ministry as Parish Minister of Glasgow: Ruchill Kelvinside, where he served for 19 years.



John held senior positions in industry, latterly as Managing Director and part of the European Team with General Electric of America.

The combination of serving in a deprived community and experiencing first-hand the poverty, exclusion & health inequalities which exist across Glasgow gave John an insight and opportunity to engage more comprehensively with wider social and economic concerns in Greater Glasgow.

Since entering the Ministry John has held senior positions in the central structures of the Church as a Member of the Council of Assembly, Convener the Board of National Mission and was also Chair of Faith Community Scotland, facilitating people of the major Faiths to make a difference in their own community in the poorest areas of Scotland.

Revd David T. Ness

I was born in Glasgow but at the age of four moved to Paisley. Schooling was at Paisley Grammar and when I left with a number of Highers I hadn't a clue what I wanted to do with my life. I got a job with an Animal Feeding Firm, the British Oil and Cake Mills, and it was during my sojourn there that I received the Call to the Ministry. I attended Glasgow University for five years studying Arts and Divinity and was indeed privileged to have Prof William Barclay as one of my tutors. Sherwood Church in Paisley was my home church.



In 1972 I was ordained and inducted to Dundonald Parish Church. I have many fond memories of my 16 years there as minister. In 1988 I moved to St Quivox Church in Ayr which then consisted of three churches, Auchincruive, Dalmling and Lochside. When in Dundonald I was asked if I would be Chaplain to the Royal Navy at Gannet and the Royal Air Force at Atlantic House.

When I retired in 2008, Revd Aitken asked me to give him a hand and I look forward to continuing to be the Associate Minister of St Columba.



Revd Ian Stirling

My discovery of faith began in the shadow of my mother, whose own father was a minister in Beattock and my father, who was an elder in the Kirk at the age of 19. Following in their footsteps I joined the Kirk in Ardrishaig. After training in Edinburgh my own ministry began in two small mining villages, Cowie and Plean, near Stirling. Then I moved to to Castlehill Church. After 8 years I became chaplain at the Ayrshire Hospice. Where I specialised in end of life care for 14years. My last years as a minister were spent down the coast at Fisherton and Kirkoswald. I am now enjoying my years of retirement.



My faith is an ongoing journey. In my youth I longed for certainty, then later I gained confidence in discovering my own faith based on life's experiences. Over the years I enjoyed studying at Edinburgh and Glasgow University culminating in my doctorate at Glasgow. I try to be open to many influences on faith including the world church, art, literature and music.

Mandy and I have three adult children, Nicola, James and Ben who are each creating exciting lives for themselves. We are delighted in becoming grandparents to Libby and are excited over another arrival due in August. Over the last few years we have enjoyed becoming part of the family at St Columba.

Muriel Wilson

I was born in Glasgow but brought up in Ayr. My family attended Cathcart Church where my father Robert was an elder and where my sister Eleanor and I were christened.

When Cathcart, Sandgate and Trinity merged my family joined the new "St Columba". My father was Clerk to the Board for many years. I attended Ayr Academy and then went on to Glasgow University to study French and English.

I then decided I would like to go into social work and I studied in Edinburgh for two years. I liked Edinburgh very much and I stayed on there, working in two different areas of the city – Craigmillar and West Pilton where some of my naivety and idealism were challenged!!! A change of direction was on the horizon! I applied for a place at New College in Edinburgh to study for a B.D and just loved my years there. completing my degree in 1988.

My first parish was in St Columba's Church, Glenrothes. However after 5 years I decided to move back to the west and I worked for 10 years at Patna and Dalmellington. I retired in 2011 and came to stay in Ayr.



Catch up with Kirk Session

Meetings of the Kirk Session were held on 10th December 2024, moderated by Revd Dr Scott McKenna and on 11th February 2025, moderated by Revd John Matthews. A summary of issues discussed at these meetings is given below:

10th December 2024

The Treasurer, Ms Sharon Lindsay, referred to the draft Budget which had been distributed to Elders ahead of the meeting. The Kirk Session gave its approval for the draft budget.

The Moderator said that there had been no appeal to members during his five years at St Columba and for some time before this; Session may wish to consider making an appeal in the coming year.

The Moderator was very pleased that Revd John Matthews had accepted the position of Interim Moderator for the forthcoming vacancy.

The Clerk said that it was very heartening to know that our pulpit would be filled with some of our own people, who are known and admired by the congregation.

It was proposed that, St Columba Church guarantee Abba's Rest £2000 per year for the next 4 years, and that any monies raised through congregational fundraising for Abba's Rest be counted over and above this figure. Following discussion, members gave their approval for the proposal.

St Columba Church will be able to support other charities of its choice in addition to its commitment to Abba's Rest.

The Kirk Session approved the cessation of Sunday evening and Wednesday services during the Vacancy.

Mrs Millie McNish informed Elders that the Congregational Register had been updated and said that it was unlawful to keep people on the list if they were no longer involved in activities.

Mrs McNish was praised for her work in putting together the Sunday School Nativity presentation which had been very well received.

The Moderator wished to place on record the gratitude of the Kirk Session for all who had helped at Lochside over the years of St Columba's involvement. He expressed particular thanks to Revd Roddy McNidder and Mrs Morag McPherson, but recognised all those who had made significant contributions at Lochside Church.

Mr Ballantyne said that he normally set the heating plan for the week on Sunday morning. He asked that anyone arranging a meeting or an event inform him in order that the plan could include this. People could contact



him directly or inform the Church Secretary. In the case of impromptu meetings, members were asked to contact Mr Ballantyne or Mr Muirhead by phone.

Mr Ballantyne referred to the Fire Evacuation event and informed Elders that it was necessary to have at least seven Duty Team members in order that the various tasks were covered. He was in the course of taking Duty Teams through an induction process and asked that members arrive by 9.45am when on duty to allow a fifteen-minute briefing before duty starts.

Mr Ballantyne also reminded members that, when on duty, they should read through the procedures for dealing with unwell individuals in church.

Moderator: The Clerk noted that this was the last Kirk Session meeting which would be moderated by Revd Dr Scott McKenna. He thanked Dr McKenna for his work in the church over the past five years and extended best wishes to him for his future career. The Moderator thanked the Clerk and Elders for the support he had been given during his time at St Columba. He said there was a loving congregation in the church and he was now experiencing feelings of bereavement as his time with them was coming to an end.

11th February 2025

The Clerk welcomed Revd John Matthews, who was moderating his first Kirk Session meeting as Interim Moderator. Members of Session gave Revd Matthews a warm reception.

Mr Peter Macdonald informed members that, since the Covid pandemic, there had been a sharp drop in the amount being collected in the charity jars placed at the doors of the Church. At present the monies collected were for the Mary's Meals charity and for the Lung Health initiative. The amount going to each was much less than before.

The Clerk asked members if it would be better to choose a single charity each year in order that a more significant amount could be sent to them. Members agreed to this and Miss Muriel Wilson spoke of the particular issues being faced by countries in Africa this year. It was decided that the donations for this year would all go to Mary's Meals.

Mr John Ferguson spoke of the decline in numbers of creatures such as bees and butterflies which played an important part in the overall process leading to crop production. He informed Elders that, to counter this decline, an initiative had been launched by the Scottish Wildlife Trust to create more wildflower areas which were attractive to these creatures. He had spoken to the coordinator of the project, Ms Lynne Bates, and he proposed that wildflower seeds be planted on the grass in the Church garden to help this initiative. Members of Session gave their approval for this.

The Clerk reported that, as of 1st February 2025, responsibility for Lochside Church had formally transferred to Newton Wallacetown Church.

It was understood that Newton Wallacetown intended to hand the operation and the maintenance of the entire building over to South Ayrshire Council. The Clerk had written to the Principal Clerk to alert the Church of Scotland to the new circumstances and to request that they ensure that any future changes in the use of the premises are undertaken with the knowledge and agreement of the General Trustees.

The Clerk reminded Elders that membership of the Church Safeguarding Panel consisted of the Minister (currently the Interim Moderator), the Session Clerk, the Safeguarding Coordinator and Dr Helen Hunter.

Ms Muriel Wilson informed Elders that a service to mark the World Day of Prayer would be held in the Church at 2.00pm on Friday 7th March.

Ms Wilson reported that the process of checking individuals who had volunteered to help with Pastoral Care in order that they obtained PVG certificates was ongoing.

Mr J Ballantyne thanked John Stewart and Iain Campbell for taking on an important role in setting the heating. Mr Stewart was specifically thanked for his efforts in keeping the Church at a reasonable temperature in recent weeks.

The Moderator assured members that the issue of heating would continue to be monitored until a satisfactory situation had been achieved. This may take a little time as our understanding of the system and the issues arising grew.

Members were informed that the Trustees' Meeting would be held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 11th March at which Trustees would be invited to approve the Accounts. As in previous years, this meeting would be immediately followed by the Stated Annual Business meeting at which the congregation would receive the Accounts.

The Moderator asked members to give some thought to the possibility of having a Stewardship Campaign. It would be better to have this before a new Minister was in post.

R A Bartholomew, Session Clerk

World Day of Prayer at St Columba

On March 7 more than 40 people attended the World Day of Prayer Service in St Columba church.

Members of Newton Wallacetown, Castlehill, St Mary's Catholic Cathedral, Holy Trinity Episcopal church, Alloway and the Auld Kirk joined our



members for worship.

The theme was "I Made You Wonderful" which is so encouraging and affirming!

The service was prepared by the WDP committee of the Cook Islands, situated in the Pacific Ocean. There are 15 islands scattered over 2 million square kilometres.

Captain Cook during his expedition of 1773 landed there.

The gospel was first brought to the islands in 1821, through the London Missionary Society and the Islanders blended their Polynesian heritage with their Christian faith.

The service highlighted the achievements and struggles of the Cook Island women in the areas of education, sport, cultural activities and environmental concerns.

Sadly domestic violence is also a challenge.

As with our Scottish islands, there are problems with depopulation and youth unemployment. Many young folk leave to find work in nearby Australia and New Zealand.

This year's theme "I made you wonderful" reflected the islanders' resilience and unity and celebrated the spiritual and cultural richness of the Cook Islands.

Arts and Crafts are very popular with the women- they weave baskets and mats from coconut leaves and fibre and patchwork quilts, shell necklaces and flower garlands are very popular.

After the service everyone enjoyed teas and coffees and fellowship in the Midton Hall, organised by the Hospitality Team. A big thank you to them.

Here's to next year's service which will be hosted by Holy Trinity church on Friday March 6.

Muriel Wilson

Busy time at the Presbytery

Presbytery Moderator: Presbytery approved the appointment of Mrs Gillian Lynn, Elder at Ervie Kirkholm linked with Leswalt Parish Churches as Presbytery Moderator for 2025 - 2026. Members may remember that Gillian was a former Captain of 1st Ayr Boys Brigade Junior Section within Ayr St Columba and is the wife of the late Rev Robert Lynn who was a Minister at St Leonard's Church.

Interim Moderators: Presbytery approved the appointment of various Interim Moderators including the Rev Barbara Suchanek - Seitz to Donald Parish Church and the Rev Fiona Maxwell to Old Cumnock Old

linked with Lugar Parish Churches.

Vacancy Procedure Business: Presbytery noted the following in respect of the Legacy Presbytery of Ayr: North Carrick - vacancy being advertised; Girvan Valley - vacancy being advertised. Prestwick- Kingcase/St Nicholas - vacancy being advertised; Ayr St Columba - new vacancy as of 1 January 2025; Troon - calling but not yet on website;

Basis of Unions: In respect of the Legacy Presbytery of Ayr, Presbytery approved the following Basis of Unions: Monkton and Prestwick North and Prestwick South Parish Churches to form the new parish of Monkton and Prestwick Trinity Parish Church of Scotland. Dundonald and Craigie, Symington Parish Churches to form the new parish of Craigie, Dundonald and Symington Parish Church of Scotland. Ballantrae and St Colmon (Arnshean Barrhill and Colmonell) Parish Churches to form the new parish of Ballantrae and St Colmon Church of Scotland.

Church sales: Presbytery approved the sale/disposal of Fisherton Church and the sale/disposal of Colmon Church

Mission: Presbytery instructed the Mission Committee to complete implementing their new approach to Local Church Review and refinement of the process in the following years. A guidance document along with guidance notes for Moderators/Session Clerks and for Independent Reviewers will be sent out by the Presbytery Clerk to each congregation. (guidance is centred on the 5 marks of mission). In summary, the key outcome is for congregations to consider and select what they are being led to do in the next year/years. Any plans should be what suits the congregation and their calling.

2024 Review of Congregational Accounts: Congregations are reminded that Congregational Annual Accounts for 2024 are due by 31 March 2025. Energy Performance Certificate: Presbytery reminded congregations that an Energy Performance Certificate must be in place for all manses. Companies that offer an EPC along with other energy services might be more appropriate to contact

Magnitude 2025: Presbytery encourage congregations to promote Magnitude 2025 to youth in their churches, it runs from 19 to 23 July 2025 in the grounds of Scripture Union Centre. Kinross. The days involve camping out and taking part in competitive sports, activities and creativity, workshops and seminars coming together to worship Jesus

George Park. Presbytery Elder

Troon Church have just appointed the Rev Gilleen Richmond as their new minister for their new United congregation on 9 March 2025. Gillean spent some of her probationary period service at Ayr St Columba.





Zig-zagging over the bridges of the River Ayr

Our walk at the end of January took us over five bridges as we meandered up the River Ayr, starting at the Auld Brig.

We finished our walk with our now-customary 'late Christmas lunch' at Pizzaiola. As the pictures show, we were blessed with a beautiful spring day.

The same was true of our February walk. This began on the sea front at Barassie, walking back into town along the old railway line past Mar College.

At time of writing our March walk following the Blue Bonnet trail, is still to come.

Future walks are still to be finalised but are announced in the pew leaflet for anyone who is interested.

Helen Greig



Guided tour and concert at Paisley Abbey

Saturday 21 June 10.45am

The Whithorn Way is one of the oldest and most well known pilgrim routes in Scotland, and runs through Ayr and South West Scotland.

As such it seems fitting to visit some of the destinations along the route. Our first stop will be a guided tour of Paisley Abbey, to be followed by a lunchtime concert by violinist Douglas Lawrence in the Abbey, and a snack or lunch in the Abbey cafe after the concert.

If you are interested, please leave your name and contact details on the sheet in the rear hall corridor. Tickets are £5.

The Abbey is a five minute walk from Paisley Gilmour Street train station.

Supporting Whiteleys

Thank you to all who purchased marmalade and hand knitted items from the monthly sales table at the Oasis Cafe

During 2024 we were able to send £1220 to Whiteleys which included generous donations.

In addition 25% Gift Aid will be claimed

Jean A. Stewart

Busy time as the Monday Fellowship session closes

Our aim is “To promote a spirit of Christian fellowship among the members”. We do that with meetings, on a Monday at 2 pm, once a fortnight from October to March.

To that end there is a hymn, a reading, and a prayer, followed by an interesting and informed talk and presentation by a speaker and, to round off, tea and biscuits.

We have all enjoyed a spirit of Christian Fellowship over the 2024-25 session which ended in March.

With the disbanding of the Guild in 2024 there was an influx of new members such that membership more than doubled over the previous session, while average attendance doubled.

All are welcome, more than welcome, and it was very heartening to see the Midton Road hall thronged and buzzing with conversation on the day.



The conversation continued unabated with our end-of-session lunch at the Fairfield Hotel, to which over forty people came.

Although the Fellowship is not a fund-raising organisation, we do have nominated charities for which collections are taken throughout the session.

Following on from the approval of the members at the A.G.M., the great bulk of the funds accumulated from collections and the annual subscriptions are distributed. This year, £150 each will be going to Whiteley's Retreat, The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Ayrshire Cancer Support, and the Wildlife Trust, plus the same amount to Ayr St. Columba as a contribution to the heating bill.

Behind the scenes and on the day there is a fair amount of work to be done to sustain the Fellowship. Our secretary John Ferguson has the task of securing interesting and entertaining speakers. Alan Hawthorn keeps the finances in order. Robin White, Linda Hunter, Annette Cuthbert, Lynne MacPherson, and various other esteemed helpers organise the cater-



ing and the layout and clearing-away of the Midton Road hall. Colin Main is one of the first to arrive on a Monday, one of the last to leave and does all-round work. Many hands do indeed make light work. This includes those members who are willing to do a reading or a prayer or a vote-of-thanks on the day. Alan Hawthorn, who prepares the rota, is always looking for more names for the latter. Of all the speakers, special mention should be made of our very own Alistair Swan, who not only gave one of his inimitable presentations on the last Monday of the session, but stepped in at very short notice the previous week when the scheduled speaker was invalidated out.

The same team has shown willing to help organize the 2025-26 session which will start on Monday 6th October. While almost all of us will be taking a break, Secretary John Ferguson will be working away to secure speakers to entertain and enlighten the membership. We are all grateful for the several names already forwarded to John as possibilities.

In the meantime, we wish everyone all the best over the coming months until we meet again.

Terry Swinn – President.

TAKING AN ECO LOOK by Andrew Muirhead

John Boyd Orr: *A local hero*

Who is your hero? Perhaps you have many. After all you are spoilt for choice even if you consider only local people. So many famous people were born or lived within 80 miles of Ayr. Robert Burns, James Clark Maxwell, Alexander Fleming are just a few of the well known names. My favourite is John Boyd Orr. He was not just a hero, but a war hero, maybe as significant as the code breakers from Bletchley Park. Let me remind you of his story.

John Boyd Orr was an Ayrshire man, he was born in Kilmaurs and went to school in West Kilbride. He did well at school, so well that he stayed on and helped teach for 4 years. He then attended Glasgow University and teacher training. After graduating, he was posted to a job in the Glasgow slums. He was horrified by living conditions and poor nutrition of his pupils. Hungry children did not learn. He decided to return to University to study Biology, but studied medicine as a sideline too. Not surprisingly, his money ran out and he was a penniless student. Undaunted, he used his accounting knowledge to convince his bank manager to provide a loan. He bought a *whole* block of flats and rented them out. He was therefore able

to continue with his studies. He graduated in biology in 1910, medicine in 1912 and won a gold medal for his MD thesis in 1914.

OK, I hear you say, he was a bright boy and had fire in his belly. But why should he be a hero? The answer of course is what he did with his training and experience.

After a stint as a ship's doctor, to help him pay off his mortgage, he worked in a research lab studying nutrition. Shortly afterwards, he took up a post in Aberdeen looking in to animal nutrition. At the outbreak of WW1 he pushed through improvements in hygiene for training camps before serving in France himself. There, he treated people in shell holes while under fire in the Somme and Passchendaele and was awarded the MC and DSO for bravery.

Soldiers in his battalion did better than most. He obtained boots one size too large for them. Big boots preventing them from getting trench foot. He arranged for his troops to get vegetables from abandoned fields and gardens. This prevented hospital admissions related to poor diet, which was common elsewhere. So it was good to have this man on your team. Whilst the war was still on, he transferred to the navy to get more time for research.

After WW1, he went back to Aberdeen where he had pushed for 10 times the grant offered to finance his nutrition research. In the end, the money came from a businessman and central government. This was the basis for Aberdeen's experimental farm and agricultural research, sister to the local Hannah institute. The Aberdeen institute continues to this day. His own research was in animal and human nutrition. He proved the value of suppling milk to schoolchildren in 1927. Later he showed a link between poverty, poor diet and underperformance at school that affected 1/3 of British children. As a result, the state started providing milk to all schoolchildren. This was considered the most cost effective way to improve health and education.

During WW2, John Boyd Orr helped formulate food rationing. Memories of rationing are not all positive. Rationing was largely responsible for something unique. Normally one would expect children to suffer illness as a result of hostilities. In Britain, children had a **reduced** mortality during the war due to average nutrition being **better** than before. I can't help thinking that the profusion of healthy 90+ year old Britons might be related to their childhood diet too.

Code breakers from Bletchley park prevented the loss of much merchant shipping. John Boyd Orr reduced the demand for imported food. Therefore Britain needed fewer ships bringing supplies.



After WW2 he worked for the UN and did many grand things later in his career. He was awarded the Nobel Peace prize in 1949 and gave away all of the prize money. He was made a Lord and was Rector of Glasgow University.

His ideas on nutrition were revolutionary then and still are. A mainly vegetarian diet with milk being the main animal constituent is a returning formula. The recent mantra of “avoid fat, sugar and salt” is no longer seen as the most helpful route to good health. The world population has increased between 3 and 4 fold compared to 1950. It is unrealistic to insist on a diet heavy in meat any longer. To do so is damaging to our world as well as the health of the human population.

So when you next visit Byres Road in Glasgow, turn in to University Avenue, look at the concrete and glass building named “Boyd Orr”. The building does not do him justice, but it is a reminder of one of the world’s truly great men.

Andrew Muirhead a.g.muirhead@google.net.com

Congregation and Parish Register



January-March

DEATHS

Andrew Widgery
Edith Taylor
Jean Anderson
Ann Richardson
May McCracken

Nan Crawford
Mary Knox
Edna Gemmell
Stanley McLean

Who to contact

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Tues, Thurs and Fri

Church Charity Number: SC014338

Church Services :

10.30am - Morning Worship;
10.30am Sunday School,

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: **MONDAY FELLOWSHIP**
(fortnightly):
Mr T. R. Swinn, 441896

TUESDAY

10am: Knit and Natter
Carol Morrison, 07999444200

WEDNESDAY

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



	NAME	SOUVENIR	DESTINATION
	Tavish		
	Anya		
	Hassan		
	Ruby		
	Snowglobe		
	Postcards		
	Keyring		
	Fridge Magnet		
	Berlin		
	Copenhagen		
	Rome		
	Prague		

SUITCASE	Tavish	Anya	Hassan	Ruby	Snowglobe	Postcards	Keyring	Fridge Magnet	Berlin	Copenhagen	Rome	Prague
Red	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Yellow	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Green	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Orange	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

DESTINATION	Tavish	Anya	Hassan	Ruby	Snowglobe	Postcards	Keyring	Fridge Magnet
Berlin	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Copenhagen	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Rome	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Prague	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

SOUVENIR	Tavish	Anya	Hassan	Ruby
Snowglobe	X	X	X	X
Postcards	X	X	X	X
Keyring	X	X	X	X
Fridge Magnet	X	X	X	X

Four friends are chatting about their plans for the Easter holidays. They are all going on city trips to Europe with their families. Can you work out where each friend is going, what colour their suitcase is, and which souvenir they want to buy?

- The friend with a green suitcase is not Tavish.
- The friend going to Copenhagen does not want to buy a snowglobe.
- Hassan is not going to Rome.
- The friend who wants to buy postcards has a suitcase in a colour that starts with the same letter as their first name.
- Anya does not want to buy a snow globe or a keyring.
- The friend with the yellow suitcase is Hassan.
- Of the friends wanting to buy a fridge magnet and a keyring, one is going to Rome and the other has an orange suitcase.
- The friend going to Berlin is Tavish.
- Either the friend with a red suitcase or the friend with an orange suitcase is going to Copenhagen.

WWW.MATHSWEEK.SCOT

signs of the island being brought back to life anyway, I had

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signs of the island being brought back to life anyway, I had

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