

Columba News



CHRISTMAS
2018



CHURCH PERSONNEL

"COLUMBA NEWS" - DECEMBER 2018 - Issue No. 225

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Carrick Park, Ayr. Tel:- 269524 Office Hours: 9.00am - 12.00 noon

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

Church Charity Number: SC014338

Church Services (Midton Road):

9.30am - Family Service; 10.00am - Sunday School and Bible Class

11.15am - Morning Worship; 6.30pm - Evening Services (Last Sunday of the Month)

Church Services (Lochside)

10.00am Morning Worship

Webmaster:

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www.ayrstcolumba.org.uk

The Minister's Letter

From the Manse....

Christmas 2018

My dear Friends and Parishioners,

Those who know me well know that I am passionate about many things! I am passionate about books and chocolate and Church buildings, and about lots of Christmas things – brightly decorated trees, carols, evenings around the fire, watching old films.

But I also love snow – I can remember as a boy walking home from primary school in the month of December, wrapped up like Nanook of the North, the snow so deep it was going down inside my wellington boots, and then the wonderful sight of home and a roaring coal fire at which to toast my cold feet!

I have memories of coming out of Church after the midnight service in my first parish, the snowflakes beginning to fall, beginning right then and continuing on through the night, wrapping us all up and leaving our Christmas morning in a blanket of white.

You are probably wondering what on earth possesses me to want something which often is just an annual invitation to frustration – driving behind snowploughs and gritters, shovelling snow off paths and driveways, train and bus cancellations, and the oppressive piles of dirty snow lying beside the kerbs.

Well, why do I want a “snowy” Christmas so much?

The answer, in part, is in the writings of Charles Dickens who invented the idea of what Christmas should be like for us; in the traditions introduced from Germany by Prince Albert, the Consort of Queen Victoria; and also, in the culture of which we are part – it's Bing Crosby's fault!

But there is, I think, a deeper desire within me. It is the deep desire for peace, for beauty, for transformative magic.

In my imagination, the snow falls softly and quietly, while “silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given.” The snow covers the roads and gradually, as we look out of our windows, and there is a deep stillness, a hushed expectancy, as “all is calm, all is bright.” Soon snow covers all the gardens around us, hiding the brown leaves of autumn, covering the barbecue, turning the imperfect into perfection. Houses, large and small, are coated with white icing. And inside, you and I are

drawn together by the magic, by the silent solemnity of it all, by the warmth and security of our fireside.

I think that my longing for snow is a heartfelt cry for the memories of childhood, for a yearning for simpler times, for a safer world, for the healing presence of God descending upon our deeply troubled and divided world.

So, even if we don't have it for real in these next few weeks, in our imaginations, let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!

From my house to yours, may joy and peace be with you and your family now and in 2019.

With my warmest affection,



Fraser

SUNDAY DOOR DUTY

Morning Services

(9.30am and 11.15am)

Evening Services

(6.30pm)

November

25th Team 6

6.30pm Evening Service

December

2nd Team 7

9th Team 8

16th Team 9

23th Team 10

30th Team 11

January

6th Team 12

13th Team 1

20st Team 2

27th 9.30am Team 3

11.15am Team 4

6.30pm Team 5

WEDNESDAY COMMUNION will be held at 2pm on the fourth Wednesday of each month (except June, July, August, December), the forthcoming occasions being November 28 and January 23.

MINISTRY OF FLOWERS

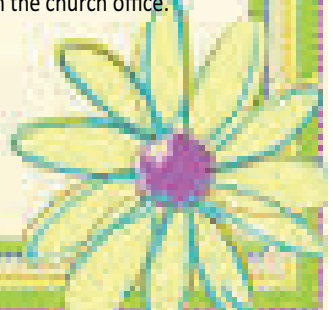
Each week our church is beautifully adorned with flowers very generously donated by members of our congregation – often in memory of loved ones or to celebrate a special occasion. After the service, the arrangements are made into bouquets and, judging by the many thank-you cards we receive, are very much appreciated by those members of our St Columba family who receive them.

We would like to thank everyone who makes this possible – from the people who donate the money, the ladies who arrange the flowers and those who make the bouquets and deliver them.

A new calendar for 2019 will shortly be put up in the Carrick Park vestibule and if you would like to contribute to the flower fund, please feel free to add your name on your chosen date. Your contribution can be left in an envelope with your name and date at the church office at any time. (Can we please ask that any cheques be made out to St Columba Church Flower Fund) You are, of course, very welcome to purchase flowers and / or arrange them yourself – just write that next to your name on the calendar.

Finally, we would like to say a huge “thank-you” to the ladies in the flower team for giving so freely of their time and talents. We are a cheery group who enjoy a chat and a cuppa every Saturday morning as we work – and if you would like to join us, please get in touch via Irene in the church office.

Anne Drennan and Corrie Lawrence



Senior Christmas Party

SATURDAY 15TH DECEMBER

2.30 - 5PM



**FESTIVE AFTERNOON TEA
ENTERTAINMENT
CAROL SINGING
SANTA AND HIS ELVES**



PLEASE COMPLETE FORM BELOW AND RETURN TO THE OFFICE

Senior Christmas Party

Please reserve..... a place at the

**Seniors' Christmas Party
on Saturday, December 15**

Hospitality Committee

The Guild

"Whose we are and Whom we serve"

By the time you receive your magazine Christmas will almost be us and we will be looking forward to all the Celebration that comes with such a special time.

Since our opening evening on October 1 when we were delighted, as always, to have Revd Fraser, we have also had some new members join us and we hope that they have enjoyed being with us for friendship and fellowship and have felt welcomed and part of the Guild family. At each meeting we have had interesting speakers and entertainers and for this we are truly grateful.

Our first meeting of the New Year is **Monday, 7 January 2019 at 7.30 p.m. in the Midton Road Hall, when we look forward to having Mr Grant Young who will brighten up our evening with his talk on New Zealand, Top to Bottom and Back.**

This is followed by our own **Matthew and Rachel who will entertain us on our Burns' Evening on Monday, 21 January 2019 at 7.30 p.m. in the Midton Road Hall.**

We hope to have a good attendance at these meetings and anyone who would like to come along and join us will be made most welcome.

May I, on behalf of Dorothy and the Committee, thank you once again for all your support and wish you a Happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you all again in the New Year on **Monday, 7 January 2019.**

Maureen Fullerton
Secretary

Thank You . . . I would like to say a big Thank You to our Ministers and all of my friends at St Columba Church for their letters, cards and visits while I was in hospital. It was very much appreciated and most definitely aided my recovery greatly. I am improving every week and hope to be back among you all in the church very soon

With Love
Molly McLeish

SAVE THE DAY . . .

Fraser's Retirement Lunch

Glass Prosecco on arrival

2 course lunch including glass house wine

Tea/coffee



31st MARCH 2019, TURNBERRY HOTEL

Ticket Price: £30 – Times: TBA

Transport if required £5.00



Anyone wishing to attend this momentous occasion can add their names to list which will be placed in Carrick Park Vestibule Sunday 2nd December 2018 until Sunday 13th January 2019.

Take a Table (min. 10 place settings) If anyone wishes to take a table please contact Jane on 01292 281013.

PLEASE NOTE:

Lists may CLOSE EARLIER if maximum number of 500 is reached. Friends and members of other congregations who know Fraser and would like to attend are warmly invited.

PAYMENT will be on collection of tickets.

TICKET COLLECTION: FROM MONDAY 21st JAN -FRIDAY 1st FEB
HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE WILL BE IN CHURCH

MONDAY - FRIDAY (9.30 - 12.00) FOR PAYMENT AND TICKET COLLECTION.

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO COLLECT YOUR TICKETS MID WEEK TICKETS CAN ALSO BE COLLECTED Sunday 3rd February 2019.

If anyone has any questions regarding Fraser's Retirement Lunch please call Jane on 01292 281013

FRASER'S RETIREMENT LUNCH

TABLE REQUEST

NAME TEL NO.....

GUEST NAME	BUS £5.00	DIETARY REQUIREMENTS
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PLEASE NOTE THAT IF YOU REQUIRE A SEAT ON THE BUS THE
THE MONEY (£5.00) WILL BE COLLECTED ON THE BUS.

PLEASE TICK IF YOU HAVE DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

PLEASE RETURN TO OFFICE MARKED FOR ATTENTION OF
JANE HUNTER

K	T	K	O	G	V	G	J	L	E	A	A	W	U	R	V	W	N	D	Z
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N	P	P	N	A	L	J	E	H	G	D	O	R	E	H	R	K	F	A	R
H	R	G	V	N	X	T	D	O	N	K	E	Y	A	W	B	D	P	Q	D
V	U	J	X	G	F	H	E	A	V	E	N	Z	C	A	L	U	O	Y	G
Y	D	N	E	E	W	I	S	E	M	A	N	G	E	R	V	X	K	V	P
R	N	W	N	L	L	Y	S	P	O	O	F	F	S	T	A	A	B	Y	F
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D	H	I	A	D	I	M	B	Y	J	J	I	J	Z	Q	Q	O	A	N	B
K	G	M	I	S	A	M	T	S	I	R	H	C	D	J	K	I	N	G	S
J	K	A	U	G	U	S	T	U	S	L	E	Z	P	O	C	V	D	O	N
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F	I	A	O	T	Q	F	R	A	N	K	I	N	C	E	N	S	E	D	K
N	G	A	B	R	E	P	E	E	K	N	N	I	C	P	T	I	M	R	L
H	Q	O	Q	I	B	Z	U	D	M	Y	R	R	H	H	A	A	A	A	P
H	A	Z	S	B	O	I	G	U	K	L	R	X	R	Q	T	A	C	T	Y
E	Q	I	S	X	J	T	F	J	U	O	B	W	I	T	A	X	E	S	I
R	X	I	M	Y	Y	U	Y	X	N	V	N	F	S	T	Y	X	R	O	X
P	T	O	Y	L	L	H	M	E	H	E	L	H	T	E	B	F	R	B	H

Words to find . .

Angels	Christmas	Innkeeper	Myrrh
Augustus	Christ	Jesus	Peace
Bethlehem	Donkey	Joseph	Savior
Birth	Family	Judea	Shepherds
Blessed	Frankincense	Love	Star
Camel	Gold	Kings	Straw
Candle	Heaven	Manger	Taxes
Cantata	Herod	Mary	Wiseman

Men's Association

Since our Session started early October, we have had very interesting meetings. We continue on our excellent programme as follows,

3rd December

"Down the Irrawaddy River" by Gary Ward

17th December

"Ice Cream Cone King" by Filippo Mancini

January 14th

"Research through people" by George English
(Hosts of the Ladies Fellowship)

January 28th

SeAscape Speaker May Gilchrist

Our meetings have been well attended, but we always welcome new members so please come along and enjoy an evening of fellowship and interesting talks.

George Rae

Secretary

Message on a Paper Bag

Paper bags are more common these days. This one I received was from the gift shop in Holy Trinity Church in Stratford-upon-Avon, the burial site of William Shakespeare.

Thousands must pass through this church and gift shop each year. A picture of the church printed in blue was on one side and on the other a roundel with three intertwining fish plus the usual information about times of Services etc.

What caught my eye was the message on one side :

Our Values—Holiness, Humility and Hospitality.

What a brilliant piece of marketing! Reaching out to all nations, all faiths and those with no faith.

In St. Columba. We embrace these values too do we not?

I wonder what the Bard would make of this if he received a paper Bag today Certainly it would be a huge culture shock. Followed I wonder perhaps by Amazement? Bewilderment? Understanding ?

Jay Mair

LIFE AND WORK MAGAZINE

The editorially independent magazine of the Church of Scotland is packed every month with features, news and opinions on Christian life within Scotland and further afield.

One of the magazine's most important features is reader feedback- the letters pages are lively and very revealing about general attitudes within and beyond the Church.

As the Church pays annually for the magazines, it receives a discount, so we are able to offer an annual subscription rate of £30.60, to anyone paying before the end of January 2019.

Cheques should be made payable to St Columba Church.

Home delivery can be arranged for elderly or housebound members. Each month copies are available at both doors, priced £2. 80.

Anyone wishing to take out an annual subscription for the first time, please contact me, either through the Church office or at my home address.

Hazel Steele (tel 861631)

LIFE AND WORK MAGAZINE

Annual subscription for 2019 = £30.60 payable before Jan 2019

☐ I enclose my subscription for 2019.

Cheques made payable to Ayr St Columba Church

☐ Home Delivery required?

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

Please return to me as soon as possible, either to Church office or to my home address.

Hazel Steele

10 Holmston Rd, Ayr KA7 3BB

01292 861631

Lochside News

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We are fast approaching Christmas and once again our Mission Christmas project is being developed to give some much needed help to the children and families at Lochside. It is very clear that the need this year is greater than ever but the way in which we can help has changed. Many families who rely on support are now suffering from severe fuel poverty and have great difficulty purchasing fuel for heating and cooking.

Last year several members of Ayr St Columba were extremely generous in donating their Winter Fuel Allowance and these donations were put to valuable use. We even had one client who was in danger of losing his property due to a stipulation in his lease that the flat was kept heated and as a result of one donation he was able to sustain his tenancy. We would like to be able to do the same this year and if anybody feels they could donate all, or part of, their Winter Fuel Allowance you can be sure it would be a blessing for someone less fortunate. The procedure would be to leave either cash or a cheque, made out to Ayr St Columba, in the office, marked for the attention of Lochside Mission Christmas Fuel. This money will then be used by the Lochside team to purchase and distribute Fuel Cards to those in most need. If you are a taxpayer we would also be able to claim Gift Aid which would help even more. If this isn't possible or for those fortunate enough not to be eligible for the Winter Fuel Allowance then any children's gift would be greatly appreciated.

We are also planning to run a Christmas Day lunch for some of our families in the area with the help of Tesco. We are greatly encouraged by the support of Belmont Academy and Southside Christian Fellowship Youth Connect who have asked to become involved in our work.

Through our Project 5000, which takes packed lunches out to children during the school holidays, we ensure that many children get something to eat when not at school. This Christmas holiday we are hoping to work in partnership with Unity Grill who can provide hot meals which we would deliver on our bus.

We have decided to close our charity shop in the Kyle Centre at the moment and it will be used purely for storage.

Last but not least we are delighted to have Dylan back with us after being off for the last few weeks and we wish him well on his return. He was back just in time for our annual Light Party which attracted an amazing attendance of 90, all of whom, as well as all our volunteers had a wonderful evening.



Get the most out of South Ayrshire **LIFE**

South Ayrshire Life is a new website packed with up-to-date information on what's happening in communities throughout the area.

New friends, new things to do and a helping hand when you need it are just a click away on the **South Ayrshire Life** website.

And there are now more than 1,200 activities to choose from!

Whether it's toddler groups, walking football, knit and natter, sport, money advice or lunch clubs, there's something for everyone on **South Ayrshire Life**.

You don't have to be on the internet to get the most from **South Ayrshire Life** as there is a free telephone number to call and find out about activities and help services near you.

South Ayrshire Life also has a community information centre at 57 Newmarket Street, Ayr, which is home to a whole range of regular drop-in sessions.

The door is open for help and advice on a host of issues, with no need for an appointment.

YOUR DROP-IN DIARY

MONDAY

2pm to 4.15pm **QUIT YOUR WAY** (Fortnightly) Advice and support for anyone trying to stop smoking

10am to 12noon **CHEST, HEART AND STROKE SCOTLAND** (First Monday of month) - Advice on living with long-term chest, heart or stroke conditions

12noon to 2pm **NHS COMMUNITY HEALTH ADDICTION NURSES** (First Monday of month) - Providing advice/support on substance misuse/addiction related issues/Hepatitis/HIV advice and screening

10am – 12noon **ACTION ON HEARING LOSS** (Fourth Monday of month) – Support for people who are deaf, have hearing loss, or care for someone with hearing loss. Offer advice with benefit queries and income worries.

TUESDAY

10am to 12noon **TRADING STANDARDS** (First Tuesday of month) - Beat the fraudsters and help protect those you care about

10am to 12noon **AYR ACTION FOR MENTAL HEALTH** (Second Tuesday of month) - Support for anyone experiencing poor mental health

10am to 12noon **LEGAL ADVICE CLINIC** (Last Tuesday of month) Free legal advice on Power of Attorney and Will writing

WEDNESDAY

10am to 12noon **WORKING LINKS** (Every week) – Helping people with health conditions who need support to get back into employment

12noon to 4pm **SOCIAL WORK** (Every week) - Advice on a wide range of care, social and welfare issues

12.30pm to 4.30pm **HOME ENERGY SCOTLAND** (Fortnightly) - Free, impartial advice on energy saving and much more

1pm to 3pm **AYRSHIRE INDEPENDENT LIVING NETWORK** (Last Wednesday of month) - Free information and advice on self-directed support

THURSDAY

1pm to 3pm **DEMENTIA SUPPORT ASSOCIATION** (First Thursday of month) - Here to provide information and support when you need it

2pm to 3pm **SENSORY IMPAIRMENT SUPPORT GROUP** (Second Thursday of month) - Help hub for older people with hearing/sight loss

1pm to 3pm **NATIONAL AUTISTIC SOCIETY** (Third Thursday of month) - Information and support from the One Stop Shop

1pm to 3pm **CIRCLES ADVOCACY** (Fourth Thursday of month) – Advocating for vulnerable people in South Ayrshire who are unable to safeguard their own well-being, rights, care or other interests

FRIDAY

9.30am to 1pm **SEASCAPE** (Every week) - Helping people in housing need

12.30pm to 2.30pm **RecoveryAyr** (First Friday of month) - Support for people in recovery from substance misuse

To find out more, please visit www.southayrshirelife.org, call the team on Freephone 0800 432 0510 or drop in to South Ayrshire Life in Newmarket Street.

Ayr: St Columba Christmas and New Year 2018

SATURDAY 8th DECEMBER

Messy Church Christmas

4.00pm – 6.00pm

SUNDAY 9th DECEMBER

Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.15am

Congregational Christmas Lunch

Kylestrome Hotel - 1.00pm for 1.30pm

SATURDAY 15th DECEMBER

Seniors' Afternoon Tea

2.00pm – 4.30pm

SUNDAY 16th DECEMBER

9.30am St. Columba Kids Nativity

St. Columba Kids Christmas Party Time

11.15am Morning Worship

4.30pm - Service of Readings and Carols by Candlelight

followed by mulled wine & mince pies in the Midton Road Hall

TUESDAY and FRIDAY 18th and 21st DECEMBER

Advent Music for Meditation - 10.00am – 12.00 noon

WEDNESDAY 19th DECEMBER

2.00pm Wellington School Junior Service

THURSDAY 20th DECEMBER

10.30am Wellington School Senior Service

SUNDAY 23rd DECEMBER 2018

9.30am – Family Service

11.15am - Morning Worship - *Sacrament of Baptism*

CHRISTMAS EVE

MONDAY 24th DECEMBER

7.00pm Family Carol Service by Lantern and Candlelight

10.45pm Church doors open

11.30pm “Midnight at the Manger”

CHRISTMAS DAY

TUESDAY 25th DECEMBER

10.30am Morning Worship

Children are asked to bring a toy that Santa has left

SUNDAY 30th DECEMBER

No Early Service

10.30am Morning Worship

11.30am Holy Communion

“At the Close of the Year”

SUNDAY 6th JANUARY 2019

No Early Service

10.30am Morning Worship

“At the Gate of the Year”

“O COME, LET US ADORE HIM, CHRIST THE LORD!”



New members were welcomed to the September and October meetings by our leaders and our regular young people. Forming a happy group of enthusiastic children, leaders and parents.

Lois and Pamela created lots of fantastic crafts; there were great songs including excellent dancing – especially from the volunteers!!



Irene led the September story of "Feeding the five thousand" – where the disciples doubt is answered by God's power through Jesus' miracle.

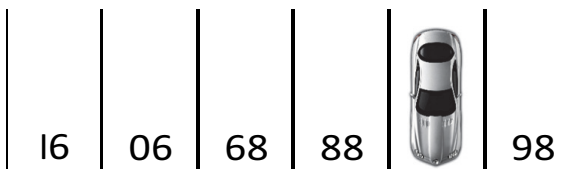
Jennifer, Sophie and Stuart led the songs bringing a smile to everyone's face!



Two Fireside Puzzles for Christmas

Here are a couple of puzzles to try when settled comfortably by the fire on a cold winter's evening. The solutions appear on page 26.

The Parking Bay



Can you work out the number of the bay in which the car is parked?

The Collapsing Bridge



A bridge will collapse in 17 minute's time. Four people have to cross it before it collapses, but they must travel with a torch on each journey as it is a very dark night. There is only one torch between them. Only two people can cross at a time.

Albert takes 1 minute to cross. Beryl takes 2 minutes, Carol takes 5 minutes and Dave takes 10 minutes.

How can they all cross before the bridge collapses?

(answers on page 26).

COLUMBA NEWS COPY DEADLINE

Please note the deadline for the JANUARY edition will be

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19th

Anyone with early copy please send it as soon as possible to help the printer to prepare the edition. They only have four days to turn it round after the festive holidays to allow us distribution time before Communion

Norman Reid, Editor

LIGHT PARTY!

Another fantastic event – superbly led by Stuart, assisted by many fabulous volunteers! Everyone attending had a great night - carving Pumpkins, making all sorts of light related crafts; disco dancing; bobbing for apples, eating doughnuts from swinging strings and other games and not forgetting hot chocolate, crisps and sweets!! The Light Party focusses on “the light that shines in the dark”. We heard that, like a Lighthouse, Jesus is the light that keeps us safe and like the chaps with the glow sticks on the runway at the airport Jesus is the light that shows us the way to go. It was great to see so many children and their parents having a wonderful time in the church hall. The Church environs looked amazing filled with lights of all shapes and sizes. Children and some parents joined in the fun dressing up in all sorts of outfits; home made and off the peg, adding to the brilliant atmosphere. Lots more events are in the pipeline including the weekend trip to Lendrick Muir and Messy Church Saturdays! We hope to welcome you back soon!



Notes from Session ...

A meeting of the Kirk Session, chaired by the Moderator, Revd Fraser R Aitken, was held on 6th September 2018. A summary of issues discussed at this meeting is given below:

- The Moderator informed Elders that the Bells were currently being tuned and would be in place soon and ready to be rung on 11th November.
- Members were informed that he Revd Brian Hendrie, Minister at St Leonard's Parish Church linked with Dalrymple Parish Church, had been installed as Moderator of the Presbytery.
- Presbytery invited congregations to mark the 100th Anniversary of the End of World War 1 on 11th November 2018, culminating in churches ringing their bells on that day.
- Presbytery had noted that the Rev Fraser Aitken, on grounds of retirement, will demit his Charge of Ayr: St Columba on 31 March 2019.
- Members of Session agreed that the proceeds from this year's Harvest Appeal should go to the Kerala Appeal in South India, following the recent disastrous flooding there.
- The Moderator warmly praised the work of Kathleen Hawthorn who was retiring from her duties as Life and Work Convenor after many year's excellent service. He was pleased to report that Hazel Steele had agreed to take on this duty. He thanked her for this and assured her of the support of members of Session. The Moderator was delighted to inform members that the Very Revd Dr David Lacy (Emeritus, Kay Park) had agreed to become Interim Moderator in our forthcoming vacancy. He is a first class Minister who has great experience and is well versed in Church Law.
- The Moderator was pleased to inform members that he had accepted an invitation to become a Governor of Wellington School. He felt honoured to be associated with the school in this way and he said that this would not affect whoever may become the School Chaplain in the future.
- The Clerk had received a letter from Mrs Fiona Hosie in which she thanked the Church for the use of the Cathcart St Hall and reported that the Fitness League had found a new home for their classes.
- Charity Preparations: With regard to the new Charity at Lochside, the Clerk said that it would be necessary to decide what financial support the Church should provide from 1st May 2019 onwards. Decisions on this would have to be taken during this calendar year since both the Church and the Charity had to be able to budget and to plan well before May. Together with the contribution from Ayr St Columba Church, the current 'Go for It' funding of the project covers the period to 30th April next year. Although there was confidence that a bid for a further two years funding would be successful, this was not guaranteed and, even if it were successful, it would be at a lower level than at present. The outcome of the bid would be known in November. The Clerk thanked Mr Colin Naismith and others involved at Lochside for their work on the application.

- The Clerk said that the decision on how we support the new Charity at Lochside financially was a strategic one rather than a purely financial one. He proposed that a Committee be set up under the convenorship of Mr Walter Muir to make recommendations on this matter and that the members be Dr Helen Hunter, Mr Norman Reid and Mrs Mo Howie. This was approved.
- The Clerk read out a report prepared by Mr Mike Whiteford on the operation and legality of the use of the single decker bus at Lochside. Mr Whiteford had concluded that he was satisfied that the single decker bus was being operated properly and legally and that Dylan and Lawrence Heywood Brown, who was acting as adviser and bus manager at Lochside, were aware of their responsibilities.
- The Clerk said that 82 Chalmers Road has been given a face lift and will appear on the market very soon. He expressed thanks to John Stewart, Alan Hawthorn and to the Wednesday Team for their work in tidying the house and the garden in preparation for the sale.
- The Clerk informed members that the Cathcart St Hall would not be put on the market at the moment. This was to give the Table Tennis Club time to hear if their bid for funding had been successful. They are very keen to purchase the Hall and to continue its present use and it was felt that this would be a very satisfactory outcome from our members' point of view. The Clerk had informed the Table Tennis Club of the issues relating to the state of the building which were discussed at the extraordinary meeting in July.
- Mr John Ballantyne and Mr Harry Peters had looked at fire safety issues at Cathcart St Hall. A professional survey on fire safety issues will be commissioned.
- Mrs I Bartholomew encouraged Elders to make use of their Blue Books to keep details of their District up to date. She reported that some Duty Teams were working with reduced numbers and assured members that everything possible was being done to bring the Teams up to full membership.
- Mrs Bartholomew said it was imperative that Team members made themselves available for the entire morning of their duty day. This meant being available for door duty, uplift of offerings and for the Count. It was unfair on other members if individuals absent themselves from either Service or from the Count. An exception can be made for Choir members at the 11.15am Service, but they should be available for the 9.30 am Service and the Count.
- Mrs M Doncaster, Assistant Treasurer, read out the Finance Report which had been prepared by the Treasurer. In summary, income exceeded expenditure by around £10,000 for the seven-month period. This is £1,700 less than anticipated in the annual budget at this stage of the year.
- Mrs L Sharp was pleased to inform Elders that the Cradle Roll Service had been very successful and she expressed thanks for the support received from Irene Bartholomew, Margaret Doncaster and Margaret Campbell. She was now liaising with Mrs Margaret Loudon to prepare the Time to Remember Service on 4th November.

- Mr B Hartshorn informed Elders that a weekend away at Kendrick Muir for 10-14 year olds was being planned. It would take place from 23rd to 25th November. Mr S McKinlay said that he had spoken to the Review and Planning Committee about the trip and they had agreed that the event should be subsidised by the Church. This meant that the charge for each participant would be reduced to £25.00. Mr McKinlay thanked the Committee for this gesture which was approved by members of Session.
- The Clerk indicated that this may be the last Session meeting to be held at Cathcart St Hall. The October meeting would be in the Church and it was expected that future meetings would be held on Tuesday evenings in the Midton Road Hall.
- The Moderator reminded members that the Clerk had read out a letter from Mr Tony Adgent at the June meeting asking that consideration be given to a more substantial memorial to the late Revd Bill Christman. He sought approval from members of Session for the formation of a committee to consider the matter fully and to report back in due course. The committee members would be Mr Mike Whiteford (Convenor), Mrs Ann Naismith, Mrs Elaine Kerr and Mr Douglas Paton. This was approved.

R A Bartholomew

Session Clerk

Library News

A recent addition to the Library shelves is 'The bad Christian's manifesto' by Dave Tomlinson.

This is a good book if you are puzzled or perplexed by traditional formulations of Christian belief, and are looking for a fresh and compelling statement of what the Christian faith means for us today. It's fairly short (250 pages) and very readable. Its 16 pacey chapters, each illustrated by beautiful drawings, are enlightening and challenging without the need for religious jargon or specialist knowledge.

Dave Tomlinson illustrates his points with examples from his extensive pastoral ministry in St Luke's C of E, Holloway, London. This is a book to help you explore afresh what matters most in Christianity and what Jesus really stood for.

This paperback with its bright blue covers is easy to pick out and is located on the Worship shelf (blue label). There is a wide range of books on all sorts of topics on the Library shelves.... just waiting to be borrowed by you!

Bryce Hartshorn



Bridge Afternoon

**To raise funds for our work with children
at Lochside**

Saturday 19th January at 12.00 noon

St Leonard's Church Hall

£40 per table

Light lunch & Raffle

To book a table contact Colin Naismith

01292 263883

cnaismith1@hotmail.com



**Lochside Mission and Outreach is a project of Ayr St Columba Church
supporting children and families.**

Scottish Charity SCO 14338

BITS & BOBS

Christmas 2018

This year our Harvest Appeal raised the sum of £2,483 for the Kerala Floods Emergency. Over a million people were affected by the unprecedented monsoon rains in Kerala in India – most villages were inundated with water or made inaccessible because of landslides and 400 people lost their lives. Our money is being used to deliver relief supplies including water filters, water purification tablets, shelter materials, and household items including buckets, kitchen utensils, and bedsheets and hygiene essentials. A very big thank you to all who gave so generously.

If you had come to the Church Hall at Hallowe'en you would have entered a world of brightly coloured lights as the Columba Kids held a "Light Party". There were lots of dressing up costumes, dooking for apples, games, lantern making, pumpkin carving and a whole host of activities in which the participants eagerly took part. A big thank you to Stuart and Irene and all the Organisers for another successful event!

Over the next few weeks, Father Christmas will be visiting various of our activities here at St Columba and we are most grateful to him that he has included us in his busy schedule.

We are so indebted to the Leaders of all our Children's and Adults' Groups for their hard work, ensuring that everyone has a lovely time over the festive period. Anne, Corrie and our superb Flower Team always come up trumps! (Are we allowed to say that?). Anyhow, they do a splendid job decorating our Church at special times of the year, and we so look forward to seeing our magnificent tree in its place in the Chancel and our pews and window ledges decorated for the forthcoming holy season. The Flower Calendar for 2019 will soon be on the Notice Board in the Carrick Park Vestibule and we are very appreciative of those of our Members who chose a Sunday to give flowers to make a special occasion or who donate to the Flower Fund. The Ministry of Flowers touches many lives throughout our parish and our town. Thank you!

On All Saints' Sunday, our four new bells were dedicated and now we have a full octave ringing out from our Tower on Sunday mornings and at other times, calling the faithful people to worship. It was George Frederick Handel who called Church

Bells “the British National Instrument”, and indeed there is nothing more wonderful to hear them pealing out over the rooftops! We were privileged to be able to play our Bells for half an hour on Armistice Sunday, joining with bells that were being rung the length and breadth of the United Kingdom, giving thanks for the ending of the hostilities of World War I.

We are delighted that The Very Revd David Lacy, former Moderator of the General Assembly, and Minister Emeritus at Kilmarnock Kay Park Church has agreed to be Interim Moderator in our forthcoming Vacancy, and that the Revd Edward Simpson, Minister Emeritus at Giffnock South Parish Church, has agreed to be the Locum. Mr Simpson will preach at 11.15 most Sundays and undertake pastoral duties on two days a week, and the 9.30 service will be conducted on a rota basis by the Revd David Ness, the Revd John Matthews, the Revd Ian Paterson, the Revd Lawrie Lennox and Mr David Wallace, all members of our Congregation. We are very grateful to each of these gentlemen for their valued support in this next chapter of our Church’s story.

Solutions to Fireside Puzzles

The Parking Bay: The car is parked in bay 87. (Turn the question upside down to see why!)

The Collapsing Bridge: Albert and Beryl cross first using up 2 minutes; Albert comes back making it 3 minutes; Carol and Dave cross making it 13 minutes; then Beryl crosses back over making it 15 minutes; Finally Albert and Beryl cross together to make it 17 minutes!

Having a laugh

A Sunday School teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem ..

A small child replied, **'They couldn't get a baby-sitter.'**

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

DECEMBER 2018

DEATHS

25th September 2018	Mrs. Mary H. Thomson, Leyland Lancashire
29th September 2018	Mr. Ian McGrouther, Glasgow
12th October 2018	Mr. David Knox, 78 Paterson Street, Ayr
27th october 2018	Mrs. Ellen Aird, Airlie House, Victoria Park, Ayr
31st October 2018	Mr. John (Jack) Goodwin, 26, Carrick Gardens, Ayr

BAPTISMS

Stewart

4th November 2018, Mary Ann Jackie Stewart, infant daughter of Graham and Louise, 27 Clay Loan, Kirkwall

NEW MEMBER

By Certificate	Mrs. Margaret Wallace, 114, Craigie Way, Ayr
By Certificate	Mrs. Julie Wilson 61 Drymen Road, Bearsden, Glasgow
By Resolution	Ms. Valerie Kane 77 Mulberry Mead, Hatfield, Hertfordshire, AL10 9EH.

CLOSING THOUGHT

Watch your thoughts, for they become words.

Watch your words, for they become actions.

Watch your actions, for they become habits.

Watch your habits, for they become character.

Watch your character, for it becomes your destiny.

- Anonymous

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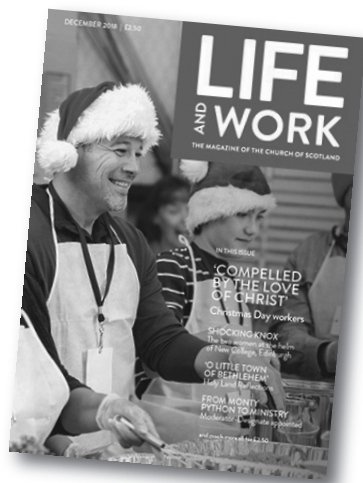
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LIFE AND WORK

DECEMBER 2018



Christmas 2018

- The Christians who will be working on Christmas Day
- Chris Wigglesworth reflects on a personal journey to Bethlehem
- The Moderator urges us to celebrate Christmas by reaching out to others
- The Very Rev Dr John Chalmers urges us to focus on the core message of the Christmas story
- The Rev Dr Margaret Forrester considers Christmas from the perspective of the innkeeper's wife
- Ron Ferguson argues the best Christmas gift would be justice for all

Shocking Knox

The two women at the helm of New College, Edinburgh

'The Love of God Transcends Everything'

David McKee looks back on a study visit to the Holy Land

Czech Connections

An opportunity for Church of Scotland congregations to host ministers from abroad

The Very Rev Albert Bogle

The Sanctuary First minister reflects on leadership and nurture

John Hume

The history of Rutherglen and its churches

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REGULAR ACTIVITIES - MIDTON ROAD HALL

CATHCART HALL marked with *

MONDAY

5.30 pm	Rainbow Brownies	Aynsley Bell	07914 842 118
7.30 pm	<i>Senior Badminton Club*</i>	Mrs. M. Johnston	442913
7.30 pm	The Guild (fortnightly)	Mrs. D. Bone	441651
7.30 pm	Men's Association (fortnightly)	Mr. T. R. Swinn	441896
7.30 pm	Ladies Fellowship (fortnightly)	Linda Sharp	286951

TUESDAY

7.30 pm	<i>Table Tennis Club*</i>	Mr. I. Hay	262338
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WEDNESDAY

2.00 pm	Holy Communion (4th Wed)	Church Office	269524
2.00 pm	Fitness with Friends	Mrs. Margaret Doncaster	477381
5.45 pm	9th Ayr Brownies	Mrs. E. MacDonald	445529
7.30 pm	Girl Guides	Susan Christie	07751 219 601
7.30 pm	<i>Scottish Country Dancing</i>	Ann Taylor	442776

THURSDAY

10.30 am	Oasis Café	Mrs Rene Kidd	
10.20 am	Ladies' Badminton	Mrs. Elizabeth MacDonald	445529
2.00 pm	Men's Association Games	Mr. R. Park	268788
6.00 pm	<i>Table Tennis Juniors*</i>	Mr. I. Hay	262338
6.30 pm	Cub Scouts	Mr. D. Hope	263376
7.00 pm	<i>Table Tennis*</i>	Mr. I. Hay	262338
7.30 pm	Senior Choir	Church Office	269524

FRIDAY

10.00 am	Parent & Toddlers	Church Office	269524
12.00 noon	<i>Luncheon Club (fortnightly)*</i>	Mrs. A. Vance	288684
6.00 pm	Beaver Scouts	Fiona Wilson	290414
7.30 pm	Scouts	Jereon Bolte	07511 489 755

SATURDAY

4.00 pm	Messy Church <i>(last Saturday of the month)</i>	Irene Bartholomew	269524
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