

# Columba News



**WINTER** **St. C** **2019**

# CHURCH PERSONNEL

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## "COLUMBA NEWS" - JANUARY 2019 - Issue No. 226

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### **Church Office**

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:**

Iain Bartholomew Email: [website@ayrstcolumba.org.uk](mailto:website@ayrstcolumba.org.uk)

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# The Minister's Letter

*From the Manse . . .*

*New Year 2019*

## **My dear Friends and Parishioners,**

Many moons ago when I was a student in the Faculty of Arts at Glasgow University, most evenings I would walk down to Central Station to catch the train home to Johnstone. My usual route took me down Gibson Street, along Woodlands Road, then via Charing Cross to Sauchiehall Street, and when I reached the corner where Lyons Stationery Shop once stood, there was a news vendor (complete with his bunnet!), selling *The Evening Citizen*, and he would be shouting at the top of his voice, "Very last final! Very last final!"

Well, this is indeed the "very last final" of my Minister's Letters which I have been writing for our Magazine since 1991, as I will be hanging up my dog collar at the end of March and retiring from the Parish Ministry.

It is the right time for me and, more importantly, it is the right time for our Church. I am now 65, and I have served St Columba for almost 28 years. That is a long time, and is longer than most incumbencies in today's world.

I have loved living in this town and I have loved being Minister here. St Columba is such a warm and welcoming family, and I take with me a host of happy memories of people and events and services. I could not have asked for more love and care from a congregation. The support I have received has been amazing. I cannot possibly thank everyone, but I would like to say a special thank you to my present Session Clerk, Bob Bartholomew, who has been a tower of strength to me, and especially during some rough times; and I want to give public recognition to my Associate, the Revd David Ness, who has ministered alongside me, so appreciated by me and by all the Church Family.

I will have the opportunity before I go to make mention of others who have been so committed and hardworking, making my life so much easier and happier.

I have had the privilege of baptising hundreds of babies; I have held the hands of dear souls as they approached the end of the road; I have witnessed the joy on the faces of young couples as they stood in the Chancel to be joined in marriage; I have listened as burdens and griefs and heartaches were shared; I have been inspired in the worship which is offered on each returning Sunday in our lovely building. These memories can never be erased. They are the richness of the life of a Parish Minister.

I am part of quite a number of "baby boomer" ministers who are now retiring. It is a new chapter in my life and in yours too as a vibrant and caring congregation. I have made many mistakes, and there are many things I wish I had done better, but I have no regrets as I see that God has blessed us each step of the journey we have shared together.

Please remember that the Church is its people and not its ministers. There is no rogues' gallery of former ministers on the walls of St Columba. This is a congregation who understands that ministers serve with their particular gifts and then they move on. Bill Christman, Jimmy Telfer, Robert Johnston, Lindsay Ewart – they all contributed to the

common life St Columba shares today, and they each brought their strengths to the congregational life. It will happen again.

If you have missed out on this Ministry, please do your best not to miss out on the next one. I am, as ever, excited about St Columba's future and feel that it is a good time, the right time, to let new leadership head this amazing team.

So, on the 31st March, I shall say "au revoir", with special gratitude to the members of the Vacancy Committee who invited me to St Columba all those years ago, and to all of you for affirming my Call to the most rewarding season of 41 years in ordained ministry. Thank you.

Grace and peace to you all as your vibrant faith forges the future for this great Congregation.

*In gratitude and unfailing affection,*



**Fraser**

## SUNDAY DOOR DUTY

### **Morning Services**

*(9.30am and 11.15am)*

#### **January**

20th Team 2  
27th 9.30am Team 3  
11.15am Team 4

#### **February**

3rd Team 6  
10th Team 7  
17th Team 8  
24th Team 9

#### **March**

3rd Team 10  
10th Team 11  
17th Team 12  
24th Team 1  
31st Team 2

#### **April**

7th Team 3  
14th Team 4  
18th Maundy Thursday Team 5  
21st Team 6  
28th 9.30am Team 7  
11.15am Team 8

### **Evening Services**

*(6.30pm)*

6.30pm Team 5

6.30pm Evening Service

6.30pm Team 9

**WEDNESDAY COMMUNION** will be held at 2pm on the fourth Wednesday of each month (except June, July, August, December), the forthcoming occasions being January 23, February 27, March 27 and April 24.

# Wednesday Evening Bible Study

**The Wednesday Evening Bible Study meets fortnightly at 7.30 pm in the Struthers Room. This session we have been reflecting on personal encounters in the pages of the Old and New Testament, ranging from Rahab and the two secret agents, to Jesus before Pontius Pilate.**

If you are interested in some lively conversation about faith and life, do join us and you will be made very welcome. Each study lasts an hour and ends with a cup of tea.

Our dates for Spring are: 9 January, 23 January, 6 February, 20 February, 6 March, 20 March and 3 April. We look forward to seeing friends old and new on any of these dates.

**Bryce Hartshorn**

## Ladies Fellowship

**The committee of the Ladies Fellowship would like to wish all members and friends a very happy and healthy 2019. We thank you for your continued support and hope that you enjoyed all our sessions and the Fundraising Concert during 2018. We look forward to sharing the 2019 programme as follows (new members warmly welcomed):**

14 January	Research Through People	<i>George English, Men's Association</i>
28 January	Burns Evening	<i>Stewart McKinley</i>
11 February	Then and Now Photographs	<i>Members</i>
18 February	Talk on Dumfries House	<i>Visit to the Guild</i>
25 February	Entertainment	<i>Rev. David Ness</i>
11 March	We Hae Meat	<i>Presentation - Cairnhill Farm</i>
25 March	AGM - Name that Tune	<i>Members</i>

**Liz Challis,**  
*Secretary*



# A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY . . .

## FRIDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2019

On Friday, February 22, in St. Columba Church at 7.30 pm the Ayrshire Fiddle Orchestra will perform a concert on behalf of Ayr & Prestwick Lions Club. Tickets will be priced at £5.

This will be an opportunity to enjoy some wonderful music by these very talented young people who are practising hard and enthusiastically for their summer tour of Japan where I am sure they will be excellent ambassadors for our community here in Ayrshire.

Do come along – and bring your friends with you.

More information will be available nearer the time.

***Alec Mooney***

*Ayr & Prestwick Lions Club*

## *Library Corner*

STOP PRESS .. STOP PRESS .. STOP PRESS .. STOP PRESS ..

*There are three new additions to the Library shelves, all relating to the life and work of the German theologian and pastor, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, regarded as one of the most brilliant theologians of the twentieth century.*

Bonhoeffer was executed at the hands of the Nazis on 9 April 1945, in Flossenbug prison camp, after being implicated in the conspiracy to assassinate Hitler.

The new books are:

- *Letters and Papers from Prison*
- *Letters to London*
- *Ethics.*

You will find them in the Biographies (yellow sticker) section of the Library. Take time to browse and see what else might attract your interest.

Since its opening, 240 books have been borrowed from the Library, by 63 people, 10 male and 53 female. Thanks to all borrowers and donors!

**Bryce Hartshorn**

# **The Guild**

**"Whose we are and Whom we serve"**

*As the year ends and we look forward to 2019, may I, on behalf of Dorothy and the Committee, again take this opportunity to thank everyone in the Congregation for supporting our Coffee Morning - the donations of baking, goods for sale at our stalls and also for coming along to enjoy the friendship and fellowship over coffee and cake.*

I am pleased to let you know that we were able to raise the amazing sum of £2,012. This has enabled us to send a generous cheque to the Guild office in Edinburgh towards our two chosen Guild Projects (the Boys' Brigade and Malawi Fruits) along with a donation to the Church and other charities. On behalf of the Committee I thank everyone of you - this could not have been achieved without your help.

Our first meeting in the New Year is **7 January at 7.30 p.m.** and thereafter -

**Monday, 21 January at 7.30 p.m.**

**Burns' Evening**

**Matthew and Rachel Hynes**

**Monday, 4 February at 2.00 p.m.**

**Barbara Graham**

**Marie Curie**

**Monday, 18 February at 7.30 p.m.**

**Carol Drummond**

**Dumfries House and**

**Wider Developments**

**Ladies' Fellowship visit**

**Monday, 4 March at 2.00 p.m.**

**Daffodil Tea**

**Isobel Miller and Friends**

**Monday, 18 March at 7.15 p.m.**

**AGM followed by**

**Alistair Swan**

**Ugly Duckling Presentation**

Please do come along and join us if any of the above meetings are of interest to you - everyone will be made most welcome.

May I, on behalf of Dorothy and the Committee, together with members of the Guild wish you a happy and healthy New Year.

***Maureen Fullerton, Secretary***



**SAVE THE DAY . . .**

## *Fraser's Retirement Lunch*

**The requests to attend Fraser's Lunch on March 31 have been overwhelming.**

The original reservation was made with an estimated figure of 350 -500 .

On December 2 when names were taken and tables collated it was obvious the number was greater than the estimate.

Turnberry Hotel events team have been excellent and changed their floor plan to accommodate 55 tables and suggested a few tables of 11 or 12 which allows the number to increase to 570.

As the function is a few months off and some members' circumstances may change, places could become available if anyone wishes to be placed on reserve list. Please phone the office 01292 269524.

Tickets not collected by Sunday 3rd February 2019 will be offered to people on reserve list.

If due to illness you are unable to collect your ticket please contact office and arrangements will be made for it to be collected at a later date.

**If any member find they are unable to attend  
please phone Jane 01292 281013.**

# Presbytery Meeting held on 4 December 2018 within the Carrick Centre, Maybole

**Presbytery Moderator:** Presbytery appointed the Rev Richard Moffat, Minister of Girvan North Parish Church to be the Moderator of the Presbytery of Ayr for the year beginning 18 June 2019.

**Guest Speakers:** Representatives from the Steering Group for South Ayrshire Citizens Advice Bureau gave a presentation on their work to establish a CAB within South Ayrshire. Our area is one of the few Council areas which does not have a CAB and the Council are continuing to refuse for a CAB to be established. CABs are independent organisations and provide a very valuable service to people who seek knowledge and advice on a number of varied issues. The representatives encouraged individuals to write to their local Councillor to lodge their protest at South Ayrshire Council's current position as residents are disadvantaged by the absence of a Bureau.

**Ayr St Columba Church:** Presbytery appointed the Very Rev David Lacey, Minister emeritus of Kilmarnock: Kay Park as Interim Moderator and the Rev Edward Simpson, Minister emeritus Glasgow: Giffnock South as Locum for the forthcoming vacancy.

**Dundonald Parish Church:** Presbytery noted that the Rev Lynsey Brennan preached as Nominee at Dundonald on Sunday 28 October 2018. For 133, Against 1 and Presbytery noted that the call to the Rev Brennan has been sustained. The Call was signed by 186 and 28 Adherents.

**Ministries and Mission Contributions 2019:** Presbytery approved the Ministries and Mission contributions being sought from Congregations in 2019. Our 2019 M and M contributions have increased by 2% (£3,138) from £155,789 to £158,927.

**Discretionary Allowance Committee:** Presbytery approved the following reductions in Ministry and Mission contributions:-

**Alloway** - £10,000 for Bandawe Clinic, Malawi

**Girvan North** - £16,000 for ongoing building works

**Troon St Meddan's** - £15,000 for Mission to Meadowgreen. Employment of staff

**Maybole** - £6,000 for annual assistance with costs

**Ayr St Andrew's** - £8,000 for Children's Mission and building repairs

**New Cumnock** - £8,000 for major building works

**Property Inspection Levy:** Presbytery approved the proposed property levy charges for 2019 remain at the 2015 rates of £486 per charge, £243 per congregation in a linked charge and £162 for each of the congregations in a triple link.

**Presbytery Budget:** Presbytery approved the budget for the year ending 2019 which will involve payment of the Congregational assessment of £1.1312 per £100 of average Christian Liberty.

***George Park***

*Presbytery Elder*



## *The Sacrament of Holy Communion*

In the mystery of the Lord's Supper, Christians believe that Christ makes Himself known to us in the bread and the wine, those elements which He took on the night before He died as He gathered His friends around a table in an Upper Room in Jerusalem; the night in which His final words to those who would be commissioned to carry on the work of building His Kingdom; the night, as St Paul says, "in which He was betrayed". On that same night, He told that small group of followers that they were to re-enact that meal in the days ahead, and as they did so, He would come to them in the bread, His body broken, in the wine, His blood shed. And all for us. Some branches of the Church call this meal the Eucharist, a word which means "Thanksgiving". And it is with a deep sense of thanksgiving for all His mercies that we are invited by our Lord to share in Holy Communion on Sunday 27th January at 9.30; 11.15 and 6.30.

"Were the whole realm of nature mine,

That were an offering far too small –

Love so amazing, so divine,

Demands my soul, my life, my all." (Isaac Watts)



# And when you pray . . . Matthew 6:7a

**“How do you eat yours?”** That was the question in a certain egg-shaped confectionery advert. The implication being that there is no right way to do it, but rather it’s about how you best experience the egg.

## **How do you pray?**

Perhaps you haven’t really thought about it too much. Perhaps it’s now hard to concentrate because you’re thinking about chocolate, but regardless of appetite, past experiences, how we wrap it up or try to explain it, prayer can be rather confusing. It can often be a mystery. It can at times seem like a chore. It can even be a blessed relief.

## **So then, how do you pray?**

Are you a morning person? Do you greet the sunrise with thanks and praise to our God? Do you utter hopeful words and try and live them throughout the day to come? Are you more spontaneous? Do you respond to life with a ‘breath prayer’, off the cuff, as life makes you dance to its tune and in each moment you seek the steady hand of our Creator and Sustainer?

Perhaps you find yourself needing space. Like a free-diver coming up for air after plumbing the depths. Maybe you carve out some time in your day to be still and know the presence of God. You may prefer to reflect on your day in the presence of God, as was the practice of Ignatius of Loyola, who gave us the daily examen – a way of praying that helps us recognise God’s presence in the midst of the day just lived.

The practice of prayer is part of the lifeblood of our faith. We may find ourselves in the darkest of circumstances, when prayer is the only thing that we can turn to for comfort. We might see prayer as that thing we do together on a Sunday, or as the words said on our behalf by a minister or worship leader. Maybe it is the one thing that keeps us going, those times when we can just let God know how we are feeling. It might even be that thing that happens by accident or that we’re unaware of until, looking back on a time of quiet, perhaps with a cup of tea or watching the world go by from our living room window, we realise that in the stillness, God was there the whole time.

Whatever your habit or preference may not really matter. What is important is that we are having the conversation, that we are opening ourselves up to God in

whatever moment we can manage, that in some way prayer is part of our life. Prayer may be a constant companion on the journey, or a friend that visits once in a while, to bring comfort and solace. It may be something deeper, more mysterious that is largely left unspoken, something felt, yearned for, grieved over or something long-forgotten brought to mind.

How we pray then, is not the most important thing, but rather that the experience of prayer and the encounter with God is recognised. That our faith is tended and our relationship with God is nurtured, in precious moments. No fancy wrapping is needed and it may not always taste sweet but, in the midst of life, listening for and opening our hearts to God is indeed food for the soul.

***Resourcing Worship Team***

*Mission & Discipleship Council*

## **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)***

# Lochside News

*As we write, Mission Christmas is getting into full swing and is setting out to help the Church be a light in the darkness at Christmas time.*

In Ayrshire 1 in 4 children live in poverty, and in North Ayr, where around 40% of our parishioners live, that figure rises to 1 in 3. This can create a variety of challenges throughout the year, but at Christmas there are added challenges with the expectation of gifts, as well as the cold weather.

Last year we supported 497 individuals with food, clothing, utility vouchers and children's gifts and this Christmas we are working in partnership with local churches such as Southside Christian Fellowship, and corporate sponsors such as Tesco and Rainbow Care Services to seek to make a difference to children, families and vulnerable adults.

Mission Christmas has many aspects which include the provision of gifts, warm clothing, utility vouchers and food hampers. The project also gives crisis support and will provide a dinner on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. We will continue with Project 5000 to provide meals each day of the school holiday, apart from 25th December, in partnership with Unity Grill and South Ayrshire Council, who are paying staffing costs and for our bus which has become such a vital part of the Lochside project.

A children's Christmas party is to be held on 22nd December, a Christmas Family Service on 23rd and Santa's sleigh will deliver presents round the parish on 24th.

All of this work is made possible by the fantastic donations we have received. We are indebted to those generous individuals who have donated through Ayr St Columba Church Office, Beresford Ladies Curling Club and St. Leonards Woman's Guild. We have also received £2000 from Rainbow Services, another £2000 from STV, £300 from Ayrshire Housing and so very many donations from Tesco as well as individuals out with the church and many through our Just Giving page.

Southside Sunday School baking stall raised £250 which was used to take the youngsters of Ignite to the Chestnuts for dinner on 16th December. Here they enjoyed a wonderful meal with Grant and his team so kindly donating starters and drinks.

The numbers at both HisKids and Ignite have increased in recent weeks, with Fusion remaining steady and these clubs are looking forward to meeting up again in the New Year.

# AYR FILM SOCIETY

*RSPB in association with Ayr Film Society present a charity screening for RSPB Central Ayrshire local group, helping to save endangered species and habitat loss in South-West Scotland.*

An amazing documentary reveals the struggle of songbirds worldwide. Ancient cultures viewed songbirds as messengers from the Gods. Today this visually stunning film argues birds are delivering an urgent message about Earth's health – one thing we ignore at our peril.

Tickets £5 available now ([www.ayrfilmsociety.co.uk](http://www.ayrfilmsociety.co.uk)) and also available at the door on the night, Thursday January 31, Ayr Town Hall - doors open 7pm.

## Mary's Meals

**Congratulations yet again to the congregation of Ayr St Columba for continuing to support the copper coin collection throughout 2018 for Mary's Meal's which has resulted in the grand total of £1000 being sent to this worthwhile cause. It continues to demonstrate how a constant trickle of small donations accumulates into a meaningful sum.**

A recent letter from this organisation has informed donors that gifts received by them from December to the end of February will be matched by the UK Government up to £2 million maximum, so in effect our contribution is worth £2000!

Please keep up the good work you already undertake in this respect and we may achieve an even higher figure by this time next year.

***Peter G Macdonald***

*Gift Aid Convener (and Mary's Meals Coin collector)*

# **TRIBUTE TO MR JAMES (JIM) P WILCOX**

**FIRST SESSION CLERK OF AYR : ST COLUMBA CHURCH,**

**DIED 13TH DECEMBER 2018, AGED 84**

Jim was quietly proud of the fact that he had served as our first Session Clerk here after the union of the three congregations away back in January 1981. He often shared anecdotes from those early days when alongside my predecessor, the late Revd Bill Christman, they helped to establish the forward looking and vibrant Church that it remains today, one of the most successful unions in the Kirk.

Those were anxious times as everyone wondered how you would fit three very different types of congregation into one, comfortably and without too much acrimony, but it worked, due in no small measure to the fact that Bill was adamant, Jim told me, that no one was to say “We were Sandgate” or “We were Trinity” or “We were Cathcart”. Now we were all St Columba – and he succeeded!

Now, thirty eight years later, Jim could look back and say, without demur, “I had a hand in that!”.

There is no doubt that he loved this building and the people who worship here, many of whom he had known over many years since his long association with Trinity Church. He laughed when he told me that the Trinity Congregation was regarded as being the “snooty” congregation of the town, since the days of The Very Revd Dr Forgan who ruled with a rod of iron and, in addition, made life so uncomfortable for his successor, the Revd Bill Mauchline, appearing one morning at the Manse and asking to be shown round to see what changes had been made since his retirement!

It was in this building that he married his childhood sweetheart, Pat, on 27th March 1957, a union of deepest love and devotion until Pat’s untimely death in 2009.

It was within these walls that Jim was to witness many happy family occasions and only a couple of months ago, he was in his pew at the second service on Remembrance Sunday as we marked the 100th Anniversary of the end of the First World War.

And it is most fitting that today, as we come together to say a fond and earthly farewell to him, that the Church is still bedecked in its festive decorations as he loved this time of year.

It has been my privilege to have been Jim's Minister these past 27 years and during that time, I never failed to be impressed by the many and varied leisure pursuits he enjoyed over the years, away from the hectic schedules of his professional life and a busy and active home life.

Today, we take a wistful glance back across the years, back to his birth in the town's Kyle Street in 1934, son of David and Catherine, and younger brother to Jean.

Educated at Ayr Grammar and Ayr Academy, on leaving school, Jim went on to complete his National Service based locally at the Churchill Barracks.

When he returned to civvy street, Jim's career as an Accountant started at the National Coal Board Offices in Lugar. From there he moved to BMK Carpets in Kilmarnock in a day when Kilmarnock was a thriving industrial town with such names as BMK, Glenfield Kennedy, Saxone, Johnny Walker's, Glacier Metals. It was during these years that Jim's long association began with the Morton Family, forging a strong friendship with Gavin up to the present day.

But it was in Curries, the soft drinks manufacturer in Auchinleck, that Jim was to spend the majority of his working years until his retirement in 1994, giving sterling and devoted service for over 30 years. Linda and Shirley both recall those halcyon days when Dad would come home with crated of lemonade and red cola, fizzy drinks that are now restricted in the diet of many modern youngsters!

Away from the exigencies of business, Jim's home and family were central to him – he and Pat had their first house on Castlehill Road, then in 1965 they moved into their delightful bungalow in Craigston Avenue where they were to spend the next forty years.

With the births of Linda and then two years later, the twins, Shirley and David, family life was very busy indeed and Jim relished his roles as a loving husband and devoted dad. The girls remember those delightful family holidays spent in Wigtownshire with Jim's sister, Jean and her husband, Peter. Jim adored his part of Scotland and would often avail himself of the chance to go visiting that area for family history trips and to meet up with friends for lunch.

It was in the 1960s that Jim joined the Ayr Junior Chamber of Commerce where he went on to serve as President in 1969, and then Scottish Secretary in 1973. Here he and Pat made many long lasting friendships, including John and Anne Braid and Ronnie and Joan Clyne. For almost thirty years these friends enjoyed holidays at

Kinloch Rannoch, but the Girls inform me that photographs of party nights during these trips are probably best kept hidden!

When his first grandchild, Stephen, was born, Jim very readily took on the role of a doting grandpa, and he and Pat so enjoyed being involved in Stephen's upbringing, something for which Linda will always be grateful in all the love and support she received. Stephen and his grandpa had a strong bond of love and affection, and in later years, when Ailsa, Vairi, Jordan and Freya all appeared on the scene, Jim couldn't have been happier in the growing family circle.

More recently, he cherished the arrival of his two great grandchildren, Jackson and Hayley.

Away from the duties of business and family, Jim loved sport, and in his younger days had enjoyed playing badminton as part of the Badminton Club here at Trinity Church. That passion for sport continued throughout his life, and when he loved watching tennis on the television, especially his hero, Andy Murray. And both he and his grandson, Jordan, shared a passion for Manchester United.

Stephen recalls his Grandpa's love of Ice Hockey, and Grandpa Jim would tell him of the days when he would go and watch Ayr Raiders in the 1950s and then when Ayr Scottish Eagles were established in 1996, his love of the sport was reignited and he would take Pat and Stephen to see games at the Centrum.

In recent years, since the demise of Ayr Ice Hockey Teams, Jim's support was transferred to the Braehead Clan in Glasgow.

You cannot mention the name of Jim Wilcox without thinking of the game of Bridge. Away back in 1972, Jim and Pat were founder members of the Ayr Caledonian Bridge Club, and what Jim didn't know about Bridge, wasn't worth knowing. He was thirled to the game, forging many close friendships over the years, and reaching the playing level of National Master.

But it was in the organisation and administration of the game that Jim most excelled.

He became Treasurer of the Scottish Bridge Union in 1993 and then President in 2000 and Secretary until he retired from the Council in 2003, and his organisational skills were evidence when he became Director of Bridge Congresses and Holidays which accorded him and Pat many memorable occasions down the years.

Linda and Shirley remember numerous late night post mortems over a cup of coffee of that particular evening's bridge hands, and though Jim didn't play much Bridge these past months, he still kept informed on his computer and looked forward to his Tuesday morning coffee with friends where the previous evening's play was carefully analysed.

Of course, mention Jim's name and we think too of his love of outdoor bowling, a gene which the family has inherited. His close association with Seafeld Bowling Club goes back many years, an association that was begun by Pat's parents in 1940. Jim loved the camaraderie of the green and he latterly loved to watch Linda, Stephen and Jordan playing, and then retiring to the Clubhouse where he and his friends enjoyed a chat over an odd whisky or three!

In 2005, Jim and Pat decided to move to the lovely house at Ailsa View Place at Doonfoot and after Pat's death, with his typical resilience and determination, Jim did not wallow in vain regrets but got on with the next chapter, relishing being surrounded by family and good friends. He loved his outings for coffee and he became an expert on where to get the best scone locally!

He still loved his holidays with the family and very memorable was visiting David, Jill and their three girls in Abu Dhabi and Dubai.

None of us will ever fully grasp the depths of Jim's grief on the death of his son, David, in 2015, after a stroke. Though his sorrow was immense, he threw himself into supporting Jill and the family from that time onwards and he was so proud of how Jill and the Girls rebuilt their lives after such a devastating loss.

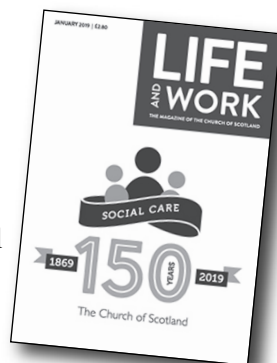
These past years, Jim's health has been fairly indifferent, and when he had to start attending Crosshouse Hospital three times a week for dialysis, he never complained but just stoically got on with his lot. When asked how he was, he would inevitably reply that he was fine.

That was the mark of the man whom we honour today. He loved life; he loved people; he loved everything he did; he loved this place; he loved his family; and that love will never be forgotten. Nor will Jim.

***The Revd Fraser R Aitken***

# **LIFE AND WORK**

## **JANUARY 2019**



### **Celebrating 150 Years of Social Care**

Lynne McNeil looks back at the proud history of social care in the Church of Scotland.

Jackie Macadam looks at some of the innovative work carried out today by the Church of Scotland's Social Care Council, CrossReach.

### **'True Enrichment in Life'**

Jackie Macadam interviews Susan MacKenzie, a lifelong volunteer for the Girls' Brigade

### **'It's Even More Amazing Than I Thought'**

Thomas Baldwin meets Amanda Mukwashi, the new chief executive of Christian Aid.

### **Remembering the Iolaire**

How the Isle of Lewis will mark the sinking of the Iolaire, 100 years on. Plus, a prayer by the Very Rev Dr Angus Morrison

### **Lest We Forget**

A gallery of images from across Scotland as churches marked the centenary of the end of World War One

### **Burns Day**

The Very Rev Dr John Chalmers looks at the Bard's relationship with the Church. The Very Rev Dr Finlay Macdonald offers prayers based on Burns' poems.

**Plus** news, reviews, letters, registers and crosswords

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*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!

**In October** Kerrie led the afternoon with the theme of “Prayer” – Kerrie used the Finger Prayer to give the young people a guideline for prayer.

Holding your hand in prayer you find your thumb closest to you -

**Thumb:** pray for those closest to you (family/friends).

**Pointing Finger:** pray for those who point you in the right direction – parents; teachers; Minister

**Tallest Finger:** pray for people with authority and leadership responsibilities.

**Weakest Finger (Musically):** pray for those who are not as fortunate as us (the sick; the homeless and the weak).

**Pinkie:** as it is furthest away - pray for yourself.

Always put others before yourself but it is also important to let God know your thoughts etc.

Each meeting is followed by a lovely supper – served by a team of ever cheerful ladies!

***Irene E. Bartholomew***





**The Team gathered in the Midton Road Hall on Saturday 8th December for our Messy Christmas.**

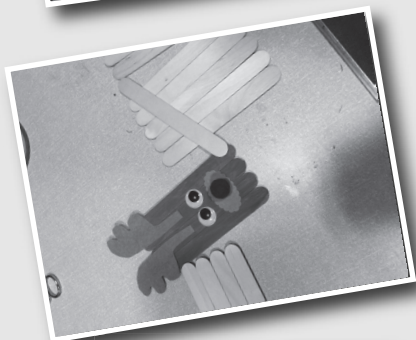
Stuart led the afternoon for our Nativity Messy. Lots of familiar songs and superb crafts – where we made Snowmen and Reindeer and Christmas Empire biscuits and Christmas puddings!!!

When we repaired to the Sanctuary for our story – Stuart took the children (and all the adults) on a journey . The young people loved the climb up into the gallery on the road to Bethlehem. Everyone crowded into the front vestibule to get the feeling of the teeming streets that Mary and Joseph would have encountered. Knocking on lots of doors they were not able to find any rooms – Joseph was desperate for somewhere to rest because he knew that Mary’s baby was going to be born soon. When they were offered sanctuary in the stable they were so grateful. On the journey we sang lots of carols and Christmas songs. Everyone had an amazing time.

Pamela and her team had prepared a lovely Christmas supper with fabulous cakes!

Stuart, Kerrie and I are privileged to work with this wonderfully committed team and wish them and all the children who attend a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

***Irene E. Bartholomew***



# Notes from Session ...

A meeting of the Kirk Session, chaired by the Moderator, Revd David Ness, was held on 4th October, 2018. A summary of issues discussed at this meeting is given below:

- The Moderator informed members that Mrs Lorna Hilderley had resigned from her position as Safeguarding Convenor for the Church. The Clerk spoke of the excellent work Mrs Hilderley had done, often behind the scenes on confidential matters, and he thanked her warmly for her splendid efforts over the years.
- The Moderator announced that the givings for this year's Harvest Appeal had amounted to the excellent total of £2393.30 and he thanked all who had contributed to this. The proceeds would go to the Kerala Appeal in South India.
- The Clerk said that, due to the forthcoming sale of the Cathcart Street Hall, future meetings of the Kirk Session would be held in the Midton Road Hall. This had already been equipped with appropriate technology and was available on Tuesday evenings. As the Presbytery meetings were held on the first Tuesday in the month, the Clerk proposed that future meetings of the Kirk Session take place in the Midton Road Hall on the second Tuesday in the months of February, April, June, September, October and December. This was approved. The dates for forthcoming meetings of the Kirk Session were therefore changed to 11th December 2018, 12th February, 9th April and 11th June 2019.
- 67 Members of Session attended a Safeguarding Training Session conducted by Mr Bill Duncan from Ayr Presbytery.

*R A Bartholomew*  
*Session Clerk*

## **COLUMBA NEWS COPY DEADLINE**

**Please note the deadline for the APRIL edition will be  
SUNDAY, MARCH 24th**

*Norman Reid, Editor*



*Save the Date!*

## **National Youth Assembly 2019**

**16-19 August 2019**  
**Gartmore House, Stirling**

If you know any 17-25 year olds with a Church of Scotland connection, please do ask them to save the date, as booking for NYA 2019 will be opening soon...



## **Running for the Middle East**

Ultra-marathon runner Mark Calder, Regional Manager at Embrace the Middle East, will run 1,725 miles in 2019, covering many of the Scottish pilgrimage routes.

The venture started at Evensong in Dunfermline Abbey on Saturday 12 January.

Join Mark at the service or follow his progress online via EME's website and social media.

*Have Your Say*

## **Pilgrimage Stories**

Have you or your church ever organised or taken part in any type of pilgrimage?

We are putting together some resources around pilgrimage to encourage all ages to get involved and want to hear your experiences, top tips or stories.

Send an email to [MANDD@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:MANDD@churchofscotland.org.uk)

# BITS & BOBS

If you were present at the Guild Christmas Coffee Morning in November, you will recall the warm and inviting atmosphere in our Church Halls, the crowds of folk who were enjoying the coffee and home baking, the busy stalls, and our hard working Guild members beaver away tirelessly in the Tea Room and Kitchen – and it was all such a worthwhile effort as the sum of £2,000 was raised for the National Guild Projects! Well done Convener, Dorothy, and all your members!

**The Congregational Christmas Lunch took place once again at The Kylestrome Hotel and we were superbly looked after by the Staff whose welcome and care were first class, serving a fine two course festive meal, followed by coffee and mince pies. After we had eaten, we had some carol-singing, accompanied by Matthew on the keyboard, bringing the afternoon to a happy conclusion. Thank you to Jane and all who worked so hard to make it such a lovely occasion!**

These past years, one of the highlights of our Christmas programme is the Service of Readings and Carols by Candlelight, held just before Christmas. This year our Church was well filled downstairs, and our Organist, Matthew, and the Choir excelled themselves – the choral pieces were stunning, and so ably accompanied on the organ by Dr Peter Christie, a good friend of both Matthew and Fraser, who is the Organist at St John's Scottish Episcopal Church in Greenock. And each of the Readers contributed so much to the whole ambience of the worship. The mulled wine and mince pies, served by our charming hostesses, put the crown on an inspiring winter Sunday afternoon.

**Now that all the Christmas decorations have been removed for another year, it is only right that we record our thanks to John Stewart, our Beadle, and his team for erecting and dressing our delightful tree; to Anne and Corrie, our Flower Conveners and their Flower Guild for all the beautiful seasonal decorations around the Church; to our Office-bearers who undertook extra duties involved in the many services; to Colin Main who yet again produced the special lighting for Christmas Eve Services which adds such a magical dimension to the services; to our Beadle, John, for the caring and warm way in which he carries out all his commitments in and around the Church; and to our Secretary, Irene, and her volunteers in the Church Office for coping with all the extra demands. Christmas at Ayr St Columba is always such a special time and this past Christmas now holds many cherished memories to take with us into 2019.**

A very big thank you to everyone in our Congregation who contributed such a mountain of splendid new toys and gifts for the Lochside Mission Christmas early in December. It was most touching to see the generosity of all who gave so that many children and teenagers in our community would have a much happier and brighter Christmas than they might otherwise have done!

**Once more the two congregations who throng our Church on Christmas Eve have given so generously to the Offering which the Kirk Session agreed would be split this year amongst three charities – The Drug Rehabilitation at Auchincruive which seeks to help addicts to kick the habit and restore them to life and health back in the community; Whiteleys Retreat, just before Culroy, with such wonderful vista over the hills of South Ayrshire, a magnificent new facility, so beautifully restored to enable children and young people suffering from terminal illness to have a week's holiday with their families and to make many memories during their stay; and The Yemen Appeal to help eradicate the disastrous effects in that part of the Middle East, ravaged by war, and where millions of folk are starving.**

Those who pass through the Carrick Park Vestibule each week will have noticed the Flower Calendar for 2019 is now in place. Each Sunday of the year, our Flower Guild fashion floral arrangements to adorn the House of God, and after worship is over, our band of willing volunteers take bouquets out to many of our people who are ill or who have been bereaved or to new members and those celebrating a special occasion. The Ministry of Flowers goes on quietly every week and it is thanks to all the donors whose generous gifts permit this work to continue each year. If you would like to choose a special Sunday, to mark an anniversary or in memory of a loved one, please add your name and telephone number to the date on the Calendar and Anne will be in touch with you.

## **STOP PRESS!**

What a wonderful total in the Offerings on Christmas Eve and Christmas morning, when the congregations gave £6000 which will be divided amongst the three chosen charities for this year – Whiteleys Retreat; the Drug Addiction Rehabilitation Project at Auchincruive and The Save Children Yemen Appeal.

*Thank you so much to all who gave so generously!*

# CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

*JANUARY 2019*

## *DEATHS*

4th November 2018	Mr Hugh W. Douglas, 8 Doonfoot Road, Ayr
5th November 2018	Mrs Martha (Meta) Bannigan MBE, 30 Newark Crescent, Ayr
6th November 2018	Mrs Margraet Morrison, Glenfairn Care Home, Ayr
9th November 2018	Mrs Margaret Craig, 1E Towans Court, Prestwick
24th November 2018	Mrs Marion (Maisie) Bryan, 49 Greenfield Avenue, Ayr
29th November 2018	Mr Hugh (Ross) Potts, 31 Dalmellington Road, Ayr
7th December 2018	Mr Alan P. Smith, 26 Carrick Gardens, Ayr
13th December 2018	Mr James P. Wilcox, 4 Ailsa View Place, Ayr
19th December 2018	Mrs Margaret Stirling, 24 Holmston Road, Ayr
21st December 2018	Miss Angela B. Lindsay, 9 Arran Terrace, Ayr

## *BAPTISMS*

Morrison	2nd December 2018, Lucy Anne Morrison, infant daughter of Louise and Steven, 9 Greenhead Road, Bearsden
Wilcox	23 December 2018, Hayley Dawn Catherine, infant daughter of Karen and Stephen, 29 Pentland Drive, Prestwick
Low	6 January 2019, Nieve Isabella Grace, infant daughter of Lauren and Allan, 17 Castle Square, Ayr

## *WEDDINGS*

1st December	at Dumfries House, Ms Wendy Lynch, and Mr Alister Campbell, 3 Longbank Road, Ayr
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## **CLOSING THOUGHT**

At some point, you have to realise that some people  
can stay in your heart, but not your life

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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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