

# Columba News



**SPRING**



**2019**

# CHURCH PERSONNEL

---

## "COLUMBA NEWS" - APRIL 2019 - Issue No. 227

---

### **Interim Moderator**

The Very Revd. Dr. DAVID W. LACY D.L., 4 Cairns Terrace, Kilmarnock KA1 2JG. Tel:- 01563 624034

### **Associate Minister**

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

### **Session Clerk**

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

### **Treasurer**

TOM CAIRNS, 15 Longhill Avenue, Ayr KA7 4DY. Tel:- 443271

### **Director of Music**

MATTHEW HYNES, 20A Academy Street, Ayr KA7 1HS. Tel:- 870449

### **Gift Aid Convener**

PETER G. MACDONALD, 23 Dongola Road, Ayr. Tel:- 264059

### **Free Will Offering Convener**

ALAN HAWTHORN, 15 Forest Way, Ayr. Tel:- 267688

### **"Columba News" Editor**

NORMAN REID, 4 Hawthorn Drive, Ayr. Tel:- 262144

Email: editor.columbanews@gmail.com

### **Church Secretary**

IRENE E. BARTHOLOMEW, 30 St. Leonard's Road, Ayr. Office Tel:- 269524

Email: irene@ayrstcolumba.co.uk

### **Beadle & Church Officer**

JOHN STEWART, 6A Ronaldshaw Park, Ayr Tel: 261272

### **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.co.uk

www.ayrstcolumba.co.uk

# Interim Moderator's Letter

From the Manse . . .

April 2019

Don't we have such quaint language in the Kirk? "*Interim Moderator*"! That is quaint!

Yet, it also concise and accurate. The official, guidelines for this post state:

*"It shall be the duty of the Interim Moderator to preside at all the meetings of the Kirk Session and to preside at all congregational meetings in connection with the vacancy, or at which the minister would have presided had the charge been full."* etc

There you have it. I promise I'll do my best.

We are well ahead with the vacancy process: all the edicts are over (for now!); the advert for the Charge has already appeared in '*Life and Work*', and '*Ministers' Forum*' on Facebook; the Parish Profile is available for all to see on your website. So the Nominations Committee has been working hard and is now ready to go out and search. The Locum, leading most of the 11.15 services and seeing to urgent pastoral work, is the wonderful Eddie Simpson. All the retired Ministers in the congregation have rallied around with David Ness and Roddy McNidder to keep all the other services going. How marvelous to have so many good folk to call on!

I have greatly enjoyed getting to know St C.'s better over the last couple of months. You are a busy, friendly, effective, worshipping bunch, who have been so greatly served by Fraser Aitken. What now? That will be the question on so many people's minds; or, more accurately, who now?

*"Interim"* – Latin for "Meanwhile, however, nevertheless"

The end of a Ministry brings this strange, interim, in-between time until the next Ministry begins; for some, this can be a "meanwhile" time: "what do we do *meanwhile*?"

But, the far better approach is that this is the "however" time: "Yes, the Minister usually does this and that. *However*, we can see if **we** can do that now".

Or the "nevertheless" time: "Yes, we will miss Fraser; but *nevertheless*, the mission belongs to Christ, not to one Minister, and Christ calls us all to that mission".

I am sure that God can use this interim time to inspire you, embolden you, enflame you in His service. I've seen it happen! New gifts showing in His people, new abilities, new willingness, new confidence, not only seeing you through a ministerial vacancy, but continuing long after. May God thus bless you all and continue to be served and glorified by St. Columba Parish Church.

And happy Easter! Christ is risen, He is risen indeed! No matter what else changes, that core message never will, and neither will our responsibility to live it and share it.

Cheers and blessings – in the meantime.

**David W. Lacy**

# COLUMBA NEWS COPY DEADLINE

Please note the deadline for the JUNE edition will be  
**SUNDAY, MAY 26th**

*Norman Reid, Editor*

## SUNDAY DOOR DUTY

### MORNING SERVICES

*(9.30am and 11.15am)*

### EVENING SERVICES

*(6.30pm)*

#### APRIL

*18th Maundy Thursday Team 5*

*21st Team 6*

*28th 9.30am Team 7*

*11.15am Team 8*

*6.30pm Team 9*

#### MAY

*5th Team 10*

*12th Team 11*

*19th Team 12*

*26th Team 1*

*6.30pm Evening Service*

#### JUNE

*2nd Team 2*

*9th Team 3*

*16th Team 4*

*23th Team 5*

*30th 9.30am Team 6*

*11.15am Team 7*

*6.30pm Team 8*

**WEDNESDAY COMMUNION** will be held at 2pm on the fourth Wednesday of each month (except June, July, August, December), the forthcoming occasions being April 24 and May 22.

# Bible Study

*The Bible Study Group provides a space to reflect on the relevance of the Scriptures to our lives. We meet on alternate Wednesday evenings to discuss a wide range of Biblical topics from different perspectives, using a range of approaches. Discussion often continues over a cup tea and cake in the kitchen.*

Since Christmas, we have enjoyed a varied programme, exploring a range of interesting topics, which include:

- ‘On the Road : the Experience of Refugees and Displaced People in the Bible’
- ‘A Bible Exploration, with Help from Robert Burns’
- ‘The Lord’s Prayer for Today’
- ‘The Servant King and the Cosmic Christ’
- ‘With Fresh Eyes’, a Study of Neighbourhood for Lent
- ‘Radical Love’, a Reflection for Lent

Come and join us!

***Bryce Hartshorn***

# Book Club

April’s book group has been postponed until May 13 (too many of us taking holidays!). It will be at Margaret White’s home and we will be discussing ‘Becoming’ by Michelle Obama.



## *The Sacrament of Holy Communion*



Four times a year we have our main Services of Holy Communion – on the last Sundays of October, January, April and June. With this issue of the magazine, your Elder will have brought your invitation. The Sacrament is the most important act of worship in the Christian community – through the mystery of the bread and wine, Christ is present with us and we recall His life and death and resurrection. As we eat and drink together, He builds us into His Body, the Church. Your place is reserved for you. We look forward to seeing you at any services on Sunday 28th April at 9.30a.m., 11.15a.m. or 6.30p.m. Jesus said, “Do this in remembrance of Me.”



# A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY . . .

## Senior Outing

Wednesday, June 12, 2019

## ROSSLYN CHAPEL

Rosslyn Chapel dates back to 1446 and was formerly known as the Collegiate Chapel of St Matthew situated in the village of Roslin Midlothian. If you would like to join the outing please complete tear off section and return to office.

**First stop : McARTHUR GLEN DESIGNER OUTLETS / COFFEE**

**12.30: ROSSLYN CHAPEL**

**HIGH TEA: 16.00 RADSTON HOTEL LARKHALL**

**CHURCH: RETURN 18.30**

**BUS DEPARTS: 09.00 - COST: £20.00**

---

NAME ..... TEL NO .....

*I WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND THE OUTING TO ROSSLYN CHAPEL ON WEDNESDAY  
12 JUNE 2019*

PAYMENT COLLECTED ON BUS

# The Guild

## "Whose we are and Whom we serve"

*As we look back on another successful Guild year when we were delighted to have once again Revd Fraser at our first meeting when he dedicated the Guild and gave us much encouragement for the work the Guild does both nationally and locally. Revd Fraser has always been so supportive of the work of our Guild and for this we are most appreciative.*

We have been again blessed with excellent speakers and entertainers who come along to our fortnightly meetings and give so freely of their time and talents. This goes a long way to making our Guild meetings so special.

On the March 4, at our annual Daffodil Tea we had, as our guest, Revd Fraser who presented Church of Scotland Guild Long Service Certificates to some of our members.

<b>Margaret Anne Black</b>	<b>61 years</b>
<b>Molly McLeish</b>	<b>50+ years</b>
<b>Margaret Rae</b>	<b>40 years</b>
<b>Mae Boe</b>	<b>49 years</b>
<b>Margaret C Brown (Pearl)</b>	<b>37 years</b>
<b>H Avril Jackson</b>	<b>36 years</b>
<b>Margaret M Cardie</b>	<b>35 years</b>
<b>Mabel Matthews</b>	<b>35 years</b>
<b>Emily Haggerty</b>	<b>34 years</b>
<b>Catherine M McColm</b>	<b>31 years</b>
<b>Mary M Reid</b>	<b>29 years</b>
<b>Mary A Wilson</b>	<b>28 years</b>
<b>Evelyn Nelson</b>	<b>27 years</b>
<b>Sheena Stewart</b>	<b>25 years</b>
<b>Agnes C Murray (Nancy)</b>	<b>23 years</b>
<b>Jennifer McNidder</b>	<b>20+ years</b>

Congratulations to you all for your dedication and service to the Guild over so many years.

Revd Fraser was presented with a gift from the Guild on the occasion of his forthcoming retirement after almost 28 years as our much loved Minister. We were then entertained by Miss Isobel Miller and Friends followed by afternoon tea. A most successful and special Daffodil Tea.

We look forward to seeing everyone again on **Monday, 30 September 2019 at 7.30 p.m.** and we hope to welcome new members.

***Maureen Fullerton, Secretary***

# Taking us through the vacancy

At the 9.30am and 11am services new faces and old faces will be assisting to carry us through the vacancy at Ayr St Columba. Now is the time to meet them.



## **The Very Reverend Dr. David W Lacy, DL**

Dr. Lacy has been a Minister of the Church of Scotland since 1975, serving in Edinburgh and Glasgow before moving to the charge of Kilmarnock: Henderson in 1989, which united with Kilmarnock: Old High in November, 2012 becoming Kilmarnock Kay Park Parish Church. He retired in May, 2017.

He was Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland from 2005-06 and awarded the Honorary degree of D.Litt., by the University of Strathclyde in 2006.

He was gazetted in May 2013 as a Depute Lieutenant of Ayrshire and Arran

He is a Council Member of the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen.

Married to Joan, Dr. Lacy has a son, Michael and a daughter, Claire, and four grandchildren, Rachel, Daniel, Naomi and Jessica.

He enjoys sailing, choral singing and snooker.

---



## **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 where I also was a keen member of the Boy's Brigade. I distinctly remember being caught playing a new piano in the church hall when we had been expressly forbidden to go near it. I was trying to impress my fellow privates in the company that I could play "Ba Ba Blacksheep" without making too many mistakes. They were

not impressed and neither were the enraged officers. My punishment was to play the hymns at the B.B. Bible Class for the next month - I actually did it for the next 8 years and because of that I can still play the instrument and that has proved immensely useful during my ministry. I also have to thank the B.B. for teaching me to play the Bagpipes.

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, Dalmilling and Lochside. I enjoyed being the minister in that busy parish and community and serving as Chaplain to the Scottish Agricultural College at Auchincruive. When in Dundonald I was asked if I would consider being Chaplain to the Royal Navy at Gannet and the Royal Air Force at Atlantic House. My life and ministry were greatly enriched by my involvement with the military. I was their Chaplain for more than 30 years. I have flown over a lot of Scotland in a Sea King Helicopter; been fished out of the sea at midnight halfway between Troon and Brodick; and flown through the Welsh mountains in a Hawk aircraft at 400 m.p.h. and at 250 feet.

When I retired in 2008, Fraser asked me to give him a hand. Both Moira and myself greatly enjoy St Columba, experiencing the encouragement, warmth and friendship of so many people in the congregation, and of course, having Fraser as our minister. He is one of the most charismatic ministers in the Church of Scotland and we were all privileged to have him as our friend and minister.

I have a few hobbies, cycling, walking, flying and building Radio Controlled Model Aircraft and going to the Gym. I would like to thank everyone for all their help, understanding and encouragement and look forward to continuing to be the Associate Minister of St Columba Church, Ayr.

---



## **Revd Eddie Simpson**

I have known Fraser since he followed me as Minister of Girvan North in 1983 and now I am following him, albeit as locum, for the period of the vacancy at St Columba. I have also known David Ness from the same era when he was Minister at Dundonald. So I not only felt privileged when Fraser asked me if I would be your locum but I also had a sense of connecting again with friends from years ago.

I was born and grew up in Motherwell and after a five year spell in the steel industry, the Lanarkshire Steel Company and Ravenscraig, I studied electrical engineering at Strathclyde University and then Divinity at New College, Edinburgh University. I was assistant at Elgin St Giles in the Presbytery of Moray for two years, then minister at Girvan North in Ayr Presbytery for ten years, then

Giffnock South in Glasgow Presbytery for twenty six years. During these same twenty six years I was a chaplain at HMP Barlinnie. I retired in 2009 and now live in Thorntoun, just outside Kilmarnock. Since I retired I have served as a locum at Troon Old Parish, St John's Kilmarnock and Kay Park Parish, Kilmarnock from where our Interim Moderator David Lacy only recently retired.

My wife Betty is a former primary school teacher. She taught in Muir Street Primary, Motherwell, Lhanbryde Primary in Moray and latterly in Sir John Maxwell Primary, in Pollokshaws, Glasgow. We have five children: Fiona, David, Colin, Mhairi and Emma (twins). We also have eleven grandchildren 9 boys and two girls: Caitlin, Sam, Robbie, Rory and Hunter, Jack and Innes, Conor and Aidan, Martha and Ted. Two more are pending.

It will be exciting to share in the life of St Columba in the coming months. It will also be an honour, and I especially look forward to leading your worship in such a beautiful Sanctuary on Sunday mornings. For our worship is the beating heart of all that we are. It is from that weekly encounter with our Lord that we go on to live out the life to which he is always calling us.

---



## **Rev John Matthews OBE, MA, BD. Mth**

John was born and brought up in North Glasgow and on leaving school served a five year apprenticeship. At the age of 22 Mabel married him out of poverty 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. This led to Board Membership of The Glasgow Alliance and its successor, Glasgow Community Planning; serving two terms on the board of Scottish Enterprise Glasgow, one as Deputy Chairman, chairing the homelessness organization, Simon Community Scotland for six years and leading to the invitation to chair an independent Enquiry into Maximising Recovery from Dependent Drug Use in Scotland, which reported in November 2010. More recently John chaired the Lay Advisory Board of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow and sat on its Council and is presently a non executive director of Greater Glasgow & Clyde Health Board.

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.

John was awarded the OBE in the 2006 New Year Honours List for services to economic development.

---

## **Revd Lawrie Lennox**

I grew up in Glasgow and became a teacher in Paisley, then Irvine. After 22 years in the classroom my life was turned around by an unexpected call to Ministry. I became a student again. We Divinity students in Glasgow were a mixed bunch, all ages – lawyers, teachers, tradesmen, and a gypsy fortune-teller!

After three stimulating years came my time as an assistant minister, and then the hunt for a job. Twice I was on a short list of two, and the other guy got it! But in 1991 the linked charge of Douglas and Rigside in Lanarkshire took me on. I was minister there for ten years: an area where the railway had closed, then the pits, and jobs were scarce. Yet attendance at Kirk and Sunday School was good. They built a new manse for me and my old mother. Each week I visited parishioners, plus three primary schools, and folk in hospitals. I relaxed by exploring the countryside, and creating a new garden. Life was good, and got a lot better when I married one of the choir, Margaret, the Depute Head at Douglas Primary.

However, I had to warn her that we'd be on the move soon, as the Lord was telling me my task in Douglasdale was complete. Time to move on, but where to? Any spare days we had were spent checking out churches that were advertising for a minister. By this time we were both in our late fifties. I reckoned I had energy and experience to offer an effective ministry in a small parish! We found Tarland, in the Howe of Cromar, Aberdeenshire: superb scenery, wildlife, and lovely folk who spoke Doric! For the second time I found myself picking up the pieces after some problems in the kirk, but we moved forward well. The next challenge was being appointed Interim Moderator for the vacant charge of Braemar and Crathie. I was well used to covering vacancies, but this one involved the Royals! Most interesting and rewarding.

All too soon my retirement was approaching. I kept thinking – this is my last Easter, my last Harvest, my last Communion. So I know something of Fraser's mixed emotions at this time. He's truly earned retirement, and I am pleased to offer my humble help in St. Columba, just as, over the twelve years of my retirement, I have taken literally hundreds of services in churches throughout the Presbytery, but mostly in linked country charges. Fraser calls it "Mission work in the backwoods"! Mary Slessor I am not.

---

## **Revd Ian Paterson**

It's been an interesting and even challenging experience coming to live in Ayr where I was born and brought up but which I left more than half a century ago for my studies in Glasgow, Edinburgh and New York. How things here have changed! My primary school, Newtonhead demolished; my church (Newton Old) now also demolished and a traffic island; my secondary school, Ayr Academy, now moved to another site; the messes that are now the formerly attractive High Street; the Station Hotel, Belleisle Park and Seafield Hospital where I had a childhood operation and now Hourston's closed. All very sad. As Billy Connolly once said : "Nostalgia's nae what it used tae be!"

However, a town is people more than buildings and the congregation of St. Columba's has provided an excellent church home for two exiles, not least through excellent preaching and wonderful music. Lorna, who was born in Unst, Shetland, but has strong Ayrshire connections through her Begg plough forebears in Dalry, and I have been made welcome by the good folk of St. Columba's and your minister and our friend for many years, Fraser. What could have been a difficult experience you have helped to make an enjoyable one and we are settled in retirement flats in Alloway.

From boyhood I had always been interested in Africa and stories of explorers and missionaries there were among my favourite reading. I was thrilled when I was given the opportunity to go to Africa and was ordained in 1964 by the Presbytery of Ayr to work in Kenya with the Presbyterian Church of East Africa. My first posting was up country in Nakuru in the great Rift Valley where I had seven congregations to look after in an area the size of Scotland, from Kisumu by Lake Victoria, Kericho and the tea estates, to Kitale on the Uganda border. We shared these churches with the Anglican church and it was good to be part of an inter-church team, doing together all that we could and only separately that which we must.

In 1968 I was called to St. Andrew's Nairobi, a large, imposing building with a huge multi-racial and international congregation. It was exciting to be in Kenya after independence when there was much hope for the future and many young folk coming from all over the world to help with the building of a new nation. The church played a big part in this and still does.

By the end of five years, my African Associate was ready to undertake full responsibility as senior minister. That was how it should be for it was the task of every missionary to work him or herself out of a job with leadership now being the responsibility of Kenyans.

In 1973 I returned to Scotland to a full time appointment as Church of Scotland chaplain in the new University of Stirling and a different type of work from Kenya – yet there were many similarities too. Stirling was a new foundation with all the opportunities, challenges and difficulties this brought. It was stimulating to work with students, who, at the beginning of their academic careers, were often asking searching questions and were not satisfied with easy answers.

Among the first students I met was an able lad in the economics department. He happened also to be President of the Christian Union and was concerned that this exile, arriving from Africa in a very cold January, should feel welcome. This student went on, eventually, to study theology in Edinburgh and became a minister. He is the Rev Colin Sinclair who will be installed as Moderator of the General Assembly in May. His first charge as a minister was Newton – on – Ayr. following the Rev William Whalley, my former minister.

A highlight of my time at Stirling was meeting my wife to be, Lorna, at that time Deputy Academic Secretary. We married in 1974 and continued to work as a team – something we still try to do, albeit now at a slower pace!

In March 1977 I was called to the historic church of St. Michael's Linlithgow to succeed the Very Rev Dr. David Steel who had served also in Kenya some time before me.

Linlithgow is proud of its history, with its Royal Palace, birthplace of Mary, Queen of Scots. At its centre stands the kirk of St. Michael, consecrated in 1242. However, Linlithgow, with its long history and treasured traditions, became virtually a new town in the 60s and 70s with hundreds of young families moving to make it their home. Its motto is "St Michael is kind to strangers" and it was the church's task to make these families welcome in our community, especially in our five congregations.

In 1996, I was honoured and surprised to be invited by H.M. the Queen to be one of her chaplains in Scotland and therefore a member of her Chapel Royal.

After 26 busy, interesting years, it was time to retire and we moved back to Stirling. It is said that ministers are not so much retired as "re-treaded", hence the fact that I undertook locumships ranging from Lochaber and the Small Isles to Bridge of Allan, Stirling Holy Rude, Paris, Lausanne and several others for the next 14 years.

Now we are here, happy to be of service among you during the vacancy and grateful for your kindness and friendship.

---



## 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. I have very fond memories of the Rev. James Kerr and also Jim Hannah who led the Bible Class and was a member here till his death a few years ago. Both of these fine men had a great influence on me and I joined Cathcart church when I was 17.

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 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 2 years. I liked Edinburgh very much and I stayed on there, working in 2 different areas of the city – Craigmillar and West Pilton where some of my naivety and idealism were challenged!!! It was tough work but could be very rewarding too.

I realised however that in social work it was difficult to speak about the gospel and offer folk the hope and love that God can bring into people's lives. 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.

After a few doors closed, including the ministry, I spent a wonderful 3 years on Iona working with the Community there. On my return I felt a strong calling to the diaconal ministry of word and service (rather than the ministry of Word and Sacrament) and I was accepted for training at St Colm's College in Edinburgh.

My first parish was in St Columba's Church in Glenrothes which I enjoyed very much. However after five years I decided to move back home to the west and and I worked for 10 years in the Doon Valley – Patna and Dalmellington with Rev Kenneth Yorke and Ian Jamieson, Reader. These were very happy years.

I retired in 2011 and came to stay in Ayr with my amazing mother who is now 106! I have enjoyed being a member of St Columba very much for the last 8years – back to my roots!

I still work part time- 8 hours a week at Ailsa Hospital as a chaplain, a job I really love.

I am so lucky to have my sister staying nearby and also her two "weans", my nephew and niece who are now in their thirties! They pop in a lot.

In my spare time I enjoy walking, swimming, reading and meeting friends.

---



## David Wallace

I was a teacher by profession and taught mathematics in Uddingston Grammar School and Duncanrig High before joining the Strathclyde Regional Timetabling Unit which advised secondary schools on a wide range of matters related to their timetabling.

My wife Anne and I were brought up in Uddingston and we both attended Chalmers Church. It was there that, for 16years, I was a member of the 1<sup>st</sup> Uddingston Boys' Brigade Company starting as a Lifeboy and finishing as a Lieutenant in the Company.

The BB, with its emphasis on the Bible Class, was instrumental in encouraging me in later years to continue my interest in the Bible.

When Anne and I were married we moved to Hamilton; our son Alistair lives in Edinburgh and our daughter Beth in Bishop's Stortford. We were members first of all of Hamilton Old and Auchingramont Church where I was ordained as an Elder and then had many very happy years as members of St John's Church where I served for a time as Presbytery Elder.

At St John's, the minister Bob Kent suggested to me that the best way to further my study of Scripture was to become a Reader in the Church and, obviously, I followed his advice.

I was set apart as a Reader in March 1990. The role of a reader when I was set apart was, in effect, to provide pulpit supply, when a minister was ill, on holiday or the charge was vacant. One of the important differences between a reader and an ordained minister is that, in the Church of Scotland, readers are not sanctioned to administer the Sacraments of Baptism and Communion.

After being set apart, I was privileged to have been invited to conduct worship, mainly in Hamilton Presbytery, but also in Lanark and Glasgow Presbyteries.

Since our move to Ayr, some 23 years ago I have enjoyed the "change of scenery" in terms of the churches in which I have conducted services.

In the last two or three years I have been "filling in" when required for the Rev. Roddy McNidder at Lochside Church. I have also enjoyed not only sharing services with Roddy but also as a member of the congregation.

## Have you empty garage?

The church is short of some storage space and Central Committee is appealing for anyone who has a garage or a large garden shed lying empty.

We require to store four stage flats (8ft x 3ft) and also the church barbecue plus its gas cylinder.

Anyone who can help please contact John Stewart at the Church Office

## USED STAMPS

*The used stamp appeal for 2018 which was to raise funds for the Reformed Church of Transcarpathia ( Ukraine ) raised £2,133 in Scotland and £677 in Ayr Presbytery.*

There has been no notification yet of the project for 2019 but I have no doubt it will be as worthy as the others. I will let the congregation know when I get notification.

Thanks to everyone for the continued support.

**Jean Johnston**

# Revd Fraser R Aitken, G.C.S.J., M.A., B.D.

Minister at Ayr St Columba Church - 21st August 1991 to 31st March 2019

*This tribute to Revd Fraser Aitken, on the occasion of his final Presbytery meeting as Minister of Ayr St Columba Church, was delivered at the meeting of Ayr Presbytery on 5th March 2019*

Moderator,

I thank you for this opportunity to pay tribute to Fraser on the occasion of his final Presbytery meeting, following close on 28 eventful years at Ayr St Columba Church. I know that there are many people, far more eloquent than I, who would scale mountains, brave torrents and battle dragons for the chance to speak in his praise. However, coming to a Presbytery meeting was clearly a step too far for them! So it is my great privilege to speak on behalf of the many people in our congregation who hold Fraser in high esteem and who are deeply grateful for all that he has done for our church community.

Fraser was inducted to Ayr St Columba Church on 21<sup>st</sup> August 1991. Although the Church was doing very well at that time, it was a very daunting challenge for anyone to take over the baton from the Revd Bill Christman, whose unique style and character had made its powerful mark upon the congregation. But Fraser came with his own style and his own character and he came with qualities which struck a chord with the whole Church community and resulted in him being accepted, admired and loved to an extent which now makes it difficult to imagine the Church without him. Though, that, of course, is what we will now have to do.

In one way, it is easy to speak about the great attributes that Fraser has brought to his ministry because there are so many to choose from. In another way, it is difficult, because the man is much more than a simple sum of these attributes. But, nevertheless, let me mention some of the qualities which have contributed to many individual paths through life and which will help to define his legacy.

Firstly, Fraser is an honest and a genuine person. By honest, I don't mean that he always tells the truth! I suspect a few of our more acerbic members would have left years ago if he said what he really thought of them. What I do mean is that his preaching, his passion and his teachings come from within. Fraser does not say what he thinks he is supposed to say, he says what he knows is right. Fraser does not raise his voice artificially for effect, he raises it naturally because the message and his passion cause it to rise. And Fraser does not regurgitate old sermons and old prayers, but he writes and delivers new words which have been freshly thought out, which are relevant and captivating, but which, ultimately, deliver the same message as the words of long ago.

That said, Fraser has been known to regurgitate old jokes!

Like the time he took his car to the garage for a service and tried to influence the mechanic by saying, "Please don't charge me too much, I'm just a poor Minister".

"I know", said the mechanic, "I heard you last Sunday".

Or when he was in the queue at Glasgow Airport, en route to Canada with one of his ministerial friends, who had suddenly gone very quiet. So he asked him if everything was

all right. His friend said that he was just wishing he had brought his piano with him. “Why on earth would you want a piano at an airport?” asked Fraser. “Because our tickets and passports are sitting on top of it!” said his friend.

When Fraser tells a joke, even terrible jokes like these, he is already laughing when he gets to the punchline and the congregation are laughing with him. This speaks not only of his love of laughter, but also of the relationship he has built with the members of his congregation. They love to laugh with him and this is a natural consequence of the trust and the regard that they have for him.

The trust and the regard have not come about by chance. They are hallmarks of that relationship which has developed strongly over time and which has been fashioned by experiences shared with Fraser at times of great joy, at times of great sadness and at times when comfort, understanding and support were sorely needed. Fraser’s humanity has been manifest at such times and this deeper appreciation of what he means to his people allows a more open and genuine expression of appreciation to be made of his observable gifts and talents as a Minister.

And what observable gifts and talents does he have? Well, Fraser is a renowned public speaker. The ease with which he engages an audience and the manner in which he entertains them are qualities which have found a true home in the pulpit.

Fraser is a lover of language. His use of this, not only in sermons, but particularly in prayer, in sacraments and in eulogies is absolutely first class. The celebrated dramatist, Dennis Potter, once said that the trouble with words is that you never know whose mouths they have been in. However, no matter how other people have strung the words together before, Fraser has the ability to take them and to use them to paint pictures, to create poetry in prayer, to inform and to challenge and to bring consolation, comfort and hope when it is most needed. The words from his mouth are anticipated with expectation, they are received with appreciation and they are recalled fondly and often.

Fraser is also a lover of singing. Sunday by Sunday his strong voice rings out clearly from the pulpit, giving full vent to each song of praise with all the stops well and truly out. He is a lover of music generally and delights in the playing of our Director of Music, Matthew, who will often include subtle references to Fraser’s sermons in his voluntaries and improvisations.

Fraser is a lover of people. He knows each one of our Church members and he is blessed with a quite remarkable memory for names and for faces. He will meet folk he has not seen for years and remember their name, their family and their issues. His work as a Pastor among his people is exemplary. What makes this even more commendable is the fact that he has a very large congregation and an enormous pastoral workload. Whilst he is ably assisted by our Associate Minister, David Ness, and by the Pastoral teams, there is no doubt that visiting those who are unwell, those with urgent needs and those who just want to see the Minister is a very demanding task. But it is one he has carried out so well over many, many years.

Of course, you will have heard about the two ministers who met in the afterlife. One said, “Isn’t Heaven wonderful after the Parish Ministry?” The other said, “This isn’t Heaven”!

Fraser is a great servant of the church and of the people. It is very much the case that the vast majority of events in our Church have been positive and enjoyable in these past 28

years. However, we all know that the life of any Church can be turbulent at times and, over the years, issues have arisen, some of which have been controversial, some have been difficult to handle and some have been distressing for the people involved. At such times it has been a great reassurance to know that we have a Minister who is sympathetic, who is capable, who understands the law of the Church and the importance of proper procedure and who can be trusted to lead us forward in a way which is in keeping with our best principles and in keeping with the great faith that we profess.

Fraser has always been outward looking and under his guidance our Church has formed strong and valued links with Alloway Parish Church and has taken Lochside Church into the fold. Fraser understands the importance of fellowship and insists on a welcoming atmosphere in Church and he loves the social occasions where members come together to celebrate and to enjoy time in each other's company. His Manse is a warm and welcoming home and his nature is charismatic, friendly and reassuring.

Behind all these qualities, it is clear that Fraser is an intelligent man. He has exercised his abilities with purpose, he has interpreted the Word with understanding and he has survived Church Law, Assembly directives and Presbytery mechanisms throughout his career.

All Ministers are very intelligent, of course, and at the end of last year's General Assembly, Fraser and two of his colleagues were celebrating their success in a pub.

The bartender asked them: "Gentlemen, what's the reason for the celebration"?

Fraser responded: "Well, we just finished this jigsaw puzzle and it only took us a week, but the sign on the box said '3 to 6 years'"!

There are many more aspects to the ministry of Fraser Aitken than I can mention. Some will be known to everyone and some will be known only to each individual who has benefitted from his presence. But what has brought all the aspects I have mentioned, and those I have not, into such impressive effect is the character and intrinsic nature of the man. As I have said, Fraser is more than the sum of his talents. He is a spiritual leader who is liberal in theology, generous in life and faithful in service. He cares for his Church, for his Office Bearers and for his members. He has true friends in many walks of life and in many parts of the country - and beyond. He is a man whom a great many people are proud and pleased to call a friend.

Fraser, our Church and our community will not be the same without you. You have achieved more than my words can convey and you mean more to each one of us than I can describe. In your preaching and in your praying, in your eulogies and in your singing, in your comforting and in your laughter, in your company and in your faithfulness you have brought the joy of living and the joy of belonging to us all.

You have allowed the great wonder of working, living and worshipping in a Christian community to manifest itself in a way which has affected us all for the better. You leave with our admiration and our gratitude and you will be missed. It is my hope that your path and those of the people you have served so well will cross often in the future and I know that each crossed path will become a precious memory.

It gives me both great sadness and great pleasure to wish you a long, a healthy and a happiness filled retirement. Well done Fraser.

**R.A. Bartholomew** *5th March 2019*

# AYR ST COLUMBA

## STAINED GLASS WINDOWS – PART TWELVE THE CENTENARY AISLE WINDOWS

The latest and final windows to complete the re-glazing of the ground-floor level of the church, and to replace the original leaded-glass designed and installed by Wm. Meikle & Sons of Glasgow in 1902 when the sanctuary was built, were dedicated during the second service on Sunday 23rd December 2018.

As I have noted elsewhere, there is in art a form known as a “polyptych” from two Greek works that mean “many” and “fold”. It is a painting, usually a panel painting, divided into sections or panels. It was a form favoured by painters of the early Renaissance for, say, altar-pieces. A three-part work of art is known as a “triptych”.

The new windows are to be seen in the north wall of the church, at the back of the Centenary Aisle, and form a triptych in stained glass along with the “Prayer” window dedicated in late 2014. The three windows each comprise three lights or lancets. The left-hand window is entitled “Worship”; the right-hand one “Service and Love”.

The artist in each case has been Moira Malcolm of Prestwick studio “Rainbow Glass”. This has enabled a coherence of themes, designs and colours, bound together by great artistic imagination, into effectively one window of nine lights.

### **The people commemorated**

These are Miss Mary (“Maisie”) Gilmour Goldie and Mr. Harvey and Mrs. Mary MacLean. It was funds from the estates of the two ladies that paid for the windows.

### **Mary (“Maisie”) Gilmour Goldie**

A faithful and devoted member of the congregation, Mary was born on the 29th of September 1921 and originated from Glasgow where her father, William Cockburn Goldie, was a journalist and the chief sub-editor of the Evening News. Her mother, Janet Turner Kerr, died when Mary was young and her father re-married. She had one brother, Tom Goldie, who was the film and TV critic for the Times. Tom married and had two girls, Marion and Jan. The family stayed in Glasgow where her brother contracted scarlet fever on his eighth birthday. Her stepmother also contracted scarlet fever, so Mary was sent to Cumnock to stay with an aunt. This arrangement continued for 20 years until her aunt died. For personal reasons Mary preferred to remain in Cumnock and never did return home, being very happy with her aunt. Her brother Tom, however, would visit at Cumnock for holidays, so the immediate family connection was not lost.

She started her working life in Brackenridge and Graham, Solicitors in Cumnock. She then joined the WAAF and was stationed at Stratford Maintenance Unit where she “fixed things”. After the war she moved to Edinburgh where she was employed in the Social Security Central Office. She subsequently moved to the Kilmarnock office and then the Ayr

office from where she retired. She worked for the best part of her working life in the Social Security Office. Outside of work Mary enjoyed amongst other things going on holidays with a friend to Blackpool, Torquay and Newquay.

Mary passed away on the 4th of May 2014 aged ninety-two. In the eye of the artist the window in her memory is the one entitled “Service and Love”.

### **Mrs. Mary MacLean**

Mary was born Mary Dow Black Aitken on the 29th of October 1922 in Uddingston, Lanarkshire. She was the 3rd child born to Mary & Peter Aitken, the other first-born children being twins Mathew and James (Jim), then Mary and then Isabella, better known as Joyce, and finally John. It was a musical family that enjoyed singing-nights in the house.

Educated at Uddingston Grammar School, Mary proved to be excellent in all the domestic subjects. She loved to cook and bake or do embroidery for which she won a silver thimble in a school embroidery competition. She also loved to knit and create tapestries. She learnt to swim at school and excelled at this as well. Sport appeared to be in her blood as later in life she became an excellent tennis player and golfer, becoming a member at the Royal Troon Golf Club. She also became a member of the Order of St. John.

At the age of 17, Mary went to work at an accountancy firm in Glasgow where she met her future husband, Harvey MacLean, who at that time worked for the same firm. Love blossomed and they married when Mary was just 19 years of age, a very happy marriage for over 30 years until Harvey passed away. Subsequently Harvey started his own, very successful accountancy firm which included Mary as his right-hand assistant. They first lived in a small flat in Ibrox, later moving to a house in Newton Mearns for some years. They then moved to Doonfoot; afterwards to Dunure where they designed and built the Art Deco style house on the hill down to Dunure; and finally to Monument Road in Ayr.

They enjoyed a very active social life. Harvey was the President of the Tìree Association (his parents were from Tìree) and later very actively involved with the establishment of the Highlanders’ Institute of which he was treasurer for many years. The couple joined St.Columba Gaelic Church in St. Vincent St., Glasgow, where Harvey became treasurer and assisted greatly in raising the funding for the restoration of that church. Their own contribution was the red carpet for the aisle and provision for decoration of the church lounge.

In 1965 Mary’s sister Joyce and her husband Jack along with their daughter Sandra aged 15 emigrated to Australia, a country that began to exert a strong pull on Mary and Harvey. At one point Sandra returned to Scotland for a working holiday, where she lived with her aunt Mary and uncle Harvey and started work with him in his business. Sandra returned to Australia to celebrate her 21st birthday where she met and married her husband Ron.

In around 1974 Mary and Harvey traveled to Australia for a holiday where they spent many happy weeks with the family. Harvey was impressed with Australia and made tentative plans for Mary and him to return and take up residence. Harvey’s untimely passing, however, prevented this.

Mary still continued to visit Australia, in fact a total of seven times, and spoke often of moving there on a permanent basis. Her ties, however, with all her friends and her lifestyle

# FRASER'S SPECIAL DAY

TURNBERRY HOTEL, SUNDAY 31ST MARCH 2019



# FRASER'S SPECIAL DAY

TURNBERRY HOTEL, SUNDAY 31ST MARCH 2019



# FRASER'S SPECIAL DAY

TURNBERRY HOTEL, SUNDAY 31ST MARCH 2019



# FRASER'S SPECIAL DAY

TURNBERRY HOTEL, SUNDAY 31ST MARCH 2019



# **FRASER'S**

---

## **SPECIAL DAY**

TURNBERRY HOTEL, SUNDAY 31ST MARCH 2019



in Scotland seemed to put any plans such as these on permanent hold. Among other things she was greatly involved in and loved playing Bridge and loved to socialise and host dinner parties and the like. She had a very wide circle of close friends. The Australian visits were not all one way, as niece Sandra and her husband made some five trips over the years to see Mary.

After Harvey's death Mary moved to Fairfield Park before finally becoming a resident in Glenfearn Nursing Home. Her latter years were not kind to Mary: her frailty increased, and she became registered deaf and blind, at which point audio-books and the local "*Ayrshire Echo Talking Newspaper*" became life-lines to her. Nevertheless, she regularly walked to Morrison's for her shopping and to the High St. for the bank. The only thing said to keep her in was the wind. Mary loved the church, especially the Wednesday afternoon Communion, and the refreshments and chat afterwards.

*Mary passed away on the 2nd of September 2014 aged 91.*

## **The Design Brief**

### **The Artist, Moira Malcolm of Rainbow Glass, Prestwick, speaks**

*"The central set of windows was recently re-glazed (TRS: in December 2014) with a scheme of windows that recognised "Prayer". A year later, and with two new bequests, I met with Rev Fraser Aitken and we discussed ideas to complete the scheme. My aim was to create a full scheme of windows that complement each other and add to the already successful collection of stained glass within the building.*

*Firstly, I created a similar composition between the 3 windows. An arch has been made in both the left and right-hand set of windows that mirror opposite the arch in the middle set along with horizontal lines along the base which carries through all 3 sets. I have this similar composition alongside a colour palate that flows through all 3 windows to ensure a scheme is created".*

#### **Title of the set to the left = WORSHIP**

*"This is represented first in the central window with the scallop shell of St James and water which depicts Baptism. The left-hand panel contains a lyre and trumpets with a suggestion of angelic wings in the sky which depict celebration and praise through music. Seven candles in flame reach from the left panel into the middle panel and represent the light of Christ. The number "Seven" is significant as the foundation of God's word and creation on the Seventh Day. Seven represents both spiritual and physical completeness and perfection. The right-hand panel depicts communion with seven stems of wheat (TRS: which reach from the right panel into the middle panel) to represent the bread as the body of Christ in the natural state. We also have carafes of wine awaiting and being poured into the communion cup to represent the blood of Christ".*

#### **Title of the middle set = PRAYER (already complete and installed in 2014)**

*"The window's donors, John and Valerie Ferguson, came to me with the idea of a theme of*

prayer. Her idea began from a prayer that her family have used as children.

*“Gentle Jesus meek and mild,  
Look upon a little child;  
Pity my simplicity,  
Suffer me to come to thee”*

*This window is complete and depicts Jesus outstretched hand welcoming us in and surrounded by children praying”.*

### **Title of the set to the right = SERVICE AND LOVE**

*“The central window contains three circles intertwined to symbolize the trinity. The circle itself as a shape with no end or beginning represents Gods Eternal existence. These three circles will be in white opal glass and set within a stippled pink / red heart which will be acid etched to appear as though it floats inside a larger all-encompassing circle. As John chapters 16-17 demonstrate, the highest and most profound love known is that which the Father, Son and Spirit manifest among themselves and to the Creation. Jesus closes his Prayer in John chapter 17 at verse 26 by asking that:*

***“the love within which thou hast loved me may be in them and I in them.”***

*The lower 2 gold rings depict the continued faithfulness of service and love in Christian life through marriage.*

*As this window Donor is female, we wanted to depict a story from the females in the bible. This window represents both Service and Love from the story of Martha and Mary. In the left-hand window, we have Martha working tirelessly indoors serving the food for her awaiting Christ and his disciples. In the right-hand panel, we have Mary sitting outside beneath a palm tree, transfixed on the word of her Jesus Christ. It was palms that were waived in victory for Jesus entry into Jerusalem. At the base, we have the colour purple as a symbol of penance, also the thistles and thorns to signify hardship. The ivy leaves are a symbol of fidelity, the red tulips for love and marriage and while the humble snowdrop represents humility.*

*We feel that these 3 themes complement one another and complete a full scheme of windows within this small sanctuary”.*

### **Viewing the windows**

When I saw for the first time the complete set of the three windows, it was from the main body of the church and through the glass partition-doors of the Centenary Aisle, which were closed, as is normally the case. I subsequently saw the windows from the same spot but with the partition-doors folded back and open. I was reminded of the verse in St. Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians, chapter 13 verse 12.

***“For now we see through a glass, darkly: but then face to face.***

It was a revelation. On a bright, sunny day the light was streaming in through the windows as if God were descending in all His glory. I do hope that the doors can be left open more often than in the past, cumbersome though they may be. I find that the array of windows and their vibrant colours are better appreciated from a distance than close up.

***Terry Swinn, March 2019***

# AYR ST COLUMBA

## STAINED GLASS WINDOWS – FINAL THOUGHTS

At ground-floor level the sanctuary has thirteen places where stained glass windows could be installed. All have now been occupied. If we also include the Chancel window, then between the opening of the church in 1902 and 1973, a lapse of seventy-one years, five windows or 36% were commissioned. Activity then ceases for the next twenty-three years, only to resume with great vigour. In the twenty-one years from 1997 to 2018 nine windows or 64% were put in. In this way Ayr St. Columba and its people have become notable patrons of stained-glass artists and helped give fresh impetus to an ancient tradition. According to Wikipedia:

*“Evidence of stained glass windows in churches and monasteries in Britain can be found as early as the 7th century. The earliest known reference dates from 675 AD when Benedict Biscop imported workmen from France to glaze the windows of the monastery of St Peter which he was building at Monkwearmouth. Hundreds of pieces of coloured glass and lead, dating back to the late 7th century, have been discovered here and at Jarrow”*

At a meeting in Dundee on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2019 of the “Scottish Stained Glass Symposium & Trust” there happened to be present the three artists who have been responsible for the design and installation for the nine windows dedicated between 1997 and 2018 viz. (in order of date) Susan Bradbury of the “Stained Glass Design Partnership”, Kilmaurs, North Ayrshire; Roland Mitton of “Roland Mitton Stained Glass”, Forgandenny, Perthshire; and Moira Malcolm of “Rainbow Glass Studio”, Prestwick, South Ayrshire. A group photo was taken which is set out below.

I can think of no more fitting end to the series of articles on the stained-glass windows that adorn the sanctuary of Ayr St. Columba Church.

**Terry Swinn, March 2019**



The artists (Left to right) Susan Bradbury; Roland Mitton; Moira Malcolm.

# TRIBUTE TO MR DUNCAN ANDERSON

ORDAINED ELDER AND ASSISTANT SESSION CLERK

DIED 15TH MARCH 2019, AGED 74

*There are some folk who cross your path and instantly you find a rapport and a kinship – for me, Duncan falls into that special category. When I first met him all those years ago when I came to be Minister here, I was immediately struck by his warmth, his thoughtfulness and his sincerity, a sincerity which was as clear as the day. There were no sides to Duncan, and that made him the very special person that he was to his family and to all of us in Church this morning.*

In those early days of our friendship, his work at Glaxo Smith Kline involved Sunday shifts and, without fail, he would knock on the Vestry door to let me know that he wouldn't be in his pew at the 9.30 service the following week or two as he would be at work! That was so typical of him – he never wanted to disappoint or let anyone down.

And for 28 years he has never fallen short at any point – I have basked in his unconditional support and his loyalty each step of the way, and that is what makes this particular funeral service much more difficult than normal!

When constructing a tribute, it is so important to try to paint the full picture of the person whose life you are honouring. To show not only their virtues and their graces, but also to point out their deficiencies and their faults.

As I sat down to write Duncan's eulogy, however, search as I might, I could not find any shortcomings, for if there were, I never experienced them!

He would probably laugh at that, but I am sure that there are many here who can testify to my own experience of Duncan.

In truth, it can be stated emphatically that Duncan was indeed one of Ayr's "honest men", right to the end of the journey.

That journey began here in the Burgh in the close knit family circle, with his parents, John and Flora, and his elder sister, Nancy. Brought up in Green Street Lane, both Duncan and Nancy had a very happy childhood playing on Newton Shore, and when Duncan was 14, the family moved to Fulshaw Crescent in Whitletts.

His formative education was at Newtonhead Primary and later, Newton Academy where he forged many lasting friendships.

As a teenager, Duncan was a very keen Scout participating in the 5th Ayrshire Scout Troup. Such was his active involvement that from Patrol Leader he then became the Troop Leader at Sandgate Church, then Mainholm Academy.

The Scouting Movement gave Duncan many happy and fulfilling years, organising and performing in the Gang Shows, taking part in the camping expeditions, and doing his best to teach other boys and young men the core values of Scouting – being respectful of others, and showing kindness at all times.

Duncan certainly epitomised that values all his days.

When time allowed, Duncan was also passionate about ice skating and along with his pals, they would take the bus into town to the former Ice Rink on Beresford Terrace. There,

Duncan became a steward and along with his pals, this accorded these young men the opportunity to show off their prowess on the ice to many of the girls who frequented the rink!

That enjoyment in skating, Duncan continued later in life, taking both Kevin and Lesley to the Rink which by that time had moved to Limekiln Road.

When he left school, Duncan began his four year apprenticeship in the building trade as a plasterer. This was hard and demanding work, but, as you would expect, Duncan gave of himself completely to learning the job thoroughly. He gained much from those years and would speak fondly of the people he met, especially an old tradesman who advised him, “the most important tool in your bag is the brush”, urging Duncan always to take a pride in the job he was doing.

That sage advice Duncan followed to the letter for the rest of his days – anything task to hand, he would do to the best of his ability, brooking no shoddy standards or accepting second best.

It was when he was 21 years of age that Duncan met the girl who was to become his life’s partner in a café in the town, his beloved Anne. Anne had obviously noticed that Duncan was showing an interest in her and inquired of her friend Lena, who worked in the café, asking her who he was.

“Oh,” replied Lena, “that’s the wee plaster boy!”

Well, the romance blossomed and Anne became the wee plaster boy’s wife when they were wed in Darlington Church in 1970, venturing off to Jersey for their honeymoon. When they were there, they hired bicycles and had a fantastic time exploring the island. Unfortunately, as Duncan recalled, Anne’s bike had poor brakes and on one occasion, failing to stop, was thrown over a wall, only to encounter a cow on the opposite side which proceeded to lick poor Anne’s face as she lay there, much to Duncan’s great amusement, and causing them hilarity when they told the story!

Married life began with the newly weds moving in to stay with Anne’s Mum, and by and by, they bought Number 11, Viewfield Road, which has been home for almost 50 years. The house required a substantial amount of renovation, and with his typical determination and unrelenting hard work, Duncan put his trade to full use, and along with Anne’s brother, Gordon, an electrician, the house became a home.

After 15 years as a plasterer, Duncan decided in 1973 that he was ready for new challenges, and he applied for a post as a process operator at the newly built pharmaceutical factory of Beecham’s, in Irvine.

This was a totally different way of life for a short period, but after being made an offer he could not refuse, he returned to the building trade.

There was a baby on the way and Duncan thought this would be a good move. Soon, however, he realised that he had been too hasty and he reapplied to Beechams.

It is of little wonder that they were keen to have him back – they obviously recognised his worth and work ethic and he was offered a full time position.

When Kevin was born in 1973 and Lesley five years later, Duncan and Anne were in their elements in their new roles of Dad and Mum.

Always considering himself a man of the times, Duncan was never reluctant to do domestic

chores and he would be only too willing to make a meal, to wash up, and even to do a bit of ironing, though this, on one particular occasion, did not quite turn out as was hoped.

Anne was in hospital with Baby Kevin, and Duncan was keeping house till their return. When he went to visit the hospital, Duncan informed Anne that he had caught up with all the household tasks and that the ironing was up to date.

He had to confess, however, that the “tights” he had been ironing had shrivelled up and disappeared, much to Anne’s great consternation, as they were her good tights into the bargain! I am sure that Duncan was never allowed to live that one down!

As the children grew, many happy days were spent down Newton Shore, reliving his own childhood years. Out walking the dog, playing on the beach, Duncan and Anne revelled in sharing with Kevin and Lesley in so much fun and laughter in those carefree days of both summer and even in the winter, when the waves would be breaking over the road. The grandchildren now have shared in those experiences too.

At holiday times when Kevin and Lesley were young, Morecambe was a favourite haunt, and they have sparkling memories of Happy Mount Park and the amusements, fish and chips and spam fritters on the way back home to their holiday apartment, and of course, even when the British weather was at its worst, and they were soaked through, there was still a lot of fun and hilarity.

When Duncan turned 40, he made up his mind that he needed now to keep fit and so he took up running. Joining Ayr Seaforth, he took Kevin along to complete his first mile in a kind of walk-run fashion as a beginner. This quickly progressed to father and son running together three times a week, training for 10 k’s and half marathons.

And it was only when he was in his early 50s that Duncan hung up his trainers and decided on something less taxing, buying a set of bowls and joining Hawkhill Bowling Club. A lot of his friends were also members there and many a happy evening was spent on the green and some socialising in the Club House.

Both Kevin and Lesley’s fiancé, Paul, enjoyed being taken along by Duncan to the Annual Burns Supper at the Bowling Club and sharing many a dram and many a story in the company of Duncan, Uncle Tommy and several friends.

Duncan had a great sense of humour and fun, and he always enjoyed reminding Paul of the time when he was only 18 or 19, and they were all attending the wedding reception of Duncan’s nephew, Andrew. This was such a great family occasion and as the night wore on, it was finally Paul’s time to pay for a round of drinks and Duncan and Tommy were advising him on what he required to purchase at the bar – Paul listened carefully to the Order – two pints, a small whisky for Uncle Tommy, a half pint and a half for Duncan.

Off went Paul to the bar to make the purchase and a few moments later the barman beckoned to Duncan. Duncan thought that perhaps Paul needed ID, but what the barman wanted to ascertain was that Paul was giving the correct order.

Paul had asked for “a half pint of whisky”!

Duncan was highly amused; Paul was dreadfully embarrassed and he was never allowed to forget that incident for many years afterwards, seeing the funny side for at least the first 30 times that Duncan told the story!

As Kevin and Lesley flew the nest and the family circle was extended, Duncan and Anne

relished fulfilling their new found roles as each of the grandchildren came along, taking them to Bellisle or the beach, or during the school holidays to the Science Centre in Glasgow, so proud of each of the youngsters and all their achievements as they grew.

In 2006, Duncan decided to retire from Glaxo Smith Kline after 33 years sterling service, a job he had thoroughly enjoyed, taking a very keen interest in every aspect of the work, beginning as a process operator, then moving around the various production areas, and his final role being as a lab technician, working in the process testing lab, and reporting to the Sites Quality Department. As with everything he undertook, Duncan gave of himself one hundred per cent. Anne, Kevin and Lesley were so proud of all that he had achieved and would pull his leg constantly by saying to him, “Not bad Dad, from a wee plester boy to a mad scientist!”

With retirement came the chance for Duncan to indulge in another of his passions, a game of golf. He loved being on the course at Dalmilling, looking forward to purchasing his season ticket and going for a game at least three times a week, revelling in the banter of his many friends.

As a member of Dalmilling Golf Club, Duncan was only too happy to volunteer to help with the British Open when it was being held locally either at Turnberry or Troon and he always looked forward to seeing the professionals at their game.

After he came home from a game, Anne could always tell whether or not it had been a good round!

With so much time spent golfing, Duncan decided to relinquish his game of bowls on the green and took up Indoor Bowls, initially at Prestwick and then here in Ayr with Uncle Tommy and a few friends.

I can recall how much enjoyment Duncan got from his two trips with Tommy to New Zealand to visit Tommy’s daughter, Annette, and her husband, Marlon – the memories of the Maori community, his travels around both the north and the south islands, and he would often look back with such fondness of those wonderful experiences and sharing reliving them when he was out for a pint with Kevin, either at the Snooker Hall or at Geordie’s Byre.

And, of course, here at St Columba Church, Duncan was a much loved and respected member and Elder. He took a keen and genuine interest in people of all ages and stages and he looked after the folk in his District with such loving care. I saw that first hand when he was so worried about the well being of a couple in our congregation who were failing and we went along to try to help their situation. That was the measure of the man.

When our Session Clerk, Bob, invited Duncan to be his Assistant, that was a genius moment in our Session Clerk’s life! Duncan proved to be invaluable to Bob, to me, and to our Kirk Session. We will never know the number of jobs that he did quietly and unobtrusively behind the scenes and his wise advice and counsel in the Clerk’s Committee and on the Review and Planning Committee was indispensable. So supportive of the work of outreach at Lochside, Duncan’s opinions were incisive and astute at all times. He was nobody’s fool, and always he would prove to be a listening ear, sensitive to people’s concerns and troubles.

After each of our four main Communion Services each year, Duncan would strip the white cloths from the pews and take them up to Hansel for laundering, going back to collect them and returning them to the Church.

Often coming in to the Church Office, Irene, Margaret, John and I would enjoy his repartee

and always he wanted to help in any way he could.

On a very personal note, during a difficult time in our Congregational life a couple of years ago, Duncan was a constant friend to me, phoning me, emailing me, and calling on me to ensure that I was coping. I shall ever be indebted to him for his unconditional support each step of our journey these past 28 years.

Yes, we have lost a tremendous friend in Duncan and we will miss him greatly, but none more so than his close knit that his dear Anne, and all his family.

He was their rock.

And yes, it has been difficult for them and for us watching Duncan struggle with indifferent health these past two years, but with his typical resolve, his quiet faith and his wonderful humanity, he has been an inspiration to each of us.

We will never forget this true Christian gentleman who has made all our lives so much happier and richer, and did so, so selflessly and humbly.

*The Revd Fraser R Aitken*

## Youth

**is not a time of life; it is a state of mind...It is the  
freshness of the springs of life.**

**Nobody grows old merely by living a number of years.  
People grow old by deserting their ideals.. Whether  
sixty or sixteen, every human being may experience  
wonder...the undaunted challenge of events, the unfailing,  
childlike appetite for the future, the joy of living. For you  
are as young as your faith, as old as your doubt; as  
young as your self confidence, as old as your despair.**

**As long as your heart receives messages of beauty, hope,  
cheer, courage and power from God and from your fellow  
men, you are young**

*Submitted by Jay Mair*

# LIFE AND WORK

## APRIL 2019

### **Biblical Animals**

As the humble donkey takes centre stage on Palm Sunday, Jackie Macadam focuses on the stories of the animals in the Bible.

### **‘All We Need to Know’**

Journey through Holy Week with the Moderator of the General Assembly

### **God is the Heart**

Interview with vicar and author the Rev Dr Sam Wells.

### **150 Years of Care**

Continuing to celebrate the Church of Scotland’s care legacy, Thomas Baldwin hears about the work of The Bungalow, an award-winning home for adults with multiple and profound disabilities

### **Youth Column**

Connor Macfadyen describes his faith journey

### **Walking Together With the Guild**

A new project bridging the generations

### **Power and Powerlessness**

Continuing his series on themes of slavery in the Bible, the Rev Richard Baxter emphasises the importance of grace

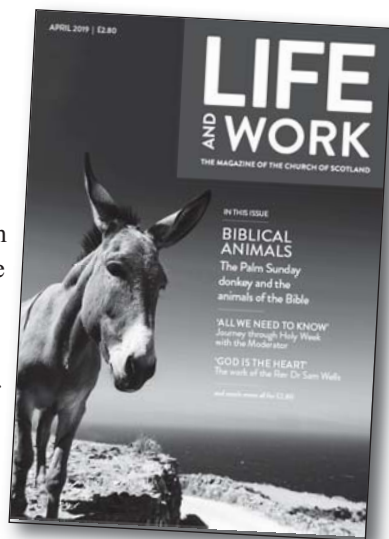
### **Making the Most of Lent**

The Very Rev Dr John Chalmers reminds us of the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness

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

**Online** visit us at [www.lifeandwork.org](http://www.lifeandwork.org) for regular news and exclusive features, find us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter @cofslifeandwork

*Subscribe online from £12, or download a digital copy for £1.99; or speak to your church’s Life and Work coordinator.*





There have been three meetings this year. In January Irene led the approach to Baptism; in February we attended the Wedding in Cana and Kerrie led the story. Pamela created a wedding feast for supper and in March Stuart led in a study of the Sermon on the Mount. Lois always have superb crafts and supper is undoubtedly a highlight. We have a brilliant team of volunteers and amazing children attending every month. Our next meeting will be on 27 April when the theme will be Easter – I feel certain that there will be chocolate! Come along and bring some youngsters (preschool – p7) – meetings are always a lot of fun! Saturday afternoon 4pm – 6pm.

**Irene Bartholomew**



# Notes from Session ...

*A meeting of the Kirk Session, chaired by the Moderator, Revd Fraser Aitken, was held on 11th December 2018. A summary of issues discussed at this meeting is given below:*

- \* The Moderator introduced the Vacancy Procedure Committee to members of Session. Under the convenorship of the Revd Neil McNaught of Alloway Parish Church, the Committee comprised Mr Andrew Graham (Elder at Castlehill Church), Mrs Maureen McNae (Session Clerk at Tarbolton Parish Church) and Dr David Hume (Assistant Minister at Alloway Parish Church) who was attending as an observer.
- \* Presbytery had appointed the Very Rev David Lacy, Minister Emeritus of Kilmarnock: Kay Park as Interim Moderator for the forthcoming vacancy at Ayr St Columba Church.
- \* Christmas Eve Offerings: The Moderator said that the Whiteleys Retreat and the Yemen Appeal had been suggested as suitable recipients for the proceeds of the Christmas Eve offerings. Mr P T MacDonald spoke in favour of Independence from Drugs and Alcohol (Scotland). Mrs A Naismith proposed that the money be split equally among the three charities and this was approved by members of Session.
- \* The Clerk announced that The Revd Edward Simpson (Emeritus-Giffnock: South) had been appointed as Locum Tenens for the forthcoming Vacancy. Revd Simpson would preach at the 11.15am Services and Ministers in our Congregation would share the preaching at the 9.30am Services.
- \* The Clerk was pleased to report that Mrs Anne Mills had been appointed as the Church's Safeguarding Convenor in succession to Mrs Lorna Hilderley. Mrs Mills was a very capable individual and she was an excellent person to fulfil these responsibilities.
- \* The Treasurer said his report related to the General Fund Accounts for the 11-month period to end November 2018. Offerings were down by just under 5% against the same period last year. Virtually all expenditure categories (except equipment and equipment maintenance) were in line with budget projections and overall expenditure was £5,000 less than budget. The General Fund showed a surplus over the 11-month period of £8,434 which was around £10,000 less than budget. The value of the Church investments had dropped by almost £9,000 since the start of the year.
- \* The Moderator informed Elders that he had now purchased a house which he would move in to upon his retirement. He was very pleased with it and thanked members for all their help and goodwill.
- \* The Moderator wished everyone a very happy Christmas.

**R A Bartholomew**

*Session Clerk*

*page twenty-four*

# Events - lots of ways to have fun, and support CrossReach while you do!

*Are you looking for something exciting to do? CrossReach has events taking place throughout 2019, where you can have fun whilst supporting its work with children and families across Scotland. For more information visit: [www.crossreach.org.uk/events](http://www.crossreach.org.uk/events)*



## **Forth Bridge Abseil 2019 - 7 July 2019**

Abseil off the 150ft high iconic Forth Rail Bridge surrounded by stunning views of the Forth. This event has a minimum fundraising pledge of £150.

## **Kiltwalk - various dates throughout the year**

Dundee, Edinburgh, Aberdeen & Glasgow throughout the year. Choose from 3 different walks of varying distances - suitable for all the family & all abilities.



## **Edinburgh Marathon Festival - 25th - 26th May**

Run, with Edinburgh Castle as a stunning backdrop. Limited free charity places available. Join team CrossReach and set yourself a new challenge!

## **Freefall Skydive Auchterarder - 22 June 2019 or 13 July**

Jump from 10,000ft and freefall 5,000ft at up to 120mph! An opportunity not to be missed!

Locations and Dates: Auchterarder: 22 June and 13 July.



## **Zipwire - 4th May & 7th September**

Zip through the trees over a stunning gorge in Aviemore. Take the CrossReach Zip Wire Challenge.

# CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

*APRIL 2019*

## *DEATHS*

4th January 2019	Mr. Robbie Turnbull, 35 Grangemuir Court, Prestwick
13th January 2019	Mrs. Nancy Mor, Creggan Bahn, Seafield Road, Ayr
5th March 2019	Mrs. Margaret J. Leadbetter, Temple House Care Home, Mossblown
7th March 2019	Mr. Robert M.M. Clark, Mathieson House, Broomfield Road, Ayr
15th March 2019	Mr. Duncan Anderson, 11 Viewfield Road, Ayr

## *BAPTISMS*

<b>Favré</b>	13th January 2019, Thomas Joseph Favré, infant son of Suzanne and Arnaud, 14 Manderston Meadow, Newton Mearns, Glasgow
<b>Watson</b>	20th January 2019, Jamie Seaton Watson, infant son of Katie and Mark, 0/1, 3 Queens Gardens, Glasgow
<b>Mortimer</b>	20th January 2019, Aiden Hadi Mortimer, infant son of, David and Sadaf, 4 Prospero Road, London.
<b>Mortimer</b>	20th January 2019, Rohan Yahya Mortimer, infant son of David and Sadaf, 4 Prospero Road, London.
<b>Mortimer</b>	20th January 2019, Charles Anthony Robert Mortimer, infant son of Peter and Rhona, 23 Fotheringham Road, Ayr
<b>Wilmer</b>	24th February 2019, James David Wilmer, infant son of, Gemma and David, Quarrelhill, Dalquharan, Dailly

## CLOSING THOUGHTS

There will be very **painful moments in your life** that will change your entire world in a matter of minutes

These moments will change you.

**Let them make you stronger smarter and kinder.**

But don't you go and become someone that you're not.

Cry. Scream if you have to.

Then you straighten out that crown and **keep moving**

## MarchmontPodiatry

Anne Kidd Bsc.Pod., M.Ch.S.  
Claire McTrusty Bsc.Pod., M.Ch.S

### PODIATRIST / CHIROPODIST

Registered with the Health Professionals Council

#### Services include:

Biomechanical evaluation, Orthoses, Nail Surgery,  
Acupuncture & Routine Chiropody

12 Barns Street, Ayr KA7 1XA  
Tel: 01292-282201



## Davidson Gas Services

Installation, Maintenance and Repair

Full Heating Installations and Boiler Replacement  
Heating Upgrades - Radiators, Thermostatic Valves, etc.  
Appliance Installation - Cookers, etc.  
Service & Repairs - All appliances  
System Powerflush  
Free Quotes

**Mobile: 07815 140402**  
Ex Scottish Gas Engineer

## ALLOWAY CHIROPODY CENTRE

Hilary Donaghey  
HCPC Registered Chiropodist/Podiatrist

21 Alloway, Ayr KA7 4PY  
Telephone 01292 440275  
Above Alloway Pharmacy

## Need A Good Electrician?

## BRIAN STRATHERN

Professional & Friendly Service  
40 years' experience

**Tel: 07906604957/01292 268659**

All your electrical work considered  
*Formerly of Mossie & Strathern*

## A. PICKEN & SONS BUTCHERS

*Established 1870*

**Supreme Quality Beef, Lamb  
and Pork always in stock**



*"Try our Famed Sausages - Nourishing as the Finest Steak"*

### Branches

67 - 71 MAIN STREET, AYR. Tel 01292 263970    27/29 ALLOWAY STREET, AYR. Tel 01292 263308

## JOHN P. TELFER



11 HOLMSTON ROAD  
AYR KA7 3BE

**PLUMBING, SLATING  
HEATING ENGINEER**

Tel. 01292 268582

## JAMIE McINNES JOINERY

For all your joinery needs

Double glazing \* kitchens \* Doors\*  
Wooden floors \*  
Attic conversions \* Renovations\*  
Stairs\* Fascias & more ....

**FREE ESTIMATES**  
**07732 738238 - 01292 442672**

We create every funeral  
individually, just for you.



M L Williams are here to support  
and guide you, offering a friendly  
and professional service.

Call us for immediate support,  
advice or to arrange a home visit.

We are here to help 24 hours a day.

Ayr

01292 262 277

1b Falkland Park Road,  
KA8 8LL

[www.mlwilliams.co.uk](http://www.mlwilliams.co.uk)



## Martin & Co Ayr & Kilmarnock

Your local Letting and Estate Agent covering Ayrshire

Reliable and competitive fees | Friendly and Personal service | Established in 2005

If you are considering letting or selling your home contact us for a free market appraisal

**01292 619 539**

24 Parkhouse Street, Ayr KA7 2HH | [ayrandkilmarnock@martinco.com](mailto:ayrandkilmarnock@martinco.com)

## RHA CONSTRUCTION & BRICKLAYING SERVICES

\* NEW BUILDS | \* EXTENSIONS | \* STRUCTURAL SLAP OUTS  
\* FREE ESTIMATES | \* SMALL / LARGE WORK UNDERTAKEN

**ROGER THOMPSON** *Bricklayer*

12 Hollow Park, Ayr KA7 4SR

T: **07790 666 673**

[RHAConstruction@outlook.com](mailto:RHAConstruction@outlook.com)

## PEBBLES SPA & BISTRO

SPA DAYS | GIFT VOUCHERS | SPA BREAKS

BREAKFASTS | LUNCHES | DINNERS

AFTERNOON TEA | HOMEBAKING

FRESHLY GROUND COFFEE

OPEN TO NON-MEMBERS



PEBBLES SPA & LEISURE  
01465 891233

• LENDALFOOT • AYRSHIRE  
• [WWW.PEBBLESPA.COM](http://WWW.PEBBLESPA.COM)

**CLACHAN WOOD  
BESPOKE FURNITURE**



FREESTANDING OR FITTED

PROJECTS LARGE OR SMALL

PLEASE CONTACT US TO DISCUSS ANY  
REQUIREMENTS THAT YOU HAVE

WWW.CLACHANWOOD.COM INFO@CLACHANWOOD.COM

BURNSIDE FARM, GIRVAN, KA26 9JH

07723477839

**WEIR ROAD TRADING ESTATE**

(off Waggon Road) AYR

**AYRSHIRE GARAGE DOORS <> T: 263030**

Suppliers/Fitters of Quality Garage Doors

*Repair Service Available*

**CARPET OUTLET <> T: 284900**

Suppliers/Fitters of Quality Floorings

*Carpet Binding Service Available*

**PERFORMANCE TYRES <> T: 266666**

Suppliers/Fitters of Tyres, Brakes & Exhausts

*Also Wheel Alignment*

**- BARRY WHALEN -  
FUNERAL DIRECTORS**

*Genuine, Caring & Professional Service*



**(01292) 611 148**

**RIVER TERRACE, AYR**



**PIANO  
LESSONS**

**MATTHEW HYNES**

B.A. (Hons), Cert. P.G.S. (RSAMD)

Telephone (home): **0141 334 2853**

Telephone (mobile): **07789 841422**

Email: **matthewhynes71@gmail.com**

*Private tuition in Ayr*

*Home visits available*

*Children and Adults welcome*

*25 years teaching experience*

*Preparation for ABRSM*

*Practical and Theory exams*



Contact Stephen on  
**07900 693435**

**CARPETS, VINYL & FLOORING**

ACCESSORIES SUPPLIED AND FITTED  
7 DAY SERVICE • FREE ESTIMATES

info@hendersoncarpets.co.uk

MEMBER OF



**DECORATORS  
& PLASTERERS**

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

**AYR**

Contact Justin **01292 261329** or **07756498450**

ALL ASPECTS OF PAINTING & DECORATING & PLASTERING

EXCELLENT RATES | INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR PAINTING

WALL COVERINGS | PLASTERING | FLOORING

FREE ESTIMATES | ALL INSURANCE WORK

www.decoratorsayrshire.com

# 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
---------	---------------------------	------------	--------

### 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
---------	---	-------------------	--------