

Columba News



WINTER  2020

CHURCH PERSONNEL

"COLUMBA NEWS" - JANUARY 2020 - Issue No. 232

Minister

Rev. Dr. SCOTT S. McKENNA, scottsmckenna.aol.com. Tel:- 01292 226075

Associate Minister

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

Session Clerk

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

Depute Session Clerk

WALTER MUIR, 1 Corsehills Place, Ayr. Tel:- 282931

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: 07847 639528

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

Candlemas

Each year, 2 February is Candlemas. Across Christians denominations, Candlemas or Candle Mass marks the Presentation of Christ at the temple (St Luke 2: 22 – 38). In our culture, traditionally, we take down our Christmas tree and decorations on the eve of Epiphany. In some countries, trees and decorations are not removed until Candlemas. On Candlemas, our sisters and brothers in the Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Lutheran, Anglican and Methodist traditions take candles to church in order that they are blessed. Once blessed, the candles are used throughout the year as a symbol of Christ as the Light of the world.

The story in Scripture is evocative and spiritually nourishing. Jesus' father and mother, Joseph and Mary, took their child to the temple. An upright and devout man filled with the Holy Spirit, Simeon greeted the couple on arrival. Simeon held Jesus in his arms and praised God. Sung or said, Simeon recited what we know as the nunc dimittis:

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace
according to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,
Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Simeon went on to prophesy that Mary would be broken by the events of her son's life and death: 'You too will be pierced to the heart'. Alongside Simeon, an elderly widow named Anna never left the temple; she worshipped night and day with fasting and prayer.

If read straight and at surface level, the story of the child Jesus at the temple is rather matter of fact; we are left cold and unmoved. However, Scripture is a doorway into the Divine. The ancients did not write history as we understand the concept. Like others in the Bible, the story of Simeon and Anna is spiritual writing or faith narrative. Its potency comes when we stand in the story, when we become Simeon, Anna, Joseph, Mary or a bystander. It is you or me who holds the Christ-Child; it is we who are changed. Do you feel the calm and peace of Anna, a life matured by stillness and prayer? If we are there with her, we too can sense the Sacred.

Throughout the season of Spring, let each new bud, fresh piercing birdsong, or new sun rise be a sacrament; a reminder that God is with you, within you. With Simeon, we embrace Jesus. Each morning remind yourself that you are embraced by the Eternal, our Companion, Lover and Friend. Through the many trials that we face, individually or as a family, be assured that God is with you in the stillness, darkness, hard times, and times of joy and celebration, for now and for ever. God's love and hold upon us is eternal; God's love is stronger than death

Every blessing,

Scott

Revd Dr Scott S McKenna

SUNDAY DOOR DUTY

MORNING SERVICES

(9.30am and 11.15am)

JANUARY

19th Team 3
26th 9.30am Team 4
11.15am Team 5

FEBRUARY

2nd Team 7
9th Team 8
16th Team 9
23rd Team 10

MARCH

1st Team 11
8th Team 12
15th Team 1
22nd Team 2
29th Team 3

APRIL

5th Team 4
6th-8th Holy Week Team 5
10th Good Friday Team 6
12th Easter Sunday Team 7
19th Team 8
26th 9.30am Team 9
11.15am Team 10

EVENING SERVICES

(6.30pm)

6.30pm Team 6

6.30pm Evening Service

6.30pm Evening Service

6.30pm Team 11

WEDNESDAY COMMUNION *will be held at 2pm on the fourth Wednesday of each month (except June, July, August, December), the forthcoming occasions being January 22, February 26, March 25 and April 22.*

Ladies Fellowship

New Year good wishes from the committee of the Ladies Fellowship to all our members and friends.

We resumed on 13 January with an appropriately Hogmanay subject - Bagpipes - when members of the Men's Association joined us.

We hope you will find our future programme interesting and you are free to join us. In particular, our fundraising evening is a Night at the Movies - look out your wild west costumes and join us in the Church for 'Oklahoma'.

In times of austerity, a bit of fun.

Best wishes for 2020 from all of us.

God Bless.

Liz Challis (Secy)

*Candlemas, February 2, commemorates the presentation of Jesus at the Temple
and the day when church candles are blessed.*

At Candlemas

'If Candlemas be fine and clear
there'll be two winters in that year';

But all the day the drumming sun
brazened it out that spring had come

And the tall elder on the scene
unfolded the first leaves of green.

But when another morning came
With frost, as Candlemas with flame,

The sky was steel, there was no sun,
the elder leaves were dead and gone.

Out of a cold and crusted eye
the stiff pond stared up at the sky,

And on the scarcely breathing earth
a killing wind fell from the north;

But still within the elder tree
the strong sap rose, though none could see.

*Charles Causley
1917 – 2003*

Ayr St Columba Burns Supper

7th FEBRUARY 2020, 6.30 for 7pm

TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION PLUS PAYMENT
AFTER BOTH SERVICES ON JANUARY 19 AND ALSO ON MONDAY, JANUARY 20,
BETWEEN 10am AND NOON

This is a reminder of the Church **PRIVACY POLICY**

This Privacy Policy covers the way in which the CHURCH of AYR ST. COLUMBA will use and disclose personal information with which we are provided by members, employees, volunteers, donors and other associates.

Personal information includes any information that identifies you personally, such as your name, address, email address or telephone number.

The Church administration recognises the importance of your privacy and personal information and we have therefore outlined below how the administration collects, uses, discloses, and protects this information.

AYR ST. COLUMBA CHURCH is registered with the Information Commissioner through the umbrella registration of Ayr Presbytery. AYR ST. COLUMBA CHURCH and will strive to comply fully with data protection law.

How We Collect Information

The Church receives and stores personal information provided by members, employees, volunteers, donors and other associates. This information can be supplied to us:

in writing, via email, by telephone conversation or on our website (e.g. when an individual is becoming a member);

by otherwise associating with the Church or its organisations, (e.g. by enquiring about our work, activities, employment and volunteering opportunities); or
when donating money to the Church or its organisations.

We may also receive information about you from third parties.

How We Use Information

We may use the information we collect:

in connection with membership records, for pastoral care purposes or in relation to your participation in our activities;

in order to fulfil individual employment contracts with our employees (e.g. personnel administration) or for agreements with volunteers;

in order to communicate with you (e.g. by letter, email or telephone) for example to provide information relating to the work of the Church or new initiatives; Groups or events;

in order that your Minister and Elder may visit and for the delivery your "Columba News"

in order to further our charitable aims, e.g. such as for fundraising activities;

for internal administration, such as for accounting purposes or for analysing how we may better advance the Kingdom of God.

Your attention is drawn to the following information regarding the matter of members in hospital. This information has been withdrawn from the Pew leaflet after the Session Clerk received this submission from Dr Whyte, Principal Clerk.

"In the matter of the information appearing on the Pew Leaflet, I appreciate the good work of the Church in terms of visiting members needs to continue and we need to find a way to do this.

However, the only person who can give permission for their personal data to be shared is the data subject themselves. Consent from a family member would not be valid."

I think the short answer is you cannot publish the material in the pew sheet. I know this probably not what you want to hear but we are constrained by the civil law.

We have installed CCTV - this installation is used for the prevention and detection of crime.
Disclosure of Information

The Church may require to share personal information held for a number of reasons, including to provide pastoral or other assistance, process donations or carry out any other contractual obligations. This data may be disclosed to:

the relevant Presbytery;

other bodies within the Church of Scotland;

employees and/or volunteers including the charity trustees/ office bearers.

The Church does not permit these parties to use such information for any other purpose than the foregoing.

The Church may also need to disclose your information if required to do so by law.

Your Consent

By providing us with your personal data, including sensitive personal data such as on your health, you consent to the collection and use of any information you provide in accordance with the above purposes and this privacy statement.

Storage and Security of Personal Information

The Church, via its office bearers and employees will use all reasonable endeavours to ensure that personal information is held in a secure and confidential environment and when the information is no longer required it will be destroyed or permanently rendered anonymous.

You may request details of personal information, which we hold about you under the Data Protection Act 1998. A fee may be payable. If you would like a copy of the information held on you, please contact the Session Clerk.

If you believe that any information we are holding on you is incorrect or incomplete, please write to or email as soon as possible to the address below*. Any information found to be incorrect will be corrected as quickly as possible.

* The Secretary

Ayr St. Columba Church Office, Carrick Park, Ayr. KA7 2SL

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 26th January at 9.30a.m., 11.15a.m. or 6.30p.m. Jesus said, “Do this in remembrance of Me.”

Bible Exploration Group

The Bible Exploration Group will resume in the Struthers Room fortnightly from 7.30 to 9.00pm, beginning Wednesday 15 January, with further meetings on January 29, February 12, February 26, March 11 and March 25. Our first topic will be the story of Jonah.

This is an opportunity to share our thoughts and questions about faith and life. If you are interested, do join us and you will be made very welcome. There is a friendly atmosphere with good discussion and a cup of tea to follow. There is no requirement to have prior Bible knowledge or to come to all the meetings. Come to as many as you wish!

Bryce Hartshorn

Busy times as Christmas approached

A huge thank you to the 122 people who filled boxes for the Night Before Christmas charity. These were dedicated by our minister on the December 1 and were collected for distribution across Ayrshire. We ordered an initial number of boxes and had to keep going back for more so great was the uptake. Thank you too to Donald MacRae who brought the charity to our attention and who liaised with Jodie on our behalf.

Also on the 1st December we held a Christingle service at Lochside Church where over 30 folk from both branches of the congregation joined to sing and to make their Christingle. As the afternoon progressed we took our oranges, representing our world, wrapped them in ribbons, representing love, stuck them with sweets and raisins to represent the fruits of the earth, and finally crowned them with a tea light, a representation of Jesus, the Light of the World. We received donations of £105 for the work of the Children's Society.

'The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out'.

On the 15th December we held our All Age Nativity service in collaboration with the Education Committee. As the name suggests, folk of all ages took part. Who will forget the Angel Gabriel in full flow on the balcony? We followed this with coffee and cake in the hall where the young people (and the not so young) were congratulated on their 'different' presentation of the familiar story.

The prayer calendar continues to be well received. Thanks to Lorna Paterson for the words and to Irene for adding its production to her already bulging work load.

Finally, we are considering organising a church family outing to Cumbrae next summer. Read all about that on a different page!

Helen Greig
Convenor, WMO

Notes from Session ...

A meeting of the Kirk Session, chaired by the Moderator, The Very Revd Dr David Lacy, was held on 15th October 2019. A summary of issues discussed at this meeting is given below:

- The amount received in the Harvest Collection was £1723.28. This had been shared equally between the South Ayrshire Food Bank and Mary's Meals. The Clerk thanked members for their generosity.
- The Moderator formally discharged the Nominating Committee. He said that the Committee had served the Church very well and had been a pleasure to work with. He thanked the members of the Committee for all their efforts and the Clerk to the Committee for her excellent administrative support. His comments were warmly endorsed by members of Session.
- The Clerk informed members of the Kirk Session that the Revd Dr Scott McKenna would be inducted into the charge of Ayr St Columba on Thursday 24th October 2019. The Service would be followed by a welcoming social and refreshments. On the following Sunday, 27th October, Dr McKenna would be preached into the charge by the Revd Dr George Whyte, Principal Clerk to the General Assembly.
- The Clerk expressed his gratitude to Mr John Stewart for his continuing work in ensuring the Manse was ready for occupancy.
- Mrs Jane Hunter informed Elders that Burns' Supper would take place on 7th February 2020 and that all the speakers had now been identified. The Moderator thanked Jane and her team of helpers for all their efforts.
- The Treasurer gave the Finance Report for the 9-month period to 30th September 2019. Overall total income was £5,400 less than budget. Income from congregational offerings on a strict like for like basis continued to lag behind last year's figures by around 6.8%. Open Plate offerings were down by nearly 9%, Free Will offerings were down by 11% and offerings donated through Gift Aid were down by just under 3%. The value of the Church's Investment portfolio was up by just over £40,000. Total cash balances within the main Church bank accounts and the Church of Scotland Deposit Account were up by just over £7,000 against the actual figures at 31st December 2018. The General Fund was showing a deficit of just over £10,000, which was some £3,000 worse than budget at the end of the 3rd quarter.
- Mrs Helen Greig reported that an all-age Service would take place on 3rd November. An all-age Nativity Service was being planned and it was intended to hold a 'Round Cumbrae' family event following the summer Holiday Club. A Christingle Service was being planned for Lochside and volunteers at Lochside were planning a Boxing Day Lunch for local people with food being funded by the Church. The Moderator commented positively on the wide range of activities being planned and praised the work being done by Mrs Greig and the members of her Committee.

- It was agreed that ‘The Night Before Christmas’ project to provide gifts for those in need at Christmas should be supported.
- Mrs Bartholomew emphasised to Elders that it was the responsibility of each Team member to organise cover when they were not available for duty and to inform their Team Leader of the arrangement made.
- Mr Keith Fullerton, informed members that Mrs Susan Mills, Miss Hope Cousins and Miss Jennifer Lawrie had joined the Committee. Seven new children were attending ‘St Columba Kids’. The Family Breakfast on 1st September had been successful and will be repeated at the start of each term. The Youth Group for secondary aged youngsters had attracted three or four members.

Tribute to the Very Revd Dr David Lacy, Interim Moderator: The Clerk paid fitting tribute to the Interim Moderator who was moderating his last meeting of the Kirk Session at Ayr St Columba Church. On behalf of the Kirk Session, the Clerk said that Dr Lacy’s outgoing character in the past seven months had kept everyone in an optimistic and cheerful state of mind. His willingness to help whenever asked had been very much appreciated and it had ensured that we had benefitted fully from his extensive experience. Dr Lacy’s determination to keep things moving had been a significant factor in our search and in keeping the length of the Vacancy as short as possible. There was no doubt that his input to the life of the Church had been very positive indeed. The Clerk thanked Dr Lacy for all he had done and offered him the very best wishes of members of Session for the future. He said that Dr Lacy would always be regarded as a true friend of Ayr St Columba Church. The Moderator thanked the Clerk and members of Session for the sentiments which had been expressed and said that it had been a great privilege to have served as Interim Moderator at this Church. He praised the work of the Clerk and that of the Church Secretary. He thanked the members of the Nominating Committee and the many members whose work had made his job so straightforward. He said that he was very grateful for all the support he had received, which, he emphasised, was far greater than he had experienced in any other Church.

- Presbytery had noted the Safeguarding Committee report to the General Assembly 2019 included the deliverance to instruct Kirk Sessions to conduct Basic Disclosure checks on all individuals in their congregations in leadership roles and positions of trust, including but not limited to organists, church officers, caretakers and cafe workers, where their duties may involve contact with vulnerable groups as referred to in the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007.
- Presbytery had noted the recent inspections of the manses of Ayr: St Columba Parish Church and Ayr: Newton Wallacetown Parish Church. Both manses are fit for habitation but further inspections will be carried out on completion of the defects identified in the inspection reports.
- Ayr St Columba Ministries and Mission Contributions for 2019 are £158,927 and are proposed to be increased to £159,826 for 2020.
- The Church of Scotland had announced the appointment of Mr Dave Kendall BSc, FRSC, an elder at West Kirk East Kilbride, as their first Chief Officer. He will have

overall executive responsibility for the Trustees' employees and budgets, and will take forward the organisational implementation of the vision and strategy of the General Assembly for a leaner and fitter Church.

- The Clerk was very pleased to inform members of the Kirk Session that the Nominating Committee had chosen a Sole Nominee for the position of Minister at Ayr St Columba Church. The Sole Nominee was the Revd Dr Scott McKenna, currently Minister at Mayfield Salisbury Parish Church in Edinburgh. Appropriate Edicts had been read out and Dr McKenna would preach for the charge on Sunday, 15th September, at 10.30am.
- The Clerk expressed his thanks to the Interim Moderator Dr Lacy, to the Committee Clerk, Irene, and to the members of the Nominating Committee for all their hard work. He said that it was a real privilege to witness the positive commitment of everyone involved and also the determination to find the right person to take the Church forward. Whether agreeing or disagreeing there had been a true sense of purpose throughout the seven months and the harmonious nature of the meetings had allowed everyone to contribute and to give their opinion without any sense of trepidation. The Committee had been truly representative of our Congregation and the decision taken had been unanimous.
- During the Vacancy, a neighbour of the Manse had taken the opportunity to unlawfully cut sections off some trees in the Manse garden. A lawyer's letter had been sent to them indicating our displeasure and making it clear that this must not happen again. The Clerk thanked Graeme McKinstry and his Company for dealing with this matter on behalf of the Church. No legal fees had been charged and the Clerk was extremely grateful for Graeme's advice, generosity and support.
- It was agreed that the monies collected in the Harvest Offerings this year would be split equally between the Foodbank in Ayr and Mary's Meals.
- Mrs Bartholomew said that many Duty Teams were working without a full complement and this problem was exacerbated when members did not attend and did not organise cover or swaps. She said that it was unfair to expect teams to function without all possible members on duty.
- The Treasurer reported on financial matters for the eight-month period to the end of August. He expressed his thanks to Margaret Doncaster and Tony Greig for providing their analyses promptly.

Summary of Overall Financial Position of the General Fund as at 31st August 2019:

- Investment portfolio value was up over the 8-month period by £38,000, having fully recouped the significant unrealised loss sustained in 2018.
- Total cash balances within the main Church bank accounts and the Church of Scotland Deposit Account were up by just under £17,000 against the actual figures at 31st December 2018.
- The profit statement of the General Fund showed that the Church was largely operating within the Budget set by Session in March.

- The only area of financial concern at the moment was the fall in the level of congregational offerings against the similar period last year. Session had budgeted for a fall of 3% against last year, but offerings were currently running at 7.2% lower than last year over the eight-month period.

An extraordinary meeting of the Kirk Session, chaired by the Interim Moderator, The Very Revd Dr David Lacy, was held on 15th September 2019. A summary of issue discussed at this meeting is given below:

Election of Minister

After the Revd Dr Scott McKenna had preached for the charge and the subsequent voting procedure had taken place, the Kirk Session met in the Church Sanctuary. Ballot boxes containing the voting papers used in the election were opened. The votes were counted in the presence of the Kirk Session.

The Moderator declared the results of the voting for the election and appointment of a minister to the vacant charge of Ayr St Columba Church to be as follows. For electing Revd Dr Scott McKenna: 333; Against electing Revd Dr Scott McKenna: 9

Therefore, Revd Dr Scott McKenna had accordingly been elected and appointed as the new minister subject to the approval of Presbytery.

The Moderator thanked Mrs Irene Bartholomew for her work in organising the voting procedure and all those who had helped on the day.

R A Bartholomew

Session Clerk

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE CONGREGATION

Trustees' meeting

will be held in the church on

Tuesday, February 25 at 7pm

Stated Annual Meeting of Ayr St Columba

will be held in the church on

Tuesday, March 3 at 7pm

Join in a great day out

The Worship Mission and Outreach committee are proposing to organise a church family outing to Millport (more properly Great Cumbrae) on Saturday 25th July 2020.

Depending on interest, it could go something like this:

A coach would take us across to Cumbrae to arrive late morning. Those with their own bikes could travel in a group by train.

There would be a picnic lunch at the swing park. The congregation in Millport have kindly agreed that we can use their premises if the weather is unkind! Some of them hope to join us.

Those interested in walking may form a group to walk round the north of the island from the ferry (between 5&6 miles) to meet us for the picnic.

Mapes Cycle Hire offer a special Round the Island rate of £5 with a 10% discount for groups of 15 and over. The island is just over 11 miles round.

For those preferring a more lazy day, there are plenty of tea rooms and cafes including the Garrison and the Ritz, and a number of small shops.

There are trampolines and crazy golf, and of course the famous Crocodile Rock.

If you are interested in joining us please tick the appropriate boxes and return to the church office ASAP so that we may finalise details such as booking the coach.

CUMBRAE TRIP

- ☐ I/we are interested in joining the trip to Cumbrae.
- ☐ I/we would like to travel by coach.
- ☐ I/we would make our own way there.
- ☐ I/we would like to join a walking group.
- ☐ I/we would like to hire a bike (please give numbers)

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

THE GUILD

“Whose we are and Whom we serve”

Another year has almost ended as we look forward to 2020 so on behalf of Dorothy and the Committee, together with members of the Guild, we wish you a happy and healthy New Year.

I would like again to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the Congregation who supported our Christmas Coffee Morning, the donations of baking, goods for sale at our stalls and also for coming along to enjoy the friendship and fellowship. We also thank the Revd Scott and his wife Shelagh for their support and we hope they too enjoyed their first Guild Coffee Morning.

I am delighted to let you know that we were able to raise the amazing sum of £1910. This has enabled us to send a generous cheque to The Guild Office in Edinburgh 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 **Monday, 6 January at 7.30 p.m.** and we welcome Bob Johnstone, RNLI (Troon) – and thereafter

Monday, 20 January at 7.30 p.m. Burns’ Evening

**Ronnie Breingan
Robert Burns and Money
Followed by a light supper**

Monday, 3 February at 2 p.m.

**Rachel Hynes
Singing as Therapy
Music Transcends All**

Monday, 17 February at 7.30 p.m.

**Denise Loch
Call the Midwife**

Monday, 2 March at 2 p.m.

**Daffodil Tea
Loudon Friends**

Monday, 16 March at 7.15 p.m.

**AGM followed by
Revd Scott Cameron
New Hymns – Old Tunes**

Please do come along and join us if any of the above meetings are of interest to you – everyone can be assured of a warm welcome.

I look forward to seeing everyone on Monday, January 6, 2020 at 7.30 p.m.

Maureen Fullerton
Secretary

Great fun at the Seniors' Christmas Party

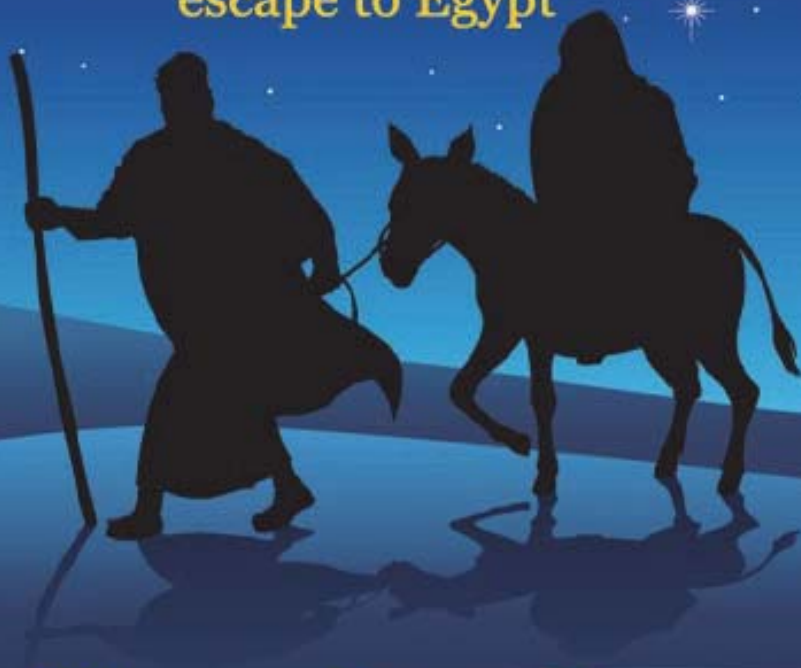


Messy January
4.00pm - 6.00pm

Saturday 25 January

**Come and hear the next part of the
Christmas Story**

**Mary, Joseph and Jesus
escape to Egypt**



All the usual fun and games

Note of Ayr Presbytery Meeting

held on 3 December 2019 within Carrick Centre, Maybole

Letter of Demission: Presbytery noted that the Rev Dr Robert Pickles, Minister at Crosshill linked with Maybole will be leaving his Charge for Langholm Eskdalemuir, Ewes and Westerkirk.

Presbytery Moderator: Presbytery appointed the Rev David Prentice - Hyers, Minister of Troon: Old to be Moderator of the Presbytery of Ayr beginning 16 June 2020.

Property Inspection Levy 2020: Presbytery approved the proposed levy charges for 2020 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 linkage.

Discretionary Allowance Committee: Presbytery agreed the following reduction in Ministry and Mission contributions:

Dundonald - £10,000 - promote mission outreach and improve church social media technology

Dalmellington and Patna Waterside - £6,700 - reclaim of travel expenses

Ayr Presbytery Malawi Committee - £6,000 - support Malawi visit in May 2020

Crosshill linked with Maybole - £6,000 - annual assistance with costs to Maybole

New Cumnock - £6,000 - ongoing fabric maintenance

Ochiltree and Stair - £6,000 - manse emergency (£2K) and after school (£4K)

Prestwick Kingcase - £5,000 - urgent replacement of two boilers

Ayr Newton Wallacetown - £3,000 - promote room/ sixty project

Troon:Portland - £2,500 - promote mission outreach

Girvan North - £1,000 - assistance with Locum's travel costs

Architectural Quinquennial Visitations: Presbytery noted the provisional list of Architectural Quinquennial Visitations to eight Charges including Ayr St Columba in 2020.

Presbytery Budget: Presbytery approved the budget for the year ending 31 December 2020 which will entail a Congregational assessment of £1.1312 per £100 of average annual Christian Liberality. The assessments will be transmitted to Congregational Treasurers shortly.

Coping for Creation: Presbytery noted with concern the current shortfall in expectations regarding climate agreements and call on Scottish and UK governments to make the rapid transition to a low carbon economy a priority.

Congregations are urged to actively consider what transformative actions they can take to help the transition to a low carbon economy in their lives, their finances, communities and worship.

Three Presbyteries: Presbytery resolved to engage with the Presbyteries of Ardrossan and Irvine and Kilmarnock with a view of achieving the Union of the Presbyteries of Ardrossan, Ayr and Irvine and Kilmarnock.

George Park

Presbytery Elder

CHURCH SUPPORT OF YOUNG FAMILIES

Karen has two young children and goes to a weekly Toddler Group run by her local church. She says, 'I've lived here for most of my life and never really felt part of the community until coming to this group. It's very friendly and welcoming here, with a nice atmosphere. I have made good friends and value the support and encouragement I get.'

Susanne says, 'Going to the local Toddler Group is an opportunity to get out of the house, meet others and have a hot drink. It is also a link to the church and an opportunity to ask questions and explore things spiritually.'

What are the issues faced by young families in your area? What provision and support is available to them? Engaging with families and children in their earliest years is a significant response to local need. 52% of the UK's under-5s attend a church-based toddler group. Toddler groups strengthen and support parents to care for their children. Adults and children stay together as they take part in a range of play, music, story and craft activities and parenting support and relationships are built.

Parenting young children can be an exhausting and isolating time; greater numbers of young families may have no family support nearby and mental illness among parents of young children is increasing. Support and unconditional friendship and a safe place to go with their children can provide a lifeline. This is all the more needed following reductions in local authority provision.

Churches that have an outward focus and make connections with needs in their community make a significant impact on the lives of many individuals but also see the life and service of their church growing and deepening. Through understanding and responding to the needs of young families through intentional loving, sharing, praying, and serving, these groups can have a great impact on the lives of both parents and children. The toddler group may be a person's first contact with a church or a place where they might reconnect with church, leading on to deeper connections with faith and the church: baptism, Messy Church, bible studies, parenting and marriage courses, foodbank provision, etc.

There is a direct connection between the experiences of early childhood and subsequent adult flourishing. Where children have a good foundation in their early years, building roots of security, identity and wellbeing, educational attainment and even brain development is strengthened and improved. The single most important factor influencing a child's intellectual and social development is the quality of parenting and care they receive. It is very encouraging to see what a contribution churches are making to support parents and young children through their support of families and young children.

Visit www.churchofscotland.org.uk for more information and ideas about church work with toddler groups.

Mission & Discipleship - Congregational Learning Team

TRIBUTE TO MABEL MATTHEWS WIFE OF REVD JOHN MATTHEWS WHO DIED ON 15TH NOVEMBER, 2019

As I was saying at the beginning Mabel was one of the loveliest, most gracious, generous, self-effacing persons one could ever meet. She was full of grace, and gentleness. She had a deep, intense, fulfilling faith and did her uttermost to live the life that Jesus commanded her - all without reserve and thought for herself. She was both an example and inspiration to us all.

She was born in April 1941 in Kelvinside Gdns - she had one brother ROY. Her mum and dad, Edna and James, moved to Battlefield where Mabel attended Primary School - that is where her daughter Linsey now teaches. Her secondary education was at Queen's Park. She always wanted to be a nurse and after an interview when she had to justify these feelings, she was accepted for training in the Southern General hospital in Glasgow. After qualifying as a Registered General Nurse, she went on to midwifery training at the Maternity Unit in Bellshill. Her ultimate goal, however, was to be a District Nurse, and she qualified to be a Queens Nurse in Edinburgh. She was a District Nurse first of all in East Kilbride and then became a District Nurse Midwife in Bishopbriggs. She was a great nurse - one who inspired confidence in her patients, who was very professional but kindly at the same time. All her patients loved her. She would go out at all times of the day and night, if someone needed her. There is a lovely story told about one of her home deliveries. The mother was so impressed with Mabel that she said, "I would like to call my baby after you. What is your name?" When Mabel told her, the mother's response was, "Well, maybe not"

She met John at the Apostolic Church which they both attended. As John said "I took a turn for a nurse, not a turn for the worse" It must have been the best thing he ever did in his life. But I have got to tell to this story. John asked her out for the first date. She thought he might be taking her out for something to eat. No chance - he didn't buy her anything, and her only meal that night was a Kit-Kat she had in her pocket. However, John, the last of the big spenders, asked her out the following week - He was nervous and so was she and she thought he might stretch to a fish supper, but no. On this occasion only the best was good enough for Mabel, so he took her to the Berkely which in those days was one of the best hotels in Glasgow. He fully redeemed himself. They were married on 26th October 1966 - you know, it was on the 26th October this year that Mabel was admitted to Ayr hospital where she sadly passed away.

It would be true to say that they were utterly devoted to one another. Not only were they husband and wife, but they were best friends. They would have been 53 years together and their married life began in Duntocher. It was there that two of their children were born, Lindsay and Kenneth. John's business took him to work in Swindon - where Stuart was born - I think it was Linsey who said, "He is the only Englishman in the family" John's career took them to Harpendon before the return North to Glasgow to Trinity College and training for the ministry of the Church of Scotland. Mabel was a fantastic wife and mother, and Grandmother, and when Linsey married Dave, and Kenneth, Fiona, and Stuart Lindsay, the grandchildren arrived on the scene. JOSHUA - Lucy, JAMIE and Kate, and Finley, Rachael and Ben her family was complete. She loved them all to the uttermost. You know she even delighted in doing the washing for the family when they were at University - she saw it as an affirmation of her motherhood. I wonder how many mothers are like that. You know

during the September weekend just passed, the family spent a lovely time together in York - that was a very precious and unforgettable time for them all.

I said she loved her family to the uttermost - she also loved her Lord in the same way. You know the Cross has two dimension, the vertical and the horizontal -the vertical, our relationship with God, and his son Jesus, and the other our relationship with our fellow man. Mabel fulfilled both these dimensions in a way that was almost inspirational. She never thought of herself - only of what she could do for God and her fellow human beings. The call came to John to serve in Ruchill in North Glasgow, and there Mabel quite naturally became central to the congregational life of a Priority Area Parish. They were exciting times and Mabel threw herself into helping others, and not just from the congregation, but others as well. Over a period, she entertained the whole congregation - 350 souls and some of their friends and relatives as well, in the Manse. The Manse became a hostel where Mabel exercised a ministry of love. She fed, watered and comforted countless people. She became in effect a surrogate mother to the many who lived with the family for periods of time. And during all of this Mabel managed to fit in volunteer work with Tearfund and that took her to Bangladesh and Thailand in her promotion of Fairtrade. And while all of this was going on, Mabel was blessed with her 7 wonderful grandchildren which she looked after, played with, read with, baked with and laughed with. And after 20 years of fruitful ministry Mabel and John retired to Ayr. John said "We were like sticky stamps - always together. She loved this church, and the many friends she made here and was really sorry not to have been able to be at the induction of Scott, our new minister. She found within these walls a wonderful church family. She again touched lives here, within this congregation, and beyond. Throughout her life it was always about caring for people - her kindness shone through. She had an ability to listen to people that made them feel able to unburden, and her listening was always unhurried and without judgement. She offered unconditional welcome and was unfazed by all the challenges and situations that she found herself in. She had a steely core, a great inner strength which came from her deep faith. She was modest, tender-hearted, kindly, understated and unassuming, and had a lovely smile and sense of humour. I will never forget visiting her - she emanated goodness, loveliness and a strong faith. When she was in hospital she had her daily reading notes which the family read to her when she was unable to do it herself. and when they finished she would say in a quiet voice, "Lovely". She was as Kenneth said, "Full of faith"

From the Order of Service you can see the poem by Tennyson. As the sun set through the window of Mabel's hospital room, the family read the poem and contemplated its meaning. Surely the words of Jesus apply to Mabel, "Well done, good and faithful servant"

We shall never forget her.

Revd David Ness

COLUMBA NEWS COPY DEADLINE

Please note the deadline for the April edition will be

SUNDAY, MARCH 22nd

Norman Reid, *Editor*

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ASSEMBLY
SUPPLEMENT

WINTER 2019

FREE

LIFE AND WORK

THE MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

STRUCTURAL CHANGE AGREED

- Ministries Council and Mission and Discipleship Council to be merged into Faith Nurture Forum
- Church and Society Council and World Mission Council to be merged into Faith Impact Forum
- New agencies will have 15 members each, serving three years
- Work to be overseen by small implementation groups, with authority delegated to staff to 'get on with the work'
- Detailed remits to be discussed and presented to General Assembly in 2020, with some areas of work to be devolved to new presbyteries and others discontinued
- Ecumenical Relations Committee and Theological Forum will sit within Faith Nurture and interfaith work within Faith Impact, but each will report separately to the General Assembly
- The Forums and Assembly Trustees will hold joint meetings at least twice a year to share work and learn from each other
- Fewer meetings and better use of technology predicted to save £60-70,000 a year



Thomas Baldwin reports on the changes to the Church of Scotland central structures which were agreed at a Commission of Assembly on November 21.

A MAJOR reorganisation of the central structures of the Church of Scotland will take effect from the New Year.

A Commission of Assembly held in Edinburgh on November 21 approved the thanking and discharging of the Ministries, Mission and Discipleship, Church and Society and World Mission Councils, with their work to be combined into two new agencies on January 1.

The replacement bodies have the working titles **Faith Nurture Forum** (combining the work of the Ministries and Mission and Discipleship) and the **Faith Impact Forum** (Church and Society and World Mission).

At governance level, the forums will consist of 15 members each, including a convener and vice-convener, who will serve for three years. Individual areas of work will be looked after by small implementation groups (which could include staff).

The staff of the four councils will initially be transferred into the new groups, pending in-depth discussions about the remits and work of the forums.

These discussions will be held in the early months of 2020 and recommendations made to the General Assembly in May. They will include assessments of which work should continue, which should be devolved to the new, larger presbyteries (when they have gone through their own reforms) and which can be discontinued, in the context of the target of reducing the cost of the central administration by 20-30%.

Presenting the proposals to the Commission of Assembly (a body consisting of about 10% of the last General Assembly), the Convener of the Assembly Trustees, the Very Rev Dr John Chalmers, said that 'the overall priority is that the centre must serve the local'.

He said that the reforms were 'the foundational layer of a new way of governing and a new way of working': 'One which leaves managers to manage, one which empowers staff to do what they

are good at without having to hold a meeting every time they want to sneeze. And one that encourages the development of cross-departmental teams where no-one belongs to an independent silo, where everyone belongs in a unified workforce supporting one another in delivering the work they have been invited to deliver by the General Assembly.

'We believe 15 is a sufficient number to ensure oversight of the responsibilities that will fall to these bodies, and we understand that with a proper cycle of meetings and good use of electronic decision making, savings of something like £60-70,000 per year could be made in this area of the church's work alone. That might be the salaries with on costs of two members of staff.

'The work of these forums will be done by small implementation groups. For the purposes of good governance, one forum member will be allocated to each implementation group, but we expect that at this level of the operation staff will have authority under a scheme of delegation to make decisions, fulfil remits and get on with the work.'

He said that the names of the Forums were felt to be 'dynamic as well as descriptive': 'Faith Nurture was the idea of taking us into the heart of God, and Faith Impact was about the idea of taking us out into the heart of the world where our faith makes a difference.'

However, he emphasised that they were working titles and 'the least important part of this report'. An attempt to put forward alternative names during the Commission of Assembly was rejected.

Another part of the proposals is that at least twice a year the two forums, along with the Assembly Trustees and other groups, will meet in the same place and share their work, in a further effort to encourage co-operation and discourage working in separate silos.

The Ministries and World Mission Councils will remain in existence as constituent committees of the new

agencies, for the purposes of acting as the statutory employers in terms of the Church's pension schemes for their staff. Dr Chalmers said: 'This is not a legal fiction but a significant responsibility which will have to be carried out by those members of the forums appointed to these subcommittees.'

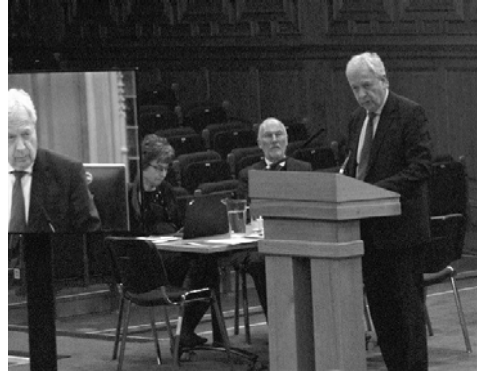
Of the 'crossover' bodies that don't currently belong to any of the existing councils, Ecumenical Relations and the Theological Forum will sit within the management structure of the Faith Nurture Forum, and interfaith work within the Faith Impact Forum. However, they will continue to report independently to the General Assembly.

Dr Chalmers said that this had been a much-discussed issue among the Trustees. 'We are quite clear this is not about administrative convenience. It is an attempt to be more strategic about this than in the past.

'In no way does this exclude (Ecumenical Relations, interfaith or the Theological Forum) from being engaged in wider work that might come under the department of the General Assembly, or because the Moderator or Principal Clerk or others require their input.'

The move from four councils to two forums is the first significant reorganisation of the central administration since the councils were created in 2006. It represents the next step in the reforms agreed by the 2019 General Assembly, which has already seen the Council of Assembly replaced by the Assembly Trustees; and the appointment of Dave Kendall as the Church's first chief officer.

Next steps for the Assembly Trustees include the establishment of a £25m Growth Fund to resource projects aimed at church growth; continuing conversations with the Social Care Council about how it can become more financially viable; the establishment of a research and analysis unit which will inform Church vision and strategy; and progress on deciding the future of the church offices at 121 George



Street.

Presbytery reform is also gathering pace, with the aim of reducing the number of Scottish presbyteries to 12 (from the current 43). While discussions are at different stages in different parts of the country, some of the proposed mergers are expected to be ready to be legally approved by the General Assembly of 2020.

However, Dr Chalmers cautioned that all the reforms 'may all be for nothing' unless they are accompanied by culture change in the Church of Scotland. He said: "We can engineer yet another restructuring of the central administration, and this time we might actually manage the reorganisation of presbyteries. But if we do not change the way we think of our colleagues, or learn to speak well of our brothers and sisters in Christ – even those we disagree with – it may all be for nothing.

"Ours is a culture that needs to change. It has been said many times that culture can eat strategy; and, in the history of our Church, culture has had many a hearty breakfast.

"We have to understand and embrace the fact that change may be the only constant. And as we've crept closer to this first and very modest change in our culture, it has become increasingly clear that while everyone wants change, mostly people want change on their own terms. "Each of us, in fact, has to be the change we want to see in our Church."

The deliverance from the Assembly Trustees was passed as proposed, apart from technical amendments. An amendment from the Rev Hugh Conkey sought to remove a rule that bars employees of the church from being forum members, as that would exclude Associate Ministers and other ministers who are employees (as opposed to parish ministers, who are legally office bearers rather than employees, and will be eligible for forum membership). However it failed to gain support after Dr Chalmers said the exclusion of employees was important to prevent conflicts of interest.

Elder Jo Elliot brought a motion calling for clarification of the roles and responsibilities of the Assembly Trustees, chief

officer and forum conveners and members in directing staff. Dr Chalmers said that he wasn't against clarity in principle, but that the Trustees shouldn't be given another piece of work at this stage of the year and that in any case the issue would come up in the discussions about the new structure.

The Rev Scott Rennie spoke in favour of devolving as much resource as possible to the new presbyteries, in order to meet the demand for training and vocations work locally. He said: "We should only keep centrally what has to be done centrally."

Dr Chalmers replied: "I couldn't agree more."

The Nomination Committee has been instructed to make appointments of interim conveners, vice-conveners and members of the new Forums, to sit until the General Assembly of 2020.

The Assembly Trustees' report and Dr Chalmers' speech to the Commission of Assembly are available at <https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/about-us/general-assembly/commission-of-assembly-2019> ■

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‘A JOURNEY OF SIGNIFICANT CHANGE’

Convener of the Assembly Trustees, the Very Rev Dr John Chalmers, explains the background to the Commission of Assembly – and the report brought by the Trustees.

WHEN a Commission of Assembly meets it can only deal with the specific matters for which it has been called.

In this case the Commission met to deal with the “merger” of four Councils into two new agencies. This was the part of the Report of the Special Commission on Structural Reform which was to be implemented by January 1 2020, accepted by the General Assembly of 2019.

Many other important matters relating to the identification of the Church’s priorities are under continued consideration and these will form a major part of the report of the Assembly Trustees to the General Assembly in May 2020.

On November 21, the trustees reported to the Commission of Assembly on how these mergers would work out in practice.

The bare bones of the recommendations were:

- Current members of the Mission and Discipleship and Ministries Council should be thanked and discharged - because the work that they are currently responsible for will be merged and governed by a single agency, which, for the time being, has the working title of the **Faith Nurture Forum**.
- Current members of the Church and Society Council and the World Mission Council should be thanked and discharged - because the work that they are currently responsible for will be merged and governed by another single agency, which, for the time being, has the working title of the **Faith Impact Forum**.

In presenting the report, the Trustees adopted working titles to emphasise the organic nature of these two new bodies.

Faith Nurture takes us into the heart of God and **Faith Impact** takes us into the

heart of the world. But the names of these agencies are the least important part of this report - the focus of the Trustees is on the new way of working which becomes possible because of this realignment.

As the work of the Forums evolves, new titles may emerge; but the work for which they are responsible will be delivered more efficiently, with fewer meetings and more responsibility given to members of staff who will be empowered as never before to deliver work around agreed aims and priorities.

It is proposed that these Forums will have a total of 15 members each – a Convener, a Vice-Convener and 13 ordinary members. Members would have a three year term of office with the possibility of serving for a total of six years.

While the Forums, together with the Assembly Trustees, will make recommendations on policy and set priorities, the work for which they are responsible will be done by small Implementation Groups. A Forum Member will be allocated to each Implementation Group, but, at this level of the operation, staff will have authority, under a scheme of delegation, to make decisions, fulfil remits and get on with the work. This is a new way of working and it will take time for both staff and Forum members to get used to this.

The Report also made recommendations on the future management of some other areas of the Church’s central administration with the Ecumenical Relations Committee and the Theological Forum sitting within Faith Nurture and Interfaith within Faith Impact. A proposed new Growth Fund and Research Unit will sit under the management of the Assembly Trustees.

Except for the dramatic decrease in the size of these central agencies (which was called for by the 2019 General Assembly) these are modest proposals. It is made



clear in the report that as we move forward to the General Assembly of 2020 the Trustees will begin work on more detailed remits and **will review all areas of work and give consideration as to how these might best be managed, devolved or discontinued**. This is the work that will lead to the identification of our core priorities, which in turn will impact on budget allocation and staffing levels.

These proposals also flagged up the need to ensure that the work of restructuring Presbyteries is being properly resourced. Presbytery restructuring is perhaps the most vital element of a new way of working for the whole Church and the Office of the General Assembly, which is leading on this work needs to be appropriately funded and staffed.

Finally, a reduction from four agencies to two is not a licence to work in two silos instead of four. The proposals contained recommendations on a new way of meeting so that at least twice a year these Forums and the Trustees along with Ecumenical Relations and the Theological Forum will meet on the same day sharing their work and learning from one another.

These are the first tentative steps on a journey of significant change but the Assembly Trustees are glad that the Commission shared the same sense of urgency and hopefulness which was expressed so clearly at the General Assembly earlier this year. ■

TRIBUTE TO JIM KANE

ORDAINED ELDER - DIED 10TH NOVEMBER, 2019

Jim was a native of Hamilton – only child of David and Tina Kane. His schooling was at St John's Grammar and then Hamilton Academy. Studying was never his forte, but trying to play football was. This resulted in his absence from quite a few classes – some authorized and some not. He regularly collected some of the blaze from the pitch embedded in his knee.

He left school with enough Highers to go to Glasgow University, where he began to study Mechanical Engineering. However during his first vacation, he worked in a factory and hated being indoors, so he changed course for a more outdoor pursuit and graduated as a Civil Engineer. I have got to say that it was thanks to Dorothy who helped him get through the Maths section of the course that he made it. He actually became a Fellow of the Institute of Civil Engineers.

He began work with Ayrshire County Council. The Kilmarnock bypass was one of his projects. You know there is a bridge there that the family have to salute every time they go under it. When Strathclyde was formed he worked on projects in Motherwell, Glasgow and Cumnock. He was the boss of the Cumnock bypass. He had some interesting negotiations with some of the Landed Gentry in that area, "I don't want my view to be spoiled by your bypass" I would have loved to have eavesdropped on some of these negotiations especially his replies.

When Strathclyde was disbanded he moved to East Ayrshire Council as Chief Engineer and became Head of Roads, and Master of Potholes. Jim was a firm but fair boss. Only the best was good enough for him and he expected that from both his employees and contractors. As we know he did not suffer fools gladly, but was greatly loved and highly respected by all he came into contact with. He always referred to himself as a "Muddy Boots man"

When he retired the article in the paper was entitled "King of the Roads" He actually retired when only 61 – Dorothy made him do so, because she was retiring at that time and threatened to go away on holiday on her own if he was still working. What worried him most was not her going away, but the fact that he might starve without her there to cook his meals. He might have been a brilliant Civil Engineer, but cooking meals was not one of his strong points. So in the interests of avoiding starvation, he decided to take early retirement.

Jim was a real Bluenose – at one time Rangers could do no wrong, although that did change. I wonder why. He has often been overheard offering the referee and the players advice while watching a game. He loved to come to the Oasis Café here in the church and discuss the merits of the referee and players at the last game with an equally passionate supporter of his favorite team. He even enjoyed going to Murrayfield with his best friend Lindsay – a friend he had from his school days. Again the referee was offered words of advice as well as some of the players in the Scottish Team.

Dorothy – what can we say about Dorothy? She was also at Hamilton Academy but she was a diligent student. Hamilton at that time was famous for its Jazz Dance in the Town Hall. Obviously they knew one another and met there. I asked what was her first date - Hairmyres Hospital. It was supposed to be the cinema, but Jim had ended up in hospital getting the blaze removed from his knees.

Anyway, love blossomed and they were engaged five years later, and after a couple of years were married in Lesmahagow Parish Church on 12th July, 1972. Honeymoon was St Annes, which is near Blackpool and they set up home in Coylton and have been there ever since. It would be absolutely true to say they were utterly devoted to one another.

In the fullness of time Allan arrived on the scene and when he married Louise and the grandchildren came along, Isla and Fraser his family was complete. He loved them all to the uttermost. He was a terrific husband, father, father-in-law and grandfather. The grandchildren were the apple of his eye – he got down to their level. He loved playing with them and they had a fabulous time with him. He enjoyed every minute of it. The family meant the world to him and he was at his happiest when they were around. Anything the grandchildren wanted, they got.

Jim was a keen churchgoer – seldom absent from his pew. He became an elder in Coylton Church and then here in St Columba. He was a diligent and committed elder, served in Committees, and extremely popular with all. We shall miss that wonderful smile he had. He was a regular at Oasis where he greatly loved the potato scones, which were on offer and greatly appreciated the support, love and kindness shown to him by his friends and fellow church members especially latterly when not so well.

He enjoyed hill walking, especially the thirst quenching at the end of the walk., - a pint was his favourite tippie, but it was really the whole social aspect of it. The garden took up a lot of his time especially his son Allan's garden. He loved DIY and was really good at it – he applied the same standards to that as he did to his work. Crosswords, especially the Herald one he enjoyed, and the Clouty Dumpling one. - and Jigsaws – in fact he has a thousand piece one in progress. He also loved travelling and holidays.

You know he hated going on ships until he had to cross the North Sea. Someone told him that the cure for seasickness was bananas. So before sailing he was seen devouring a number of them. It didn't cure seasickness but it did have other effects. After that, believe it or not, he became converted to cruises and he and Dorothy embarked upon 10 or 11 of them – to the Med, Baltic the Fjords and other interesting destinations. He loved being in the sun. Another of his activities, albeit when younger was jogging and running ½ marathons.

As we know Jim took ill some time ago, but he was never one to give up. He fought his illness with a determination and spirit that in many ways was an example to us all. He always tried to make the best of things and was positive throughout. He had a wonderful personality- was great fun. Life was never dull in his company. He was a larger than life character and was exceedingly popular with many, many friends. He used to meet some of his former workmates in the Kylestrome hotel for lunch. They called themselves the Institute of Decrepit Engineers.

He loved a laugh and was generous almost to a fault. He was a great raconteur and we all loved being in his company. He was a tremendous character and personality. – a true friend and one who would never let you down. – who would do anything for you.

He will be missed – greatly missed, We shall miss him, but we shall never ever forget him. His suffering is now over and he is with his Lord, who will keep him safe in the arms of His love forever more.

Revd David Ness

LIFE AND WORK

JANUARY 2020

SRT Milestone

The past and future of the Church of Scotland Science, Religion and Technology Project, which marks its 50th anniversary this year

50 Years on from Biafra

Jackie Macadam learns about the key role played by the Church in the short-lived African republic.

'We Have a Huge Role to Play'

Introducing the new Chief Officer of the Church of Scotland

Archbishop of York Interview

John Sentamu discusses his new book, social justice, and his love for Scotland

A Unique Place

How recruitment to the Royal Naval Chaplaincy has changed

Remembrance 2019

A gallery of poppy displays from across Scotland

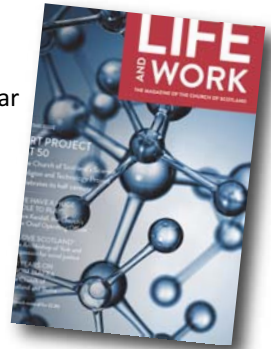
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Anyone wishing to take out an annual subscription for the first time, please contact me, either through the Church office or at my home address.

Hazel Steele (tel 861631)

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

JANUARY 2020

DEATHS

22nd October 2019 Mrs. Ann Ball, 9 Sycamore Crescent, Ayr
26th October 2019 Mr. Ian Hay, 8 Boutree Park, Ayr
27th October 2019 Mrs. Isabella McLean, 7 Blendon House, Bellevue Road, Ayr
8th November 2019 Mr. Tom Gilchrist, 67 Midton Road, Ayr
8th November 2019 Miss Catherine Banks, Redford Care Home, Ayr
10th November 2019 Mr. Jim Kane, 8 Meadow Park, Coylton
15th November 2019 Mrs. Mabel Matthews, 12 Arroll Drive, Ayr
6th December 2019 Mrs. Margaret Neill, 52 Obree Crescent, Prestwick

WEDDINGS

30 November 2019 Miss Aynsley Bell and Mr. George Robert Lawrence,
25 Finlas Avenue, Ayr

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REGULAR ACTIVITIES

MIDTON ROAD HALL

MONDAY

5.30 pm	Rainbow Brownies	Aynsley Bell	07914 842 118
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

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	442374
	9th Ayr Ranger Guides (every second Wednesday)	Susan Christie	442374

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
6.30 pm	Cub Scouts	Mr. D. Hope	263376
7.30 pm	Senior Choir	Church Office	269524

FRIDAY

10.00 am	Parent & Toddlers	Church Office	269524
6.00 pm	Beaver Scouts	Fiona Wilson	290414
7.30 pm	Scouts	Jereon Bolte	07511 489 755

SATURDAY

4.00 pm	Messy Church (last Saturday of the month)	Irene Bartholomew	269524
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