

Columba News

September
2021
No. 241



Harvest Thanksgiving



Harvest season approaches and allotment holders at Alloway's North Park have had a busy season over the past few months. See page 4

Waiting to welcome you

| Sundays | Team | Leader |
|--------------|--------|-------------------|
| September 12 | Team 1 | Dr H. Hunter |
| September 19 | Team 2 | Mr J. McConnachie |
| September 26 | Team 3 | Mrs M. Howie |
| October 3 | Team 4 | Mr I. McFadzean |
| October 10 | Team 5 | Mrs J. Murnin |
| October 17 | Team 6 | Mr M. Whiteford |
| October 24 | Team 7 | Mr N. Reid |
| October 31 | Team 8 | Mrs L. Sharp |

From the manse September 2021

Dear Friends,

It has been a real joy of late to welcome more and more people back to public worship on Sunday morning! Let us hope that this direction of travel continues. Life is definitely beginning to return to the church.

Alongside the challenges of COVID and lockdown, the Church of Scotland is about to embark on a substantial re-organisation. With falling membership and an aging demographic, the Kirk is requiring congregations across Scotland to plan for a reduction in ministers and churches. At the time of writing, no firm plans are in place: discussions at Presbytery level are ongoing.

In south Ayr, there are five Church of Scotland congregations. At this stage, the suggested plan (Plan A) is that our five congregations will evolve into two congregations over the coming years. St Columba will be grouped/united with the Auld Kirk and St Andrew's, while Castlehill will be grouped/united with St Leonard's. There has been no discussion about the use of the different buildings; we do not expect that to happen for quite some time, perhaps years. It is hoped that that discussion will evolve as the congregations evolve into their new grouping/union.

In Scotland and throughout western Europe, Christianity faces its most challenging days. The reasons for decline are complex and multi-faceted. In our scientific/materialist age, people make less and less recourse to God or a sense of the spiritual. To my mind, this situation is in part due to theology, thoughts about God, that has not kept pace with society's world-view.

In answer to the materialist mindset, the view that there is only the world of matter, I argue that we are creatures of consciousness. Our lives are about our thoughts, emotions, intuitions and relationships. We may have a growing understanding of the physical universe in which we live but we have almost no understanding about what goes on between our ears: in the mind, the consciousness or, dare I say, the soul. God, the Mystery, is the Consciousness of the universe.



In worship, I do my best to help us evolve and expand our understanding of what we mean when we use the word 'God'. Like the 'Big Bang', we do not know what lies behind the word 'God'. We are on a journey of discovery, an inner journey, a journey of the mind and soul. Whatever the future holds for the institutional church, the spiritual journey, expedition and exploration will continue.

Blessings and peace to you.

Scott

Revd Dr Scott S McKenna

At the time of writing, government restrictions on visiting homes have been eased. If you would like a visit from me or our Associate Minister, David Ness, please don't hesitate to be in touch. We will follow guidelines and visit you when we are permitted to do so. Simply call the manse (01292 226075) or email me (scottsmckenna@aol.com). David's telephone number is 01292 471625. The purpose of the visit may be a pastoral matter or simply an opportunity for a chat.

Harvest Thanksgiving Services

***will be held in the church
on Sunday, September 26
at the 10am and 11.15am services***

You will find a Harvest envelope delivered with this copy of Columba News which can be handed in with your donation to the church on any Sunday.



The Guild makes a return

At long last the committee of The Guild is delighted to announce that we are now allowed to meet in Fellowship again. It has been such a long time during which we have missed the company and the ability to chat, learn and worship together. Albeit there may be some slight changes to conform to safe procedures in the interim, it is wonderful that we can now convene as a Guild again and share each other's experiences as we "Go Forward in Faith" into the future.

The Guild will start again on Monday, 27th September, at 7.30 pm in St Columba Church Hall and you will be assured of a very warm welcome, even without a hug at present!!!!

Our Minister, Revd Dr Scott McKenna, is really looking forward to coming to the Guild on the opening night and he is also bringing along our Probationary Assistant, Gillean Richmond, so please give them a very warm welcome. They both have made everyone feel welcome on Sunday mornings in St. Columba, so now it's our turn to welcome them to The Guild.

On our starting night, masks are required until further notice but that will NOT inhibit the friendly banter which usually occurs at our meetings. We welcome our members back and also are delighted to welcome new members to The Guild. We will end our evening with a welcome cuppa which will be served by the Committee at the table.

Our meetings until December are as follows:-

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Monday, September 27, 7.30 pm | <i>Revd Dr Scott McKenna</i> Dedication of the Guild |
| Monday, October 11, 7.30 pm | <i>John Rattenbury</i> The Burrell |
| Monday, October 25, 2 pm | <i>Irene Bartholomew</i> Fun, Fitness and Friendship |
| Monday, November 8, 7.30 pm | <i>Revd Becky Haldane</i> Sailor's Society Men's Association visit |
| Monday, November 22, 7.30 pm | Social Evening |
| Monday, December 6, 2 pm | Christmas Tea, <i>True Colours</i> |

Maureen Fullarton, Secretary

Dorothy Bone, Convener

News from the Session Clerk

Rachel Hynes Now that congregational singing has resumed, it is a pleasure to record the exceptional part Rachel Hynes has played in our Sunday Services throughout the challenging months of restrictions. Her singing has been both excellent and inspiring, and it has been a crucial factor in enabling Ayr St Columba to provide a consistent, meaningful and enjoyable experience for all who have attended. Thank you very much Rachel.

Church Capacity Although the Scottish Government have now removed the legal distancing requirements for the Sanctuary, it has been decided to retain a distance of 1.6 metres between available pews for the time being. This will enable members to feel safe and comfortable inside the Church and family groups can, of course, sit together. Face coverings are still required, even when singing the Hymns, and all hygiene measures remain in place.

Organisations Meetings are now permitted to resume in the Church Hall and Rooms. It is good to see people, young and not so young, back enjoying good company and exciting activities. A Hall Lets meeting has been held to explain to all what is required to ensure that activities comply with regulations and are as safe as possible.

Test and Protect Although there is plenty of space in the Church for all who wish to attend and it is no longer necessary to book ahead to ensure a place, the Test and Protect programme of the Scottish Government requires us to keep a record of all who attend. Therefore, we encourage everyone to pre-book during the week so that they can go straight to a pew without having to join the queue to give their name and contact details.

Furloughs The furlough arrangements for all employees ceased on 1st September 2021.

Sunday School We are delighted to record that Sunday School resumed on 22nd August after the long, enforced closure. We send best wishes to Stuart and the teachers and to all the children for an enriching and enjoyable session.

First Service As has been agreed by the Kirk Session, a new format for the first Service has been introduced. The first 20 minutes is now family focused with children involved. The children then leave to attend Sunday School and the remainder of the Service is adult focused. The length of the Service is the same.

Monthly Email The Minister has sent out an email to all members who

have given us email addresses and he intends to do this each month in future. Members have agreed that this is a very worthwhile initiative.

Probationer Minister Gillean Richmond has made an excellent start to her Probationary placement with us and many positive comments have been made on her work. Gillean has indicated that she is grateful for the friendly welcome she had received and is looking forward to the rest of her time with us.

R A Bartholomew
Session Clerk

Happy retirement Susan



Guide leader Susan Christie enjoyed a retirement party and a 20 year service award to Guiding recently at the church hall.

Her husband and daughter organised a BBQ and cake to celebrate her 20th year in Guiding and the Commissioner Janis Meredith presented her with a 20 year award and badge.

Susan said: "It has been my honour to work beside some very committed volunteers and it has been my pleasure to meet some wonderful girls over the years."



Chat in the aisles



Sad times for our Guide company at the church. Due to lack of available adults to help Susan with the Guides she has made the very hard decision to call it a day and the Guide company will not reopen for session 2021-22. The popular Rainbows and Brownies will continue to meet.

Members are now enjoying a monthly news email from the minister to keep us all informed of what is going on in the church. The email should pop into your inbox around the 5th of the month and if you have not registered an email on the recent consent form, then you can pick one up at the door on a Sunday.

John Stewart our Beadle is still on the lookout for the missing tables from the hall. If anyone has maybe borrowed then and due to the pandemic has not been able to return them, then please contact him.

The next Communion services are planned for September 19. They will take the same format as the previous one with members collecting a small capsule of wine and bread before they are seated in their pew.

The flower calendar is still available for this year and any members wishing to donate to the church flowers should contact the flower convener Anne Drennan.

Kirk Session is set to meet on Tuesday, October 5, at 7.30pm. After a number of months holding their meetings over Zoom, Session will return to the church in person and meet in the sanctuary.

Apologies from the editor that your favourite read is a week behind schedule. Covid hit the Columba News editorial desk just as the deadline approached and put the brakes on production. But now back to full steam ahead as the October edition already looms.

The popular Women's Group that meets at Lochside on a Wednesday has now restarted after the lockdown. Also at Lochside we are waiting on the kitchen being inspected by the Council before it can be used by groups

Presence of God

An Excerpt from the Daily Meditations of Richard Rohr. This piece was written by James Finley (Christian Meditation: Experiencing the Presence of God):

There is no single way to meditate. There are, however, certain acts and attitudes inherently endowed with the capacity to awaken sustained states of meditative awareness.

With respect to the body: sit still. Sit straight. Place your hands in a comfortable or meaningful position in your lap. Close your eyes or lower them toward the ground. Breathe slowly and naturally. With respect to your mind, be present, open, and awake, neither clinging to nor rejecting anything. And with respect to attitude, maintain non-judgmental compassion toward yourself as you discover yourself clinging to and rejecting everything, and non-judgmental compassion toward others.

Keep in mind that these guidelines are but suggestions for you to explore as part of your ongoing process of finding the ways to meditate that are most natural and effective for you. What matters is not which method of meditation you use, but the self-transforming process by which meditation leads you into more . . . openness to God.

Go to your place of meditation. You might say a brief and simple prayer expressing your gratitude to God for having been led to the path of meditation and asking for the wisdom, courage, and strength to be faithful to it.

[Then] let go of all that is preoccupying you at the moment. Choose to be present in the immediacy of the present moment by simply relaxing into being right where you are, just as you are. Settle into the intimate, felt sense of your bodily stillness. Settle into being aware of your breathing and whatever degree of fatigue or wakefulness you may be feeling in your body at the moment. Be aware of whatever sadness, inner peace, or other emotion may be present. Be aware of the light and the temperature in the

Copy deadline for the September issue will be

Sunday, October 3

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

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room where you are sitting. In short, simply be present, just as you are, in the moment, just as it is. Cling to nothing. Reject nothing. Rest in this moment. Relax. Give yourself a break. Simply sit in a “Here I am, Lord” stance. Know and trust that God is already perfectly present in your simply being alive and real in the present moment just as it is.

Be humbled and grateful in knowing that you are learning to awaken to your true nature in learning to be like God. Jesus said, “Judge not and you shall not be judged” (Matthew 7:1). Sitting in meditation, we put this teaching of Christ into practice in remaining present, open, and awake to ourselves just as we are, without judging, without evaluating, without clinging to or rejecting the way we simply are.

Men’s Association

Good News! There is every chance that we will resume our fortnightly meetings this coming session, Covid restrictions permitting! It has been a long, long time. There will inevitably be some changes to our ‘normal’.

The first major change will be our meeting venue which will be the Mid-ton Hall. As present requirements stand, we will have to wear masks throughout our meetings except whilst having our refreshments and, in the interests of individual well-being and security, we will continue to observe 1-metre social distancing in the layout of chairs etc now that space allows. A full summary of Covid Risks/Restrictions will be available at resumption of our meetings.

Our first meeting will be on Monday, October 4 and our Guest Speaker is none other than our Minister, Scott, who will be talking on “East v West”. Not sure if this will be Edinburgh Rugby v Glasgow Warriors, but I am sure it will be a very interesting talk! This is followed on October 18, by a talk on “Ayrshire at War” given by Bob McMillan.

Members extend a warm greeting to anyone who wishes to join us as new members and also extend a very warm welcome to everyone, ladies included, who may wish to attend our meetings at any time.

The weekly Thursday Games will resume on 30th September at 2pm.

Would Committee members please note that there will be a meeting in the Struthers Room on Monday, September 27, at 7.30pm.

Greatly looking forward to seeing everyone again.

John Ferguson
Secretary

*The late Miss Sheena M Struthers,
formerly of Taybank Drive, Ayr.*

INVITATION

The family of the late Miss Struthers (who, prior to her illness and subsequent death in March 2020, attended and supported Ayr St. Columba Church and its activities) has arranged an

*Afternoon Tea in the Robertson Room of the
Burns Centre and Museum in Alloway, Ayr
on Wednesday, September 22, 2021
from 2 pm to 5 pm.*

This will be an occasion of Remembrance of Sheena and anyone attending is welcome to bring relevant photographs and memorabilia of Sheena. Sheena during her life had a wide range of interests and was formerly Teacher of Classics at Ayr Academy and Principal Teacher of Classics at Auchinleck Academy.

Colin, Paul and Angus Neilson will be delighted to welcome any friends, former colleagues, pupils and associates of Sheena who would like to join this special occasion.

If you plan to attend can you please confirm your attendance by either emailing Angus Neilson at angusn21x@hotmail.com or by calling or texting Angus on his mobile 07737 891061.



The last post from the Satellite Office – maybe!!

While the Satellite Office remains the operation centre, there is hope that I will be able to move back into the Church building before ere long.

Already the printing of the pew leaflets and the intimations takes place in the office on a Friday morning and the photocopier, which was purchased during the lockdown, is working well.

The practicalities of how we move forward and how our Activities, Groups and Clubs will be organised have been on the agenda and procedures are now in place to ensure safety and risk assessment are priorities.

A Hall Lets meeting was held in August and your leaders and committee members will have been advised of the systems and best practice measures that are in place. All of these are, of course, dependent on everyone looking out for each other and following the guidelines as closely as possible.

There will be adaptations and some changes and we would ask everyone using the building to be mindful that these are not set out to make life difficult but to make your use of the space safe.

The major change will be access to the Hall. You will be asked to enter by the door closest to your accommodation. For example if your group meets in the Hall please use the ramp door on Midton Road, where possible, and make your way directly to the Hall.

If your group serves tea, there are guidelines for using the kitchen which you will find following this article. It is wonderful to see so many folks returning to worship and while there is no legal need to continue with social distancing the Church has decided that in the Sanctuary there will continue to be a 1.6m space allowance between places.

Again this is only useful if everyone understands and adheres to the policy. The new booking system appears to be working well and so far no one has had to queue outside in the rain.

Those who have pre-booked their place may go directly to a seat without the need for checking whilst others sign in with the Duty Team at the Centenary Aisle.

There has been a wedding and a Service of Thanksgiving in the

Sanctuary and the children have returned to the 10am service with St Columba Kids taking place in the Hall, all in all, slowly but surely, we are returning to a semblance of normality.

I am certain many are looking forward to the restart of the Guild, Men's Association, Keep Fit and the uniformed organisations and you can be assured that there will be a warm welcome awaiting everyone.

Irene

USE OF KITCHEN

The following guidelines have been prepared to underline the need for good food hygiene and adherence to government guidelines regarding serving food. These are by no means definitive but are issued as the basic minimum procedures with which we expect users to comply.

Be aware the kitchen is only as clean as the previous user – we cannot make any guarantees. You should wipe down all surfaces prior to use.

Numbers of helpers in the kitchen should be limited to essential personnel

Crockery and cutlery used MUST be washed in the dishwasher. No matter how few items are used, except teaspoons which may be washed in boiling water and always using detergent.

Alternative is to use recyclable disposable cups – which groups would be required to purchase themselves.

Café situations – tables may be set in the Hall – at the moment the Struthers Room is not suitable for a café. Government guidelines on table/chair spacing must be rigidly adhered to at all times

Only table service is permitted

Home baking/ baking must be served with tongs

Servers should wear gloves

When moving about the building Face Masks remain mandatory

We hope that you will feel safe in the building but please be mindful of others who may still have concerns. Please do not invade the space of other people attending your meeting.



Since the last Columba News St Columba's Kids have had their end-of-term celebrations.

There was no prizegiving service due to restrictions on numbers in church, so St Columba's Kids instead went on an adventure and had breakfast on the seashore in Ayr!

The final Sunday before end of term we busily heated waffles, bananas and chocolate buttons in the oven at St Columba to take down to the beach for a final celebration. We were delighted to see most of our families there, including some Messy Church regulars. We brought picnic blankets, chairs, and enjoyed some juice, our waffley-chocolatey-bananay-healthy treats, plus some Nutella bars and had a chance to chat and catch up with other families out-

doors and socially distanced.

The competitive side in everyone was brought out as we had a sand castle competition (with some of the adults getting very involved!) and then some races along the sand. We finished off by recapping the main themes we had been looking at throughout the year, finished in prayer and then we packed up and wished everyone a wonderful holiday. It was

DOWN AT THE BEACH



great to see all of our families together as a community and to have a chance we don't normally have at the Sunday school summer trip to make memories together rather than just the children.

We all then wandered off as we chatted about holiday plans for Lewis, caravanning, camping, road tripping and much else besides. Well done to all the team

(especially our amazing Junior Leaders Sophie and Campbell!) for keeping everything going throughout all the changing ways of meeting as St Columba's Kids – in videos, on zoom, in person socially distanced, and outdoors. Thanks also to Keith for coming along and judging the Sand Castle competition!

Stuart McKinlay
Sunday School Co-ordinator

*Scott's sermon preached from St Luke 8:1-3 on
Sunday, August 8, 2021*

Situated near the Garden of Gethsemane in Jerusalem, located on the Mount of Olives and across the Kidron Valley, the Orthodox Church of St Mary Magdalene stands in resplendent glory. Built in 1888 at the request of Tsar Alexander III, its seven grand gilded onion domes are unmistakable. In January 2020, Prince Charles visited the tomb of his grandmother, Princess Alice of Greece, whose body is interred in the church. Her life was marked by exile, mental illness and deep piety. His grandmother, who became a nun, had helped shelter Jews during the Holocaust. The church carries the name of Mary Magdalene.

In the Orthodox tradition, Mary of Magdala is the myrrh-bearer, the one who purchased and carried myrrh to the tomb of Jesus in order that she might anoint the crucified Christ. According to tradition, there is a story that Mary attended a dinner with the Roman Emperor Tiberius Caesar. The Emperor mocked when she spoke of Christ's Resurrection. He said that a man could no more rise from the dead than the egg in her hand could turn red. Immediately, the egg turned red. In icons of Mary Magdalene, we sometimes see her holding an egg and it may be that this story is the origin of why we die eggs red at Easter. But who was Mary of Magdala?

For centuries, Mary has been portrayed erroneously as a prostitute: there is nothing in Scripture to suggest this. In our lesson today, we heard of Jesus and the twelve disciples travelling from town to town and village to village in Galilee speaking of the Kingdom of God – the nearness of God. They were accompanied by a group of women, who had been 'set free' or 'healed' of evil spirits and infirmities. Almost always when an accompanying group of women are mentioned, the first one to be listed, to be named, is Mary of Magdala. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John all testify to the singular importance of the woman from Magdala.

Magdala was a small fishing village situated on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. The word 'magdala' means tower. It almost certainly referred to a distinctive building in the village but, given the stature of Mary in the Christian tradition, some suggest that the name 'Magdalene' is honorific: she was and is a beacon of faith. What can we say of the 'real' Mary Magdalene?

Mary was healed of seven demons. Seven may mean that, whatever afflicted her, it dominated her life. Whatever her personal story, she was

out of her mind because of it. Like the man Legion who moved among the tombs, Jesus restored Mary to health, perhaps mental health. In our Gospel lesson, Mary accompanies the disciples and is a follower of Jesus, along with Joanna and Susanna. Joanna is the wife of one of Herod's stewards. These women provide for Jesus and the disciples out of their own resources. Whoever they were, they were women of means and independence and it was they who enabled Jesus and the twelve disciples – the men – to travel so extensively without the need to support themselves. It is worth noticing also that one of the women, Joanna, was married: that, surely, must have been unusual.

Mary the Magdalene followed Jesus. We would be hard pushed to list the names of all twelve disciples but few of us will not know of Mary. Not only present with Him in every town and village Mary was with Jesus at the end. She was there at the foot of the cross, painfully watched His body be taken down and, following close behind Joseph of Arimathea, she was present when Christ's lifeless body was laid in the newly-hewn tomb. It is striking that, in the Gospel of Mark, we read of Roman Governor, chief priests, elders and soldiers; we read of floggings, beatings, mocking and spitting. The story of the trial and crucifixion is full of shouting and violence but, seemingly in the background, we are told of the women who were silently, faithfully witnessing, and grieving. Through the midday darkness, the three hours of dereliction, Mary of Magdala was present. The twelve, the men, had gone.

The climax of the Magdalene story is the Resurrection. In the Gospel of Matthew, there was a violent earthquake, the stone had been rolled away, and an angel descended from heaven. The angel's face shone like lightning and his garments were white as snow. It was to Mary and the women that he spoke. She ran to tell the disciples of the Risen Christ, which is why she is known as the 'Apostle to the Apostles'. In the Resurrection accounts of the earliest and last Gospels to be written, to Mark and John, the Risen Christ appeared first to Mary Magdalene.

In John's Gospel, in the rich spiritual Jewish storytelling, Mary stood at the tomb, looked inside, and saw two angels where the body of Jesus had lain: one at the head and one at the foot. To a first century Jewish hearer, this image of an angel at either end suggested the Holy of Holies, the most sacred room in the Jewish Temple. In that room, the Ark of the Covenant, the box containing the stone tablets of the Ten Commandments, was placed and on its lid, at either end, sat the cherubim: angelic figures. The empty tomb, the Risen Christ, was a new meeting place of humanity and the Divine. Through storytelling, Mary had gazed into the dark mystery of

God. She was present to the Presence.

We then read of Mary encountering Jesus in the garden: she had a vision that Jesus was alive, raised like Enoch, Moses and Elijah from the dead. An intensely personal experience, she 'saw' and felt in her soul the touch of transcendence. Mary was quite remarkable and must have been so in order that the early Christian community kept returning to her. The story of Jesus became an integral part of her story. Picture it: village after village, healing after healing, absorbing more and more teaching, and at His side when He suffered and died, she walked with His dead body and on that first Sunday morning, in her soul, was transfigured by eternal life. She saw God in all of it.

Often in life, like Mary of Magdala, we are powerless in the face of suffering, violence, evil and death. Often the most that we can do is be present with one who is suffering or dying. Like Mary, often the most we can do is weep. The God who created and creates all things gives us freedom, and God never takes that back. If human freedom leads to torture and murder, as with Jesus, God never takes it back. Mary was perhaps the most true and faithful follower of Jesus and, as we gaze into the Christian mystery, we too may see God in the world's worst darkness; not tritely, but sensing sacredness. Amen.

St Columba's Kids – Back in Real Life!

St Columba's Kids returned on Sunday, August 22 for the session 2021-22 with a new format and the hope of an undisturbed year.

For the first time, instead of having a family service followed by Sunday School, St Columba's Kids were asked by the minister to come in for the first part of the first service and then retire to the hall for the remainder of our time.

We sat in on the service and heard a short word from Gillean, our probationer minister, then returned to the hall for a worship song, to explore the reading for the week, create a craft and pray. It was wonderful to be able to sing again in the hall as we worshipped and we are looking forward to making use of the shakers we made in our first craft session when we return to church in subsequent weeks!

Our two Junior Leaders Sophie and Campbell are back on team again,

bringing their enthusiasm, energy, organisation, and personalities to serve the younger children. However we are struggling to find adult volunteers to help run Sunday School after a couple of retirees and with one of our leaders about to be on maternity leave. If you, or anyone you know within our church, is interested and able to help out, even just every second week, then please get in touch with myself, Keith Fullarton (our Education Convener), or the minister.

This session we are hoping to get involved with a local charity making a difference in Ayrshire (which will be confirmed once the Education Committee is allowed to resume). Throughout the year, so long as restrictions continue to ease, we hope that we will be able to organise some more family breakfasts in the hall, as well as several other events (watch this space).

If you have a child in your family aged 3 to primary 7, then please bring them along to try St Columba's Kids out! Each week we will meet, go in to the sanctuary, go over the story, sing songs, create crafts, play games, have snack, and pray. If you want to find out anything more about St Columba's Kids, then please drop by one Sunday morning, or send a message to the church Facebook page and we will get back to you.

Stuart McKinlay
Sunday School Co-ordinator



26th UN Climate Change Conference



In just a few short weeks, the UK will host the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow on 31 October – 12 November 2021. At this summit, parties will be brought together to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

It is expected that more than 190 world leaders will arrive in Scotland together with tens of thousands of government representatives and negotiators, businesses, and interested people for 12 days of talks. In 2015, COP21 took place in Paris, and was the place of a momentous commitment by world leaders who pledged to aim for no more than 1.5 degrees of global warming; this may not seem to be very much, but every fraction of a degree of warming results in the tragedy of more lives lost and livelihoods damaged.

Although huge progress has been made to keep the temperature increase of the world as low as possible, it is still not enough; scientists have worked out that the world needs to halve emissions over the next decade, and reach zero carbon emissions by 2050 if the global temperature is not to rise by more than 1.5 degrees.

In order to achieve such targets, countries need to accelerate the phasing out of energy sources such as coal, to invest in renewable energies, reduce deforestation and encourage the move to electric vehicle use. Although in

Scotland, we aren't experiencing many of the effects of climate change directly yet, we can understand how countries affected by it need help, and it is our responsibility to work together to encourage affected countries to protect and restore ecosystems, put warning systems in place, build defences, and find ways to make both agriculture and local infrastructures more resilient to avoid loss of homes, livelihoods, and lives.

Although the deadline has passed for us to volunteer at COP26, there are still plenty of things that we, as individuals, can do. Whether it is using our consumer power to shop at ethical shops, reducing our single waste plastic, making sure we always do the recycling and shop in charity shops, or in our choice of car, bank, household heating suppliers, there are many ways to show our support. We can investigate the political parties we support, check up on the green credentials of our favourite foods and products, and check that our investments are ethical.

As people of faith, it is our responsibility to care for the planet on which we live, in addition to showing love to all fellow humans. Ecocongregation Scotland have many suggestions for how Christians of all denominations can learn more about the harm climate change is causing, and has ideas to help individuals, groups, and churches explore what they can do to mitigate the effects of temperature increase in our world. Visit www.ecocongregationscotland.org/cop26 for more information.

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Let's get walking



Our walking group met for its July walk at Ayr College and walked through the Japanese Gardens beside the Dam Park Stadium, along the Pansy Path following the river through the golf course up to the bridge at the stepping stones where we crossed to the other side.

We then headed back down the river past the old Lime Works and Wallace's Heel crossing over the footbridge and returning to the car park, stopping, of course, for a coffee and a blether on the way

back.'

The August walk was around Auchincruive estate where the group met at the Auchincruive Church, St Quivox at 10.30, and finished with lunch at Helen's house.

Next month (24th September) we will walk in a loop from Barrassie, leaving from the car park on the shore opposite Troon swimming pool (near Morrison's). Anyone needing a lift please contact Helen on 07922 059368 or hcgreig@icloud.com



Congregation and Parish Register

June – August



DEATHS

"I am with you always to the end of the age" Matthew 28:20

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| John Lamb | 13 Campbell Street, Ayr |
| Joan Kirk | 18 Greenan Way, Ayr |
| Magdalene (Madge) McLauchlan | 11 Woodlands Crescent, Ayr |
| Peter Robertson | 54 Fullerton Drive, Troon |
| Helen Peters | Templeton House Care Home, Ayr |
| Louisa (Louie) Wilson | 28 Bellevue Crescent, Ayr |

WEDDING

30 July by Revd. Michael Mair
Catherine Kelly, Mauchline and Mr. Robbie Miller, Ayr

NEW MEMBERS

| | |
|------------------|-----------|
| John Graham | Prestwick |
| Gilleen Richmond | Ayr |

Magazine Dates - Session 2021/ 2022

The dates below indicate the schedule relating to the Columba News in the coming year.

| Issue | Occasion | Copy Deadline | Collation Day (Publications Comm) | Publication Day |
|-----------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| September | Start of Season | Sunday, 22 August | Friday, 3 September | Sunday, 5 September |
| Autumn | October Communion | Sunday, 3 October | Friday, 15 October | Sunday, 17 October |
| Christmas | Christmas | Sunday, 14 November | Friday, 26 November | Sunday, 28 November |
| Winter | January Communion | Sunday, 2 January | Friday, 14 January | Sunday, 16 January |
| Spring | April Communion | Sunday, 27 March | Friday, 8 April | Sunday, 10 April |
| Summer | June Communion | Sunday, 29 May | Friday, 10 June | Sunday, 12 June |

Who to contact

Minister:

Revd. Dr. SCOTT S. McKENNA.
scottsmckenna@aol.com
Tel:- 01292 226075

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

Depute Session Clerk:

WALTER MUIR, 1 Corsehill 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:

GRAEME SAVAGE,
27 Newark Crescent, Ayr. Tel:- 445347

Roll Keeper:

MARGARET DONCASTER
20 St Cuthbert's Road
Prestwick KA9 2EB
Tel:-477381

'Columba News' Editor:

NORMAN REID,
4 Hawthorn Drive, Ayr. Tel:-262144
editor.columbanews@gmail.com

Church Secretary:

IRENE E. BARTHOLOMEW,
30 St Leonard's Road, Ayr
Office 269524
irene@ayrstcolumba.co.uk

Beadle and Church Officer:

JOHN STEWART,
6A Ronaldshaw Park, Ayr.
Tel:- 07847639528

Church Office: Carrick Park, Ayr.

Tel:- 269524 Office hours: 9am-noon, Mon,
Tues, Thurs and Fri

Church Charity Number: SC014338

Church Services (Midton Road):

10am - Family Service;
10am Sunday School,
11.15 - Morning Worship;
6.30pm - Evening Services
(Last Sunday of the month)

Church Services (Lochside):

10am Morning Worship

Webmaster: Iain Bartholomew,
email: website@ayrstcolumba.co.uk.
www.ayrstcolumba.co.uk

What's on in the halls

MONDAY

5.30pm **RAINBOW BROWNIES**

Aynsley Bell, 07914 842118

7.30pm: **THE GUILD** (fortnightly):

Mrs D. Bone, 441651

7.30pm: **MEN'S ASSOCIATION**

(fortnightly):

Mr T. R. Swinn, 441896

7.30pm: **LADIES FELLOWSHIP**

(fortnightly):

Linda Sharp, 286951

WEDNESDAY

2pm: **HOLY COMMUNION** (4th Wed):

Church Office, 269524

2pm: **FITNESS with FRIENDS:**

Mrs Margaret Doncaster, 477381

5.45pm: **9th AYR BROWNIES,**

Mrs E. MacDonald, 445529

THURSDAY

10.30am: **OASIS CAFE:** Mrs Rene Kidd

10.20am: **LADIES BADMINTON:**

Mrs Elizabeth MacDonald 445529

2pm: **MEN'S ASSOCIATION GAMES:**

Mr R. Park. 268788

6.30pm: **CUB SCOUTS:**

Mr Jereon Bolte 07511489755

7.30pm: **SENIOR CHOIR:**

Church Office 269524

FRIDAY

6pm: **BEAVER SCOUTS:**

Fiona Wilson, 290414

7.30pm: **SCOUTS:**

Jereon Bolte, 07511489755

SATURDAY

4pm: **MESSY CHURCH**

(last Saturday of the month):

Irene Bartholomew, 269524

Tuning in to our services

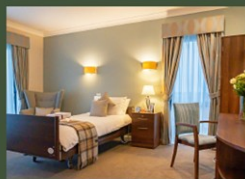
In recent months, St Columba Church has been providing services online:

Website: Full Service (see 'Worship Services' tab) Sermon (script and audio) at www.ayrstcolumba.co.uk

Facebook: Full Service

YouTube: Full Service on our YouTube Channel

Dial-a-Sermon: Audio 01292 851074



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