

Columba News

September
2022
No. 247



Summer Suns are Glowing



Not the editor's garden but a magnificent border at Threave

Waiting to welcome you

Sundays	Team	Leader
September 11	Team 6	Mr J. Hunter
September 18	Team 7	Mrs N. Mortimer
September 25	Team 8	Mr P. T. MacDonald
October 2	Team 9	Mrs C. McLaughlin
October 9	Team 10	Mrs A. Swan
October 16	Team 11	Mr A. Muirhead
October 23	Team 12	Mr W. Muir
October 30	Team 1	Mr R. White
November 6	Team 2	Mrs F. Taylor

Evening Services:
September 25, Team 8; October 30, Team 1



From the manse

June 2022

Dear Friends,

During the month of August and having returned from a week's holiday in County Galway, Ireland, I have been sharing stories with the congregation about Celtic saints in public worship. In particular, I have shared the myth and folklore of St Brendan and, on the following Sunday, St Bride (also known as St Brigid).

As an aside, I spoke of the other 'saint' who had visited County Galway, namely, the American film



star, John Wayne. In the 1950s, Wayne starred in the film, *The Quiet Man*; the story of an Irish boy who, following an accident in the boxing ring, decided to leave America and return to his childhood home. The movie was filmed on location in the village of Cong. In the village, there is a museum and several *Quiet Man* attractions for tourists to visit. I should say that Shelagh and I did not go to County Galway on a Wayne pilgrimage! However, in the centre of the village there is a statue of Wayne and the leading

female star, Maureen O'Hara. The photo shows Wayne carrying O'Hara alongside a hanger on!

The stories which surround the Celtic saints are best understood imaginatively rather than literally and, through that lens, they carry spiritual truths.

St Bride, from whose name we get such place names as East Kilbride (the church of Bride), is associated with the wading bird, the Oystercatcher. In an ancient myth, it is said that she was pursued by a band of evil men who sought to kill her. She fled and finally reached the shoreline; she was not only exhausted but had nowhere to hide. Accepting



that she would die there, she lay down on the sand and prayed to God offering God thanks for the rich life she had lived. Before the evil men could arrive, the oystercatchers which were patrolling the beach saw St Bride

and understood her predicament. They quickly covered her in seaweed; when the men arrived, they could not find her. After the men had gone, Bride blessed the birds. In Gaelic, the name of the oystercatcher is *Brid-eun* meaning Bride's bird.

For me, the colourful and memorable story says four things: firstly, that God's world is beautiful. Oystercatchers are strikingly beautiful and so too their piercing, penetrating call.

Secondly, the sight of the birds reminds us of St Bride and, surely, the presence of God. In one Celtic song, the refrain runs: 'May the saints and Saviour watch over you!' Perhaps the sight of the oystercatcher may remind us of the saints and God's tender, loving presence.

Thirdly, St Bride lay down on the sand to rest in God: even in danger, she had a real and true sense of resting in God. We too can cultivate that sense in our lives. And, fourthly, in a patriarchal society and institution, such as the Church, it is good to bring to the fore the faith and spirituality of women.

Blessings and peace to you.

Scott

Farewell to our probationer Gilean

Dear friends,

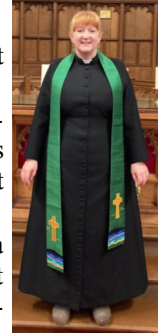
I just wanted to say a huge thank you to everyone at Ayr St Columba who made my time there so wonderful.

When I arrived last June, I was made to feel very welcome, and as I came along to all the groups and activities that you run, it felt like I really was one of you in no time at all!

Whether I was taking a cup of tea at the Oasis Café on a Thursday morning, or out for a walk, it has been a great privilege to be with you all, meeting friendly faces, and having great conversations along the way.

As a probationer, my task was to try and learn how to be a minister for the future, and I have certainly been very fortunate to have Scott as my final supervisor.

His patience and wisdom have taught me a great deal, and I am grateful for his unerring support as I navigated my way through the process. My parting gift from the congregation of a personalised stole is something I shall not only cherish, but I am sure to use it regularly. The bottom of the stole is embroidered with the view out to Arran from Low Green: the



grass, sand and sparkling sea are interwoven in the foreground. It is a view that has sustained me through the past five years of my training, will be a poignant reminder of my time in Ayr. I often talk of my own faith as a journey with God, and I am very grateful to have experienced the love and care of you all as companions on the way with me as I finished this last part of my training. I know we shall remain in touch, as I am, for the moment, only up the road. *My love I leave with you all, Gx*



Catching up with Session

A meeting of the Kirk Session, chaired by the Probationer Minister, Mrs Gilleen Richmond in the presence of the Moderator, The Revd Dr Scott McKenna, was held on April 26, 2022. A summary of issues discussed at this meeting is given below:

The Moderator reported that Presbytery intended to facilitate a conversation between Ayr St Columba, St Andrews and the Auld Kirk to establish which church buildings would be used when the churches united. Data from the buildings review had been received and a Churches Review Committee had been set up by Presbytery.

Following consultation with Elders, members who had not responded to previous requests to complete a consent form had been sent a final letter. A date of 20th May had been set, after which those not responding would be transferred to a new district which would not be serviced by an Elder.

Mrs Richmond referred to a paper which had been distributed to Elders ahead of the meeting. The paper suggested that the timing of the first service on a Sunday morning should be changed permanently to 10am. Following discussion, it was agreed to move the starting time of the first service on Sunday mornings to 10am on a permanent basis, but to review this decision at any time if issues arose. It was also agreed to hold just one service on special occasions, such as Easter Sunday and Remembrance Sunday, for a trial period of one year.

Members of Session gave formal approval for the Church to be registered as an eco-congregation. Mr J Ballantyne said that work was underway to produce a numerical energy model of the Ayr St Columba church buildings. This numerical energy model would simulate the energy consumption performance of the buildings and would enable sensitivity studies to be performed which would form the basis for making rational decisions on how best to 'environmentally optimise' the church's energy consumption performance.

The Moderator said that each year certain individuals who had given Christian service were honoured by being invited to the Royal Maundy Thursday Service to receive Maundy Money from the Monarch. This year Mrs Irene Bartholomew and Mrs Sheena Stewart had been invited to St George's Chapel at Windsor Castle to receive the coins. The Queen's mobility issues meant that the Prince of Wales had distributed the Maundy Money on her behalf. The Moderator congratulated Irene and Sheena on receiving the honour and this was warmly endorsed by members of Session.

The Treasurer had distributed a paper to Elders ahead of the meeting which proposed amendments to the current format of financial reporting through the Trustees' meeting and the Annual Business meeting. The Treasurer's proposals were approved.

The Clerk read out an email from Mr Sandy Allan in which he indicated that he was retiring as an active Elder as he was no longer fit to discharge the duties required. The Clerk spoke of the commendable service Mr Allan had given in his 53 years as an Elder and said that he would be very much missed.

The Clerk reported that all legal restrictions relating to the Covid virus had been removed, but the Government and the Church of Scotland continued to encourage caution.

The Midton Road Hall would be used as a Polling Place for the Scottish Local Government Elections on Thursday, May 5.

Mr K Fullerton reported that the organisers of Heartstart were not yet able to set a date for further training. He would keep Session informed when the situation changed.

The Treasurer presented a Finance Report for the 3-month period from January 2022 to March 2022. In summary, the Treasurer said that the first quarter had been a very quiet one.

Mrs J Hunter said that plans for the Street Party to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee were in place. Flyers had been issued and all the local residents were happy to join in and had offered to help with chairs, bunting etc. Wellington School would provide a Music Ensemble and there were plans for a Quiz and for the serving of ice cream.

The Moderator asked members of Session for permission to hold just one service on Sunday, June 5, at 10.30am and this was granted.

Mrs H Greig reported that we would no longer receive the donations from Tesco for Lochside as Tesco required a long-term commitment.

Table Talk had met twice with talks on 'Julian of Norwich' and on 'a Walk on the Yorkshire Moors'. People had enjoyed the chance to listen and to join in the chat.

R A Bartholomew, Session Clerk



Saying goodbye to Gillean's time at Ayr St Columba



Tribute to Sandy Allan, elder at Ayr St Columba who died on July 25, 2022

What do you remember most about **Sandy**? Always pleasant, positive, and jolly, a family man and much-loved. At church, Sandy is remembered as a faithful, conscientious, and much respected Elder. The church was a central part of his life.

Sandy was a delightful person to know. He offered insight and wisdom, and was jocular and always ready to laugh. A decent man and it is our privilege to have known him. Born and brought up in Chryston, North Lanarkshire, Sandy was the eldest of five children. Some of his earliest memories readily recalled were his 'first lessons on faith' at the Brethren Sunday School meetings. At the age of five, he was presented with a clockwork train set for perfect attendance. His faith shone through his life.

An early and interesting anecdote is that Sandy's maternal grandfather emigrated to America in the early 1900s. His fiancée, Sandy's maternal grandmother, was booked to sail on the S S Titanic but, fortunately, caught influenza and had to postpone her sailing for a later boat. The family later returned to Scotland.

In 1947, at the age of ten, Sandy was the fastest runner over 100 yards at his school. However, it was that same year that he contracted polio during a day out trip to Inverkip to view the Fleet. His recovery would take a long time: he was in hospital – in Motherwell and Stonehouse - for many, many months and treatment included being placed in an iron lung: his arms were kept raised and immovable, and the iron lung caused lasting damage to a growing lad. Many people in his position died but Sandy lived, and he said that he often wondered why? That said, then and throughout his life, he never complained. Could he see something of God's purpose in his recovery and for his life? Perhaps not surprisingly, Sandy said that while lying bedridden his great ambition was to be able to kick a football again and run! While in hospital his Brethren friends prayed for him and sent him a Bible.

In fourth year at school, Sandy became the secretary of the local YMCA senior football team and at the age of twenty he was a selector of the YMCA's national team. In fifth year at school, he was encouraged to help at the 1955 Billy Graham Crusade, and that he did. Warmly he remembered singing the hymns and hearing the word. By this time, he was singing in the church choir, and he became a Sunday School teacher and



served on the Church's Finance Committee. In other leisure time, he ran the YMCA football team, played badminton, become a Rover scout and Scout treasurer. In 1959, alongside others, Sandy represented the Church of Scotland youth in a visit to the Black Forest region of Germany. Professionally, Sandy trained as a Civil and Structural Engineering Technician. He had served as an apprentice designer/detailer with Square Grip Reinforcement in Newhouse. He went on to become a Civil/Structural Engineer.

Over the years, Sandy worked for several different organisations, including Irvine Development Corporation, Motherwell Bridge, Glasgow District Council Architects' Department, and Scottish Water. During his career, he designed and detailed concrete, steel, brick and timber structures for many schools, factories, offices, housing, and shop developments. Some notable work included projects at Calderpark Zoo: the polar bear pit, the lions' den, and the monkey house!

It was in 1960 that Sandy met a nurse: 'this really super girl with a smile that would charm the birds off a tree'. Sandy and Barbara were married the following year in Cambusnethan North Church and in November 2021 they received a celebratory anniversary card from the Queen. While courting, Sandy and Barbara went to the Tent Hall and Tom Allan's Tron Church: together they enjoyed the praise and fellowship at these venues. It was in December 1960 that Sandy went forward at the altar call to make public his declaration of having Jesus in his life and giving his life for Christ's work. Throughout their marriage, Barbara and Sandy were a team. Days before he died, Barbara was helping Sandy in the kitchen (typically, it was Ruth who would be there, but this day it was Barbara). As they worked together, Barbara said, 'Sandy, we're still a team!'

Sandy was father to Ruth and Vicky and grandfather to Jonathan and Richard. The family feel truly blessed with so much to give thanks for. In the Allan family, warmly they say that soup, papa's soup, is the language of love; and, in modern times, what a treasure for a family to sit round the table together. Other cherished memories of love, surely, include the joy Sandy and Barbara had dancing and Sandy enjoyed eating out at the Chestnuts. On the weekend before Sandy died, Sandy, Barbara and the girls were at the Chestnuts on Saturday and then together again round the table at home on Sunday. Sandy's grandsons warmly remember how well-dressed and dapper their grandfather was, how invested he was in them and as such a fine role model, the encouragement they received in sport, and none of that takes away from the top memories of the soup and carbonara!

In 1970, Sandy changed jobs to work on the New Town of Irvine, and so he, Barbara and the girls moved to Troon. The family attended St Meddan's Church and before too long Sandy was on the teaching staff of the Bible Class: this was a time of real enrichment for Sandy, Barbara and the young people they met: many joined the church before heading off to further education. Church also meant involvement in the choir, Eldership and the Bible Study Group. After a short spell in Uddingston, Sandy and Barbara moved to Ayr and very soon they were welcomed to St Columba Church by Bill Christman. Over the years – besides being an Elder – Sandy was involved in the Men's Association, the Supper Club and Oasis. With so much involvement in church life and so much giving of himself, Sandy said that he got a real feeling of peace in his soul at our Communion Services. Following the words of minister, Fraser Aitken, Sandy took to heart the words of Jesus, 'My peace I give unto you' and he would sincerely repeat the opening sentence, 'If you love the Lord a little and would like to love Him more'.

Sandy loved singing and for many years was involved in the Glasgow Male Voice Philharmonic Choir and the Ayr Community Gospel Choir. He loved football and was a long-term fan of Partick Thistle. On one occasion, one fond family memory, Sandy said 'Hello!' to the Scotland Manager, Ally McLeod, and McLeod nodded back. Vicky was very proud. Sandy had also been a faithful member of Wattfield Bowling Club for many years.

For their 50th wedding anniversary Sandy and Barbara went on a Mediterranean cruise: it was a very happy and special time for all six of the family. On their 25th anniversary, they had a cruise to Egypt and the Holy Land.

Sandy loved his family very much. In turn, they loved him dearly and will miss him. Sandy shaped our lives and will continue to do so.

Revd Dr Scott McKenna

Harvest Thanksgiving

That time of the year is approaching again when we celebrate Harvest Thanksgiving at the church.

The Harvest services will be held in the church on Sunday, October 2, 2022.

Please find an envelope with this Columba News to allow donations to be given to the appeal. You can either place in the plate at the door at the morning services leading up to the date or hand it in to the office.





Trophy time for James after receiving his prize from Scott



It's prize time for the super Columba Kids



Tribute to Bill Wilson, elder at Ayr St Columba who died June 6, 2022

A decent and delightful man, Bill was warm, chatty, friendly, humorous, and good natured. He involved everyone in conversation, and it was a pleasure to spend time with him. Born in Tarbolton, Bill was the son of George and Elizabeth, and a brother to Elizabeth and James. Bill attended Tarbolton Public School until the age of 14. For two years, he worked at Wallacetown Engineering Co. and, aged 16, he began his apprenticeship at Troon shipyard to be a marine engineer and studied at night school. From there, he joined Ellerman Shipping Co: his trips to sea took him to many ports around the world. During this time, he also studied at Stowe College for certificates up to Chief Engineer. Bill spent nine years in the Merchant Navy: his last trip was with P&O shipping to Australia.

It was at a dance in Troon Concert Hall on December 21, 1957 that Bill met his wife-to-be, Mary. They were engaged in June 1959 and married a year later. In two days' time, 24 June, Bill and Mary would have been married for 62 years.

A year before they were married, Bill left the Merchant Navy and took a job with Cornhill Insurance Co. Their first home together was at North Hillington, Middlesex. Bill then secured a job with Eagle Star Insurance in Glasgow and so they moved to Barrhead. Bill was father to Colin and Rob; and father-in-law to Linda. Family holidays had been to Bulgaria among other places as well as epic drives to numerous English resorts! Later, there were many holidays abroad for sun, sea, and snorkelling. Bill and Mary explored Australia, the Holy Land, Ephesus, Assisi, many of the islands of the Mediterranean, Spain, and Portugal.

Alongside Mary and the boys, Bill's nephew, Walker Frew, and his family meant a great deal: Kim, Adam, Ellie and Rachel.

Following a company merger, the family moved to Dumfries where Bill spent a lot of his working life in the nuclear industry at Chapelcross Power Station and Windscale in Cumbria. With a new job in the Ayr area, the family moved to Pemberton Valley and finally to Whin Hill Road. Bill often said that he had 'job satisfaction'.

Over the years, Bill enjoyed hill walking, reading, gardening and golf at Seafield. He became an Elder in St Columba Church and a member of the Men's Association. For the Association, he served on the Committee and as Secretary for a time and, for many years, was a keen Thursday afternoon bowler at the church. Besides his other interests, Bill was a wine

maker and a member of the Prestwick Wine Circle. He attended the Bachelor Club for a Burns Supper and – a weekly ritual – Sunday afternoons were marked by Bill reading the Sunday papers and enjoying a cigar.

Bill never thought he was old and for most of his life kept excellent health. Always eager to get on with things, such as trimming a tree or hedge: the family had to lock-up his stepladder for his own good! In hospital, he always made the nurses laugh. Bill had a long, rich and good life. There is much for us to remember and give thanks for. He shaped our lives and will continue to do so.

Revd Dr Scott McKenna

Join in the Thursday Afternoon Games session

The weekly Thursday afternoon games session, which is an offshoot of the Monday Fellowship, is for all budding sports athletes will commence on Thursday, September 29.

Normally on a Thursday we play Carpet Bowls and Snooker with a customary break for tea/coffee and biscuits and an attempt to put the world's wrongs right.

So if you are a potential Tattie Marshall or Stephen Hendry then you will be most welcome - our existing members are badly in need of some new competition.

For the less energetic members Dominoes and Board Games are available to exercise the brain rather than the muscles!!

The sessions run from 2pm to 4pm every Thursday and continue until December 22 then from January 5 until April, 30 2023.

Annual Membership is £5.

These are very friendly sessions where 'sporting ability' does not enter into the equation so all are welcome to come along and enjoy an afternoon of fun and fellowship.

I look forward to welcoming you on Thursday, September 29.

Alan Hawthorn, Games Convener

Scott's sermon preached on Sunday, June 26, 2022 from Isaiah 45: 9-16

***The prophet Isaiah said,
'Truly, you are a God who hides himself ...'***

The Gospels are full of action and fast-paced. At the surface level, the stories of Jesus are dramatic, swashbuckling, and heroic.

There are shepherds and wise men at His birth, a dove descending from heaven at His baptism, a tussle with the devil (the Satan) in the desert and the miraculous calling of fishermen to be His disciples. Unclean spirits are healed, a leper is made clean, a man paralysed stands up and walks, His disciples pluck heads of grain on the Sabbath, demons are cast out, a demoniac is restored into his right mind, four thousand and five thousand people are fed with fish and loaves, and a young boy, a young girl, and the man Lazarus are raised from the dead. It is breath-taking.



For some time now we have explored different ways of interpreting Scripture; in particular, digging beneath the surface meaning of the stories, the myths, to discover the kernel inside.

Nevertheless, the stories of Jesus are striking. These stories are a genre of writing and, in part, they are told in such a way as to inspire faith. It was reading the Gospels and the Psalms for myself that first 'connected' me with Jesus. It was through these rich, ancient stories that I 'saw' Jesus, 'saw' with the imagination, and have been hooked ever since. Jesus makes God real for me. I am also persuaded of the reality, presence, and love of God through the wonder and beauty of creation: the starlit sky and the crimson sunset.

Yet, I want to be careful in what I claim of God. The swashbuckling Jesus is not my everyday experience. In our time and society, people are cured or at least cared for by the advance of medical science and the skill of the medical profession. The poorest in our society are fed by social provision offered by the state and charities. Children and adults who die early are not brought by to life by Jesus or the Church.

Again, I believe that the stories of the Gospels and the Bible more generally are to be interpreted and unpacked – delved into – rather than read at surface level, but so many of us have grown up with a notion of the swashbuckling Jesus, the interventionist God. Jesus is almost like Super-

man; a hero who swoops down to save us from danger, illness, and our sins. How do we mature spiritually beyond this? The prophet Isaiah said, 'Truly, you are a God who hides himself ...'.

At present, so much of the thought and energy of the Church of Scotland is going into restructuring the organisation. However successful or otherwise that that may prove to be, it is not the core issue. The core issue is our worldview and how we may speak of God, the Divine Mystery, in the 21st century?



Recently, I have been reading *Nine Lives: In Search of the Sacred in Modern India* by the Scottish writer, William Dalrymple. In part, it tells the stories of dancers who, for a time, 'become' god. It is not that these dancers represent god but that they actually become god.

The gods come down to earth and dance. One such god is Vishnu. The dancers are usually *Dalits*, the lowest caste, but when painted as a god people of higher castes, including priests, come seeking peace, counsel and intimacy with the Sacred. When these Dalits are not painted and 'possessed' by god, those visitors would never speak to them. One Dalit says that these rituals 'turn the world upside down'. These are stories about god being with the poor, illiterate and dispossessed.

There are other Hindu stories of members of the lower castes infringing upon or transgressing caste restrictions and being abused and murdered because of their social transgression. After death, the person treated unjustly is raised to life and deified by the gods; the gods are aghast at the injustices suffered by the poor and excluded. There are numerous stories of the Dalit being deified and becoming immortal: the dead are redeemed and morality triumphs over immorality and justice over injustice. These myths are a religious revelation about an unjust social system.

In one story, Lord Shiva becomes an illiterate, ill-educated Dalit and confronts a respected 'saint', a man of high-standing. Through the encounter, the point is to show that all people are deserving of respect and compassion. To attain Enlightenment, we are to fight against prejudice and ignorance; secular and religious. In the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats, does Jesus not say:

For I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,
I was naked and you gave me clothing,
I was sick and you took care of me,
I was in prison and you visited me.

Like Shiva, Jesus spoke of being present in those of lowest rank; those dispossessed and suffering. If we strip away some of the cultural differ-

ences, stories within Christianity and Hinduism, to mention but one other faith, are very similar. Always, it seems to me that people of all cultures and religions crave contact and intimacy with the Divine. Those who jour-



ney to speak to the painted Hindu god, who seek counsel, want to be close to God, at one with God. Is that so very different from Communion, the Mass, and the Eucharist: do we not desire to be at one with God; to touch God and be touched by God?

I suggest that each of the world's major religions is a striving after the Sacred; a search for the Eternal. For me, Jesus offers a unique and profound insight into God but I want to

be careful of the swashbuckling, 'Superman' Jesus. After St Paul, perhaps the most influential writer in Christian history is St Augustine. Writing in the fourth and fifth centuries, Augustine said, '*Si comprehendus, non est Deus*,' which means 'If you understand, it is not God.' None of our words, our images or concepts can truly represent the Divine. It is not possible for the finite human brain to comprehend the Infinite. God in Godself is truly hidden, always in the dark, and always out of reach.

How can we conceivably understand the One who creates and holds all things in being: the entire universe, billions upon billions of stars, time itself, planets, rocks, and life in all its myriad forms culminating in creatures of consciousness and love?

In the experience of our lives, we may find God through our social action, caring for others or the love of our family; we may feel the Presence of God in our worship and the singing of psalms and hymns; we may sense the Presence of God, the Sublime, through the beauty of nature. In whatever ways we are aware of God, like much of humanity for most of human history, we have done so through stories rooted in our own culture. For me, the treasure and medicine which the Church has to offer is to help people open themselves to God within themselves. The swashbuckling Jesus is a distraction. God, Jesus, the Christ, is within you and we are within God. Albeit fleetingly, it is there that we will find peace, the peace this world cannot give.

Scott McKenna

Name change for the men

This will be the first article for the Monday Fellowship (formerly, The Men's Association).

The Monday Fellowship is open to anyone who wishes to meet in the spirit of Fellowship, not just males!

Younger members are also welcome!

The meetings are held throughout October to March, every second Monday.

Up until Christmas, meetings are held in the Midton Hall at 7.30pm with a variety of guest speakers delivering talks on a variety of topics. In the winter months of January and February meetings will be in the afternoon at 2pm.

Over our spring and summer recess, we lost two of our stalwart members, Bill Wilson and Sandy Allan. Both gentlemen were faithful members and we will miss their friendship over the coming years.

Our next session starts on Monday, October 10th at 7.30pm in the Midton Hall, when the guest speaker will be our own Rev. Iain Patterson who will spill the beans on his life and times in the Church.

John Ferguson

Over the Firth to Cumbrae

We were low in numbers at the end of July due to holidays, but nevertheless the Walking Group had a lovely trip to the Isle of Cumbrae on one of the hot days this summer.

We caught the 11am ferry and then the bus, getting off as we reached Kames Bay and walking all the way to West Bay for our picnic. We were joined by Helen's granddaughter Niamh who enjoyed the trampolines - and of course, no trip to Millport is complete without ice cream in the Ritz cafe!

The programme of walks are on the weekly intimation sheet.



Time for a clean



Work was undertaken in July to clean and repair the church roof and gutters.

This was carried out by three personnel from ALPS Scotland, a local company who carry out roof works across central Scotland. ALPS undertook the stone and roof cleaning some 15 years ago and are a very experienced company.

They used a 51 Metre (165Feet) twin arm mobile boom which easily allowed access to all parts of the roof and tower from the road. During the five hours on site they replaced 21 tiles which had slipped out of position and removed 15 litres of weeds and spoil from the gutters. The main roof gutters are 450mm wide (18 inches) to cope with the large roof area. The roof is now in good condition for the foreseeable future.

John M. Stewart
Fabric Convenor)



Closing the pages on the church Book Club

After seven years and having lost a number of members, the book group has decided to take a break for now.

We may re-convene in a few months if there is interest.



Isaac having fun

Columba Kids enjoy a day at the Farm Park



The leaders also had fun



Afternoon focus for the Guild

“Whose we are and Whom we Serve”

It is hard to believe that it is almost six months since we met as a Guild. I hope that you have all had a good summer and enjoyed the warm days when the sun has shone.

The Guild will start again on Monday, October 3 at 2 p.m. in the Midton Hall. In the previous Columba News, we mentioned the change to every meeting being held in the afternoon from the beginning of this Session. We hope that this will be more suitable for our members and any new members who we hope will come along and join us to enjoy the friendship and fellowship of The Guild.

Our Minister, the Revd Dr Scott McKenna, has kindly agreed to come along again this year to our opening meeting and for this we are most grateful.

A date for your diary – **Wednesday, 5 October 2022 at 2 p.m. is The Guild Autumn Rally.**

This year it will be held in **Newton Wallacetown Church**. The speaker will be Mrs Helen Eckford, National Convenor Elect. I am sure that the members of Newton Wallacetown Guild will be there to give you a warm welcome.

Our meetings until December are as follows: -

Monday, 3 October at 2 p.m.	Revd Dr Scott McKenna Dedication Service Opening Address
Monday, 17 October at 2 p.m.	Melissa Simpson Head of Gardens Dumfries House and Estate
Monday, 31 October at 2 p.m.	Karen Gillon General Secretary National Guild
Monday, 14 November at 2 p.m.	Ayr Community Gospel Choir Monday Fellowship Visit
Monday, 28 November at 2 p.m.	Starchild Michaela Foster Marsh Guild Project
Monday, 12 December at 2 p.m.	Christmas Tea True Colours

Maureen Fullerton, Secretary



Memories of the Jubilee





STREET PARTY



*Street Party photographs
courtesy of Keith Fullarton*



STREET PARTY





STREET PARTY



JUBILEE PARTY



Oasis mark the Jubilee with a special event



Table Talk makes a return

Due to the success of the first session of Table Talk in May, we plan to hold another 6 week block, probably starting at the beginning of October.

This is an informal 'chat' group where people can raise whatever topic they choose.

During the first block we reminisced, shared our thoughts and opinions and generally put the world to rights!

If you would like to be part of this group, even just to come along and listen, please let Helen Greig know what day of the week would suit you best. Email hcgreig@icloud.com

Check out the Presbytery news

Ayr Presbytery convened on June 28, 2022 within the Carrick Centre, Maybole and the following business was discussed.

Letter of Demission: Presbytery noted that the Rev David Prentice-Hyers, Minister at Troon:Old Parish Church left his charge on May 29, 2022 to take up a role as Lead Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA.

Attestation of Presbytery and Congregational Records: Presbytery noted that arrangements are in hand to carry out the attestation of Presbytery and Congregational Records during July and August, a notice with details of records to be produced, date and location for the meeting will be issued shortly.

Presbytery Mission Plan: Presbytery will meet in hunc effectum on Tuesday August 23, 2022 for the purpose of confirming the Presbytery Mission Plan which will include the recommendations of the Building Review Committee on which church buildings will be retained or closed.

Anniversaries and Vacancy Business: Presbytery recognised and acknowledged the 50 years service of the Rev David Ness since his ordination on May 17, 1972.

Presbytery noted that appointment of the Rev Scott McKenna as Interim Moderator at Troon:Old Church effective from June 13, 2022.

Presbytery noted the appointment of Mrs Gillian Richmond, Probationer as Joint Locum of Troon:Old and Troon Portland Churches effective from September 1, 2022.

George Park, Presbytery Elder

Investment and climate change

In Ayr we have had a lovely relatively dry warm summer and it has been enjoyable!

This year there have been numerous news items about climate change. Other regions worry about fires and drought. Mountain areas have also become aware of changes. For example, St Moritz is one of Switzerland's smartest resorts. High summer skiing has been abandoned there because of retreating glaciers. The photo below is of the Diavolezza glacier taken at 3000 meters above sea level (around 10,000 feet). You can see the pylons of a ski lift in the background. In the foreground is a fragment of surviving glacier that has literally been wrapped in bandages. This is to reflect the sun and retain the cold, so that less artificial snow is required towards the end of the year.



The rising cost of gas has produced an imperative to reduce our reliance on fossil fuel that is now being felt by every household in the UK. Im-



provement is possible using renewable energy sources or improving the efficiency of established fossil fuel burners or a simple reduction in consumption. If we wish to limit discomfort, investment is required.

On an individual level, we can buy better gas boilers and controls, solar panels, a log burner, insulation, etc. Most people also invest in savings, often in the form of pensions and ISAs. We would like to see the money used for worthwhile ends, such as improving the supply of energy that does not harm the world and sustainable agriculture. Of course, we also expect some return on our investment.

We may belong to clubs, churches and other organisations where we can influence expenditure. In a democracy we have a small influence over how our country runs its affairs. Again, we can sometimes make

choices. Our modern world has many complex structures, often so complex that it is difficult to work out how to conduct ourselves. In the end, we make choices depending on what we can afford to pay and the likely personal returns or benefits. Hopefully other factors sometimes influence our decisions.

Capitalism has undoubtedly improved the living conditions of billions of people. Somehow it is not a complete answer to the world's problems, especially from an environmental perspective. Green politics is often aligned with socialism which is not always seen as a reliable way forward.

For some years, there has been a vogue for ESG investing (Environmental, Social and Governance). These funds are seen as decent and have attracted huge sums, particularly in pension investment. Until early this year, these funds did fairly well but have done very badly in the last 6 months. The problem is with the definition of ESG and frankly, with integrity of those advising us. There are several organisations who label funds as ESG but the overlap of recommendations is poor, around 50%. A great deal of ESG is in big American Tec companies. I am not convinced that big technology companies are particularly inspiring. MSCI is a large New York finance company specialising in complex investment structures. It classified a large Indian company as compliant with ESG. It turns out that the company makes an important proportion of its income from transporting coal but not from mining. MSCI considers coal mining not compliant with environmental standards but shipping coal is OK. There is so much money in ESG funds that it is hardly surprising that loosening the definition on ESG is practiced in order to make room for more investment.

At one point I felt critical of our church's investment policy because, to my eye, we seemed to spend little thought on the investments we made. I now see it differently because it is so difficult to unpick what is decent and what might be damaging. Relying on central Church of Scotland recommendations may be much better than I had imagined.

On a smaller scale, what is decent? I value integrity. I expect that others in Ayr St Columba are likely to agree. Capitalism is only likely to continue to be viable with regulation. Integrity must be a central principle in regulation. I also think that asking myself questions is appropriate. Could I reasonably reduce emissions from my home/car/food/holidays and still live a full and worthwhile life? How should I use/invest money that is available? Can my Church make improvements to its property so as to reduce emissions? Can I really listen to opinions of others and not assume that I know all the answers? I like to see integrity in others, do I demonstrate the same qualities myself?

Money, investments and capitalism are probably the thorniest topics in environmental matters. They are also very difficult to address in religious circles. Right now, financial matters demand our attention and we must make our decisions however imperfect they may be.

In Spain, the government has brought in new regulations. Very soon, air conditioning in public buildings will be set to a minimum temperature of 27 degrees centigrade. Electricity will be switched off in restaurants after 10pm. Spain has a culture of late night dining. What is reasonable here?

Andrew Muirhead

Please contact me if you would like to promote ecological matters in Ayr St Columba. Any contribution of any type will be appreciated. It need not be a big commitment.

Email a.g.muirhead@gmail.com Mobile 07526662044

Good Recycling News

Dobbies now recycle used plastic compost bags and plastic flower pots

Marks and Spencer have a recycling bin upstairs at the sales desk for plastic food wrappers, cellophane film etc and old plastic carrier bags.

Congratulations to both these firms!

Muriel Wilson

Matthew is guest organist at town hall

Our own talented organist, Matthew, will be playing the impressive Lewis Organ in Ayr Town Hall on Monday, September 19.

The recital is part of the Organist Entertains series.

Admission is £4 and the concert commences at noon.

Copy deadline for the October issue will be

Sunday, October 2

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

New advertisers should also send their copy to the editor Norman Reid

Thank you

Mrs Mary Wilson and Family wish to express grateful thanks to all who sent flowers, letters and cards at the time of Bill's death.

Your thoughts and good wishes are very much appreciated.

The sum of £438 has been forwarded to Dementia Scotland in Bill's memory.

Thank you to all who contributed.

Congregation and Parish Register



June - August

"I am with you always to the end of the age"

Matthew 28:20

Daisy Milne	Charlotte Street, Ayr
Bill Wilson	Whinhill Road, Ayr
Andrew Andy) Cardie	Glasgow
Alexander (Sandy) Allan	Whiteford View, Ayr
Cathie Wilson	Creggan Bahn, Ayr
Mary Anderson	formerly of Upper Loaning, Ayr
Myrette Wilson	Redford Care Home, Ayr
Tony Adgent	Briar Grove, Ayr
Helen McCrorie	Midton Road, Ayr

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)
2pm: HOLY COMMUNION
(Last Wednesday of 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

2pm: **THE GUILD** (fortnightly):

Mrs D. Bone, 441651

7.30pm: **MEN'S ASSOCIATION**

(fortnightly):

Mr T. R. Swinn, 441896

WEDNESDAY

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

Church Office, 269524

2pm: **FITNESS with FRIENDS:**

Mrs Margaret Doncaster, 477381

6.15: **9th AYR BROWNIES,**

Emma Daniels, 07856245801

THURSDAY

10am-noon: **OASIS CAFE**

Mrs M. Doncaster 477381 Mrs P. Naylor
570020

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

Mr A. Hawthorn 267688

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



- BARRY WHALEN - FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Genuine, Caring & Professional Service

Golden
Charter
Funeral
Plans

(01292) 611 148
RIVER TERRACE, AYR



RHA CONSTRUCTION & BRICKLAYING SERVICES

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

ROGER THOMPSON Bricklayer
11 Hollow Park, Ayr KA7 4SR

T: 07790 666 673
RHAConstruction@outlook.com



DECORATORS & PLASTERERS

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

AYR

Contact Justin 01292 261329 or 07756498450

ALL ASPECTS OF PAINTING & DECORATING & PLASTERING
EXCELLENT RATES | INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR PAINTING
WALL COVERINGS | PLASTERING | FLOORING
FREE ESTIMATES | ALL INSURANCE WORK

www.decoratorsayrshire.com



Contact Stephen on
07900 693435

CARPETS, VINYL & FLOORING

ACCESSORIES SUPPLIED AND FITTED
7 DAY SERVICE • FREE ESTIMATES
info@hendersoncarpets.co.uk



Davidson Gas Services

Installation, Maintenance and Repair

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

Mobile: 07815 140402
Ex Scottish Gas Engineer



JAMIE MCINNES JOINERY

For all your joinery needs

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

FREE ESTIMATES
07732 738238 - 01292 442672

A. PICKEN & SONS BUTCHERS

ESTABLISHED 1870

Supreme Quality Beef, Lamb
and Pork always in stock

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

BRANCHES

67-71 MAIN STREET, AYR Tel 01292 263970



WEIR ROAD TRADING ESTATE

(off Waggon Road) AYR

AYRSHIRE GARAGE DOORS <> T: 263030

Suppliers/Fitters of Quality Garage Doors
Repair Service Available

CARPET OUTLET <> T: 284900

Suppliers/Fitters of Quality Floorings
Carpet Binding Service Available

**M L Williams
Funeral Directors**



Funeral Partners

We create every funeral
individually, just for you.



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

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

We are here to help 24 hours a day.

Ayr

01292 262 277

1b Falkland Park Road,
KA8 8LL

www.mlwilliams.co.uk

SACT Electric Car Club Low Cost e-car Hire



*Zero
Emissions
Driving,
Zero Fuel Cost*

www.sact-carclub.co.uk
01292 270864

RACHEL HYNES

Experienced Singer/Teacher.

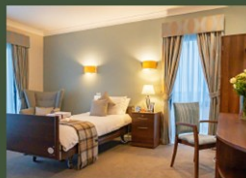
Offers singing lessons at every level

Telephone 07771601820
email: rachelhynes@gmail.com



Covering all aspects of:

**Vocal Training
Singing Exercise
Vocal Technique
CoVid voice rehabilitation**



**Greenan Manor
Care Home**
Doonfoot, Ayr

*High-quality, personalised care in a
homely environment.*

Our exclusive care home, Greenan Manor in the
heart of Doonfoot, is among the country's finest,
providing nursing and dementia care at its best.

Virtual Tours Now Available!

greenanmanor@meallmore.co.uk
0146 795 050
[@greenanmanorcarehome](https://www.facebook.com/greenanmanorcarehome)
2 Tirie Avenue, Ayr KA7 4GH



**ALLOWAY
CHIROPODY
CENTRE**

Hilary Donaghey
HCPC Registered Chiropodist/Podiatrist
21 Alloway, Ayr KA7 4PY
Telephone 01292 440275
Above Alloway Pharmacy

**YVONNE POTTS D.O.
OSTEOPATH**

Registered with the General Osteopathic Council

32 ASHGROVE STREET
AYR KA7 3BG
Telephone: 01292 611808
(Established 33 years)

MarchmontPodiatry

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

PODIATRIST / CHIROPODIST

Registered with the Health Professionals Council

Services include:
Biomechanical evaluation, Orthoses, Nail Surgery,
Acupuncture & Routine Chiropody

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

Every situation in life

is temporary. So, when life is good,
make sure you enjoy and receive
it fully. And when life is not
so good, remember that it
will not last forever and better
days are on the way.

Do you wish to advertise in
Columba News

Advertising details from
the editor
Norman Reid at
editor.columbanews@gmail.com


Remember to support our advertisers

Copy deadline for the October issue will be

Sunday, October 2

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

New advertisers should also send their copy to the editor Norman Reid

The magazine cover features a vibrant background of several whole oranges and one orange sliced in half, showing its juicy segments. Green leaves are interspersed among the fruit. A solid red rectangular box is positioned in the upper right corner, containing the title and subtitle in white text. The date and price are printed in the top left corner.

SEPTEMBER 2022 | £3.00

LIFE AND WORK

THE MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

IN THIS ISSUE

SUPPORT AND DIGNITY

How 'Operation Orange'
supported refugees in Italy

'GOD IS CLOSE TO US WHEREVER WE ARE'

Interview with a church elder working
to preserve her Gaelic heritage

GREEN SHOOTS

New life for one congregation
in a season of change

and much more all for £3