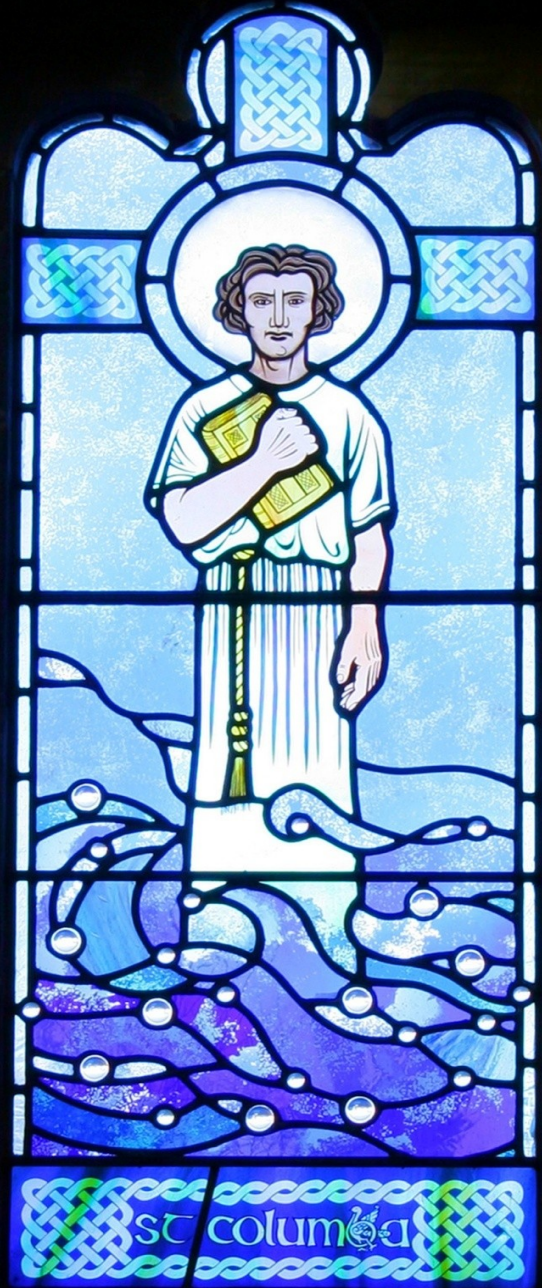


Columba News

June
2026
No. 268



Sunday School at Easter



The children of the Sunday School were selling Easter cards and chocolate treats recently at the church. Money raised went to Barnardo's



Waiting to welcome you

Sundays

June 21

June 28

July 5

July 12

July 19

July 26

August 2

August 9

August 16

August 23

August 30

September 6

September 13

September 20

Team

Team 7

Team 8

Team 9

Team 10

Team 11

Team 1

Team 2

Team 3

Team 4

Team 5

Team 6

Team 7

Team 8

Team 9

Leader

Janet McKnight

Ron Currie

Iain Campbell

Janette Leishman

Gavin Gemmell

Graeme Savage

Sandra Wylie

Bob Bartholomew

Yvonne Russell

Gordon McKinlay

Michael Whiteford

Janet McKnight

Ron Currie

Iain Campbell



From the Interim Moderator

Dear Friends,

It's been delightful and encouraging to have a number of baptisms recently - with more to come!

I also am aware of new people coming on a Sunday morning and others who have got out of the way of coming attending intermittently.

While commending you as a congregation for your openness and welcoming of visitors I'm trying to find a reason for this and is it something that we could cultivate to greater effect?

As I make my way round before the morning service I've asked members if they've been aware of this, and their answer has been that the atmosphere feels convivial and friendly. Those on duty certainly do more than hand out pew leaflets! But I sense it's more than that! It's how we create that conviviality - which is a natural ease and pleasure in socialising with one another.

In social theory, the term is sometimes used to describe the capacity of diverse communities to live, and cooperate peacefully together. Do you think that's what we're doing without being conscious of it? Somewhere in there is the possibility that new people and families come because they've heard about us?

Because we are a large congregation a visitor can feel inconspicuous, rather than sticking out. But being spoken to is part of the welcome!

You'll have heard me say in an opening prayer that we love to come together, to hear each other's news, and to share each other's concerns, in addition to seeking God's presence.

Because attending church, as well as singing and talking about God and Jesus is about reflecting on our lives and the way we are living them. Carl Jung, the Swiss Physiotherapist, said the meeting of two personalities is like the contact of two chemical substances: if there is any reaction, both are transformed.

That was certainly what characterised the Early Church; it was a caring as well as a worshiping community - and it grew because of it!

A mothers and toddlers group has just started and there were 27 families



and children at the early weeks. What about all those scouts/cubs/beavers and their leaders who live close by?

Also part of our outreach is the number of other weekday activities where we engage with adults. If we invited someone in a group we are acquainted with to come on a Sunday - who knows...since we are such a comfortable group of people what might result from that?

That's what I mean by 'cultivating' to greater effect our warmth and openness.

The stewardship initiative ongoing was an invitation to review our individual giving which includes volunteering and the using the social skills hinted at above. We all have something to give.

With warmest good wishes,

John

Interim Moderator

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Jesus said, "I am the Bread of life. He who believes in Me will never hunger."

This is your invitation to be present at the Lord's Table on Sunday, June 28 at our Morning Service at 10.30am, when we will participate in the greatest act of Christian worship, sharing in Christ's Body and Blood with His people around His Table.

Catch a coffee and a chat at Oasis

The popular Oasis cafe is back in full swing and continues throughout the summer.

The cafe's June dates will be 11th and 25th.

**The Kirk Session will hold its next meeting on
Tuesday, September 8 at 7pm**

**The copy deadline for the October issue of Columba News
will be Sunday, September 13**





Knitting needles down and off to lunch at Wildings

Our Knit and Natter group goes from strength to strength.

Every Tuesday at 10am we meet to share our knowledge of knitting, whether it is helping with a difficult pattern, showing someone how to do a new stitch or helping some previous non-knitter to get started. But the most important thing we share is fellowship.

I still think we should be named Natter with a wee bit of knitting!

We do still manage to knit blankets to be sent to a woman's hospital in Ethiopia.

On May 26 Isobel organised a fabulous lunch at Wildings....needles were left at home that day!





Ayr St Columba Church
Stewardship Campaign
2026

Holding Fast, Looking Forward

Our Stewardship Campaign is well underway and we would like to thank everyone who has already responded so thoughtfully and generously. For those still considering their pledge or commitment, please know this is simply a gentle reminder—not a visit from the stewardship police.

Stewardship is an important part of the life of our church, but it is often misunderstood. It is not simply about balancing budgets or keeping the heating on during the colder months (although we are all grateful for that too!). At its heart, stewardship is about recognising that each of us has been given gifts, talents, time and resources that can help our church community grow and flourish.

Our church is much more than a building. It is a place of worship, friendship, support, learning, service and welcome. Every Sunday service, community event, pastoral visit, children's activity, cup of coffee, flower arrangement, choir rehearsal and outreach project happens because people choose to contribute in different ways.

For some, stewardship may mean making a financial commitment that helps us plan responsibly for the year ahead. Regular giving allows the church to maintain ministries, support community work, care for the building and continue serving both our congregation and the wider community.

But stewardship is also about volunteering and sharing our time and skills. Not everyone can contribute financially in the same way, and that is perfectly alright. Some people offer hospitality, some help with administration, some arrange flowers, sing in the choir, welcome newcomers, assist with children's activities, serve refreshments or quietly support others behind the scenes. Every act of service matters, even the ones that often go unnoticed.

One of the wonderful things about church life is that no one person carries everything alone. Stewardship reminds us that we are part of something shared—a church family where everyone's contribution, large or small, helps strengthen the whole community.

If you have not yet returned your pledge or commitment card, there is still plenty of time to do so. We simply ask that you prayerfully consider



how you may be able to support the mission and ministry of our church in the coming year, whether through giving, volunteering, prayer, or acts of service.

Most of all, thank you. Thank you for your kindness, your encouragement, your faithfulness, and your willingness to be part of this community. Churches do not thrive because of buildings alone—they thrive because of people who care for one another and work together with generosity and hope.

And yes, your stewardship also helps ensure there is still coffee after the service, which many would agree is a ministry in itself.

Magazine Dates - Session 2026/ 2027

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
Sept/Oct	Start of Season	Sunday, 13 September	Friday, 25 September	Sunday, 27 September
Christmas	Christmas	Sunday, 15 November	Friday, 27 November	Sunday, 29 November
Easter	Easter	Sunday, 28 February	Friday, 12 March	Sunday, 14 March
Summer	June Communion	Sunday, 30 May	Friday, 11 June	Sunday, 13 June

Jean says a big thank you

It's a big thank you from Jean Stewart for the support the congregation has given her at her monthly sales table in the Carrick Park corridor.

The April table raised £220 and the May table brought in £200.

Earlier in the year the February March total was £350. The money goes to Whiteleys.

There will be no June table due to holidays,

If you would like to support the church flower fund please place your name on the calendar in the Carrick Park corridor. The Flower Team would like to thank everyone who has donated to the church flower fund.

Your donations can be handed in to the office in an envelope marked Flower Fund with your name.

Please make any cheque payable to Ayr St Columba Flower Fund. Thank you so much.



Monday Fellowship enjoys an end of session lunch

The next session of the Monday Fellowship starts in Monday, October 5 at 2pm in the Midton Hall.

Meetings are open to everybody and we look forward to welcoming new faces.

Our meetings are held every other Monday throughout our session at 2pm in the same venue.

Our President, Terry Swinn, is staying in the hot seat but our Treasurer, Alan Hawthorn, has stepped down after many years of sterling service in the Monday Fellowship and also in its predecessor, Men's Association.

The 2026/2027 Syllabus is being consolidated as this Columba News goes to print

Hopefully, we all enjoy a good summer and's look forward to our first meeting in October.

John Ferguson
Secretary





It was a warm welcome on our visit to the Hindu Temple

Continuing the Faith Nurture visits to other religions, a group from Ayr St Columba and friends set off on May 14 to visit the Om Hindu Mandir in Glasgow with our Dodds bus and driver.

Shoes off, hands washed, we all entered the gloriously colourful temple with its array of statues, or murtis, and were met by Acharyaji, the Priest, who spoke at length about Hinduism and its core beliefs of birth, death and rebirth, which are all determined by karma, or actions. He introduced us to some of the 33 main gods of his faith – Shiva, Vishnu, Krishna – all represented in statue form within the altar and all representing different aspects of the Divine.



Whilst Acharyaji was speaking, many, mostly young, worshippers entered the Temple, laid offerings of fruit on the altar, rang the bell, prayed and received in their palm, a teaspoon of water from the Ganges (mixed with our own, cleaner water!) which they drank, believing this to cleanse their neck and head, and thoughts. We learned that up to 500 worshippers regularly attend the Temple, and Hindi classes are held for the children before worship. A couple of elderly members of the Temple also spoke and answered some of our questions – one was Brij Lata Gandhi, who has a

string of awards, including an MBE for her interfaith work in Glasgow. The interfaith movement in Glasgow is thriving thanks to three remarkable women – one Christian, one Jewish and Brij, as a Hindu. She is rightly very proud of what they have achieved.

We were intrigued by the box of coconuts at the door of the Temple and it was explained that the inner content is pure, white and untouched by human hands until it is broken and the breaking of coconut is done at the start of new projects, like a new house, or new car. In fact, new cars turn up at the Temple door and the priest will break a coconut on the pavement as a symbol of success!



At 1pm we were taken downstairs for tea and coffee, immediately followed by a wonderful lunch of rice, dahl, vegetable curry, yoghurt, semolina and, of course, fresh chapatis. Each Thursday lunch is served to members of the community and a number of Hindu ladies joined us before playing their regular game of cards!

The welcome we received was so exceptionally warm and friendly and, after a few words of thanks, we departed with an open invitation to return.



Stated Annual Business Meeting, March 22, 2026

Session Clerk's Address

Rev'd Matthews, Fellow Elders, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, it is my somewhat daunting task to speak to you about the Stewardship Campaign which is about to get under way and my rather more pleasurable task to acknowledge those who have done so much in the past year to keep our Church moving forward. It has been another challenging year which has seen some very special people step up and play their part in ensuring that St Columba remains in a strong position.

I will speak on that later but let me begin by saying a little about the Stewardship Campaign.

Firstly, let me thank and congratulate Sharon, our Treasurer, for her excellent presentation of the Accounts and of the Budget for the coming year. She has set out clearly the position we are in and she has set the scene very well for what I intend to say. So, thank you Sharon.

I should also mention that a number of the graphs we will show were produced by our former Treasurer, Tom Cairns, who was involved in developing this campaign before he became ill. We very much miss his continued involvement and we acknowledge that we are very much indebted to him. We thank Sharon Lindsay and Gillian Watson for taking forward the work he was doing.

In a Stewardship Campaign members are asked to reflect on what the Church means to them and how they can best support its work and mission. Our campaign has been named "***Holding Fast, Looking Forward***". The focus is on securing a bright future for our Church.

The Kirk Session took the decision to launch a Stewardship Campaign after having taken account of various matters which were made known to them and which Sharon's presentation has shone a light on.

Firstly, in recent years, the expenditure of the Church has been significantly greater than our income.

And, although we currently have good financial reserves, it is projected that, if there is no change in income, these reserves will be eroded and they will be exhausted in a few years' time.

Secondly, since the pandemic our Church roll has fallen and, along with all other churches in this country and beyond, we are not finding it easy to

attract new members.

Thirdly, we are aware that many churches run stewardship campaigns on an annual or biennial basis, but our Church has not run a Stewardship Campaign for many years. The last one was in 2012.

And, as to the timing of a campaign, we believed that it would be very unfair to expect a new Minister to begin their tenure here by asking members to review their support of the Church.

For these reasons, it was decided that this was the right time to embark upon a Stewardship Campaign. We need to balance our income with our expenditure and we want our next Minister to be able to concentrate on their preaching and pastoral roles without having concerns regarding the Church's finances.

Now, I wish to state publicly that the Kirk Session is well aware of the wonderful support that many of our members already give. And we certainly do not wish to put any pressure on individuals who may be in a less fortunate financial position or whose time is heavily committed. The campaign will ask members to give thought to their contributions of all kinds to the Church and to take action where they can.

To support this, we have prepared a booklet to explain what a Stewardship Campaign is and what our campaign involves, and we also supply information on ways of giving. Within this, we emphasise the benefits to the Church if Standing Order forms and Gift Aid forms are completed.

And please be aware that contributions of members' time and talent are vital to the well-being of the Church. We very much depend on volunteers to help us run our many church activities effectively.

Now, I will conclude this part of my address by again thanking Sharon Lindsay and Gillian Watson for taking the campaign forward and for making sure that everything is explained properly to our members.

And, at this point, we will pause and offer an opportunity for you to ask any questions you may have about the campaign.

Ladies and Gentlemen, let me now turn to express our gratitude to those who have been involved with the Church over the past year. In that year we have witnessed the transfer of Lochside Church to Newton Wallacetown, we have enjoyed the visits of the Moderator and a flurry of ex-Moderators, we have mourned the passing of much-loved colleagues and we have been offered a multitude of excursions, events and activities. Elders have undergone training on the protection of vulnerable individuals and groups and many attended a refresher Heartstart training course. We have continued to navigate an ongoing Vacancy situation and we have



elected a Nominating Committee. We have survived a meeting with the Vacancy Advisory Committee and we have launched an exhaustive search across the country for our next Minister.

Now, I am very pleased to start my 'thank you's' by recognising the superb contribution which has been made by all the loyal members of this Church. In a Vacancy, many churches find that attendance drops off and, sometimes, only a handful of faithful members appear regularly in the pews. At St Columba, however, attendances have remained reassuringly high and steady. This has been very encouraging for all of us, not least for our Ministers and our guest Ministers, who have been delighted to preach to such a responsive audience. So, we thank each and every member for their invaluable support of the Church and we very much hope that this will continue in the coming year.

I feel sure that a major factor in maintaining this strong attendance has been the quality of the preaching we have enjoyed throughout the year. We have a Ministerial Team comprised of individuals who not only know their Congregation but have become true friends with them. John Matthews, David Ness and Muriel Wilson have maintained and nourished a profound sense of family within the Church, and it is a family we are pleased and more than a little proud to belong to. I thank John, David and Muriel for all they are doing, day in and day out, to make our Church such a welcoming place to come to and such a heartwarming community to belong to.

I think we have all now become familiar with John's measured and affirming sermons, Muriel's gentle and inspiring messages and David's resounding welcomes and somewhat mischievous anecdotes. We are exceedingly grateful to each of these stalwart servants of the Church.

In addition, of course, we must recognise and celebrate once more all that John, as our Interim Moderator, is doing. He keeps a watchful eye on a great many aspects of our Church life and his input enhances them greatly. He has even managed to get his family in on the act, with son Stuart becoming very familiar with the path to Ayr and leaving no one in any doubt that he was brought up in a family where caring, empathy and the courage to say what you think were priorities.

In addition to the characteristic antics of our Ministerial Team in the pulpit, these good folk have been instrumental in securing the services of an amazing range of guest preachers. We have heard some of the most celebrated clerics in the land and I am delighted to emphasise that each one of them has spoken of their genuine admiration for our Congregation

Continued on page 18





Four Days on Iona



Our four-day pilgrimage from Ayr to Bishops' house on Iona was a journey full of faith, reflection—and plenty of fun. 22 pilgrims in seven cars kicked off with bacon rolls at the Green Welly in Tyndrum. Lunch was prawn sandwiches from Oban's Fish Shack on the boat to Mull, with everyone already feeling the spirit of adventure partly fuelled by the vagaries of Calmac.

However, all went smoothly and we arrived at Bishops' House - peaceful and simple, with homely rooms, welcoming staff, and meals that were comforting, nourishing, and delicious. Each morning and evening, the chapel offered calm and prayerful services beautifully led by Muriel and Scott, with



inspiring reflections from Ian, while music from Keith and Catriona added a peaceful, uplifting atmosphere. A few of us attended Iona Abbey services, but many found the intimate chapel experiences truly special.

Our days were enriched by reflective walks led by Ian and Mandy, stopping at quiet spots to ponder the island's spiritual significance. Some of our number completed the full but muddy pilgrimage around the island, picnicking at the stunning and spiritual Columba Bay. Others completed part of the walk, and some remained in the warm comfort of Bishops' House with books, knitting and chatter. Fellowship thrived at meal times and in the evenings in the lounge, where laughter and stories flowed freely. Two fascinating talks—one from the Abbey Warden who spoke about the life in community of the Abbey, and another from Muriel's friend, Joyce, who lives on the island and spoke of Iona's wildlife and life on Iona—added insight and inspiration.

The journey home brought adventure: our Mull ferry to Oban was cancelled, and a nail-biting boat trip to Fionnphort in wild, windy conditions was followed by a long wait at Fishnish (some waiting longer than others!). Eventually, we all reached Lochaline and enjoyed a scenic drive through Glencoe, a perfect end to a memorable pilgrimage.

Iona reminded us that God's presence is found in quiet reflection, in music and worship, in laughter with friends, a singsong on the last evening and in the beauty of creation.

Bishops' House was a true haven, leaving us refreshed in body, mind, and spirit.





*Memories will never fail
Of a favourite island in the sea
Iona cradled in the ocean so green
Can surely make the heart serene
All these wonderful people too
Fun and laughter all day through
Over dunes and bracken onto white
sands
Picnic lunch shared touched by the sun.
Sacred pilgrimages so blessed
Definitely the Pilgrims' rest
Adventures galore as the waves and
breakers roared
Still angels kept us safe on board.*

*The winds howled the waves and break-
ers roared
The Pilgrims' thoughts how will we get
home!
Long queues in pouring rain
One by one we set sail again
Just then the winds died down
Rain stopped sun burst through
So, one by one we all arrived home!
Full of peace from our retreat
On a favourite island*

By Agnes Fisher 2026



From page 13

and have said that they would be very willing to return.

It is very clear, therefore, that whoever we identify to be our new Minister will have quite a standard to live up to !

However, I feel sure that the right person will be up for the challenge !

Wonderful as our Ministerial Team and our guest Ministers have been in the pulpit, it takes more than this to keep a Church thriving, particularly during a Vacancy. The Office Bearers in the Church and others, who volunteer in so many ways, are very much deserving of our gratitude. To every Elder who has visited members in their District, welcomed worshippers at the doors, served Communion Elements or contributed at Session meetings, I offer sincere thanks and heartfelt appreciation. To all members who volunteer in Committees, in activities and at events, I can assure you that your efforts are deeply appreciated. And those who support the Church with their attendance at Services and at other events should know that their presence is fundamental to the wellbeing of the Church and we are extremely grateful to each one of them.

At the start of a Sunday Service we will often greet visitors by saying that we hope they feel at home in our Church. And a great many have said that they certainly do. This can only be because of the welcome they receive and the atmosphere created by you, our members, which generates a feeling of comfort, of care and of inclusion. Our members really deliver their role in making this Church a home and a family which is open to all.

As you are now aware, the Church is launching a Stewardship Campaign in which we are looking for the means to sustain and nourish the work of the Church. Whilst this undoubtedly requires adequate finance, it also, very naturally, requires that sufficient members offer their time and their talent to support the work of the Church. Many of our Committees and Organisations would be delighted to welcome ordinary members who are prepared to help where they can. So, please let me know if you would be prepared to help.

Very recently, our Gift Aid Convenor, Peter Macdonald, has had to step back from the role for health reasons. I am delighted to say that one of our young and talented members, Mr Derek McNish, has volunteered to take on the role. We are most grateful to Derek and I do hope that others will be prepared to help in other areas of Church life and activity.

On the matter of finance, you may have heard of the Minister who was finding it very hard to make ends meet. His wife was constantly nagging him about incurring unnecessary expense. One evening, after a meeting which had overrun, he arrived at the bus stop just as the bus was leaving.



He ran after it but was unable to catch up and eventually he found he had run all the way home. Seeking to take full advantage of this unplanned journey, as all husbands in his situation are desperate to do, he proudly exclaimed to his wife that he had just saved a £1 by running home behind the bus.

“You idiot !” she responded, “Why didn’t you run home behind a taxi. You could have saved £10!”

On that note, let me extend a warm thank you to all those at home who support family members who are involved in the Church. I know that you are all much more supportive than the wife in this story and that is a very important factor in establishing a happy church community.

Now, it would take me a long time to mention everyone who has made a contribution to the Church in the past year, and I am aware that Lunch is calling. So, with apologies, I will keep it brief and say a simple but profound thank you to all our employees, Convenors, Committee members and anyone else who has been involved for everything they have done. You have played your part in ensuring that our church not only survives but also thrives in very challenging circumstances. I thank you all.

In closing, let me once more thank John and Sharon for their excellent presentations this afternoon.

Finally, I hope you all have a pleasant lunch - and please remember that a light lunch is available now in the Church Hall - and I wish you a happy and positive year ahead.

Thank you.

Bob Bartholomew

Letter to the Editor

Imagine my delight when I saw and used the beautiful handrail discreetly placed round the base of the pulpit, largely out of sight. It was designed and erected by John Stewart and his Wednesday team early in January after I fell on the chancel steps..

It is a wonderful help to me and perhaps others as their balance goes and I would want to express my warmest thanks.

Having said that, the men who helped me use the chancel steps up to now are also to be thanked.

I have been so grateful for their much needed help.

Thoughtfulness like this should never be forgotten.

Many thanks

Fiona (Boyd)



Abba's Rest empowering orphan girls in Chiringa, Malawi

For many orphan girls in Chiringa, missing school each month has long been a painful reality. Without access to sanitary products, and feeling too embarrassed to attend classes, they often lose a full week of education every month.

Because of the generosity of many St Columba monthly donors we are providing these products to girls in need, which ensures that menstruation no longer interrupts their education. This program addresses a critical barrier to learning, giving girls the confidence to attend school consistently and fully participate in their studies.

Abba's Rest also continues to support orphaned children in other ways, providing meals, shelter, healthcare, and emotional support. But the sanitary product initiative, together with training, has been particularly transformative, helping girls overcome stigma, embarrassment, and financial barriers.

We rely on donations and volunteers to sustain these programs, welcoming support from individuals and organizations. Through collective effort, Abba's Rest is proving that small interventions can have a huge impact, keeping children in school and brightening the path to a better future.



Nazombe Primary School Head Teacher Louis Benala, commended the initiative but appealed for further support, saying many girls miss classes during menstruation due to lack of sanitary materials. Standard 8 learner Shakira Banda of Nazombe Primary said the donation will improve her studies as she will no longer miss lessons

If anyone would like to know more about our work in Malawi or feel that they could help in anyway, please speak to Muriel Wilson or Colin Naismith, Trustees of Abba's Rest.



APRIL WALK



On our April walk eight of us drove down to Culzean on a beautiful day. The Ayrshire coast looked its best with sheep and lambs grazing on the rich farmland. Across the calm firth Arran was clearly visible.

We set off from the Stables courtyard and walked to the castle ramparts. The cannons are lined up and look as if they are ready to fire! They date back to the 16th century- one of the barrels is dated 1587.

We then went on through the gardens, past the beautiful Camellia House built in 1818 and originally designed as an orangery to grow citrus fruits for the Earl of Cassillis. It had underfloor heating!

Our next stop was the Walled Garden where there was a wonderful display of tulips.

MAY WALK

Our May walk started at the Clock Tower car park at Auchincruive. The history of the Clock Tower is fascinating. It was built in 1780 when Richard Oswald owned the estate. As many of you know it is now an excellent cafe/ restaurant.

We walked on past buildings which are now the HQ of NeoGen- an international biotech company and passed lots of beautiful rhododendron bushes.



We made our way through the gardens at the Bothy cafe and had a walk along the river, quite low due to lack of rain. We spied a gooseander leading her family of 11 ducklings through the shallow water.

We went back to the Bothy cafe for an early lunch. It's a great project which as well as providing delicious food, helps folk who have addiction problems.



Youngsters have fun in the hall

The church has a new parent and toddler group meeting in the Mid-ton Road hall.

The group meets on a Friday morning from 9.30am – 11.00am.

All enquiries should be directed to Ashley on 07869863181.

New members always welcome



Atty and Attenborough

I was given a birthday present by my daughter, a “Keeper experience” at Edinburgh zoo. To be more specific, a “Sloth” experience, perhaps she was trying to tell me something! By pure chance, I booked my visit only two days after a baby sloth, Atty (short for Attenborough), was born. The new arrival was named after David Attenborough who reached his century at around the same time.

I spoke with Amy, the keeper who showed me how to feed sloths. She told me that she became a keeper because she was always “a bit animaly”. She clearly had many options for a career, but chose to study zoology at University and became a zoo keeper because she wanted to bring people closer to nature and enhance their respect for the natural world. A story very like that of Sir David Attenborough.



Reading about his life is like reading about nature itself. David Attenborough is a complex blend of nature and nurture.

The young David spent his days collecting natural specimens as he grew up in the grounds of Leicester University. When only 10 years old, he and his older brother attended a lecture on natural history and the importance of preserving beavers given by a Canadian naturalist. This really boosted his interest in the natural world.

He showed early entrepreneurial ability aged 11, when he heard that the zoology department needed a large supply of newts. He offered to supply these at 3d each. He was already very observant and had spotted the colony in a pond right next to the zoology department!

Early influences of academia, family members and others shaped his future to a remarkable degree. His parents decided to foster two girls who arrived in the Kindertransport shortly before WW2, one indication of the kindness and decency of his background. Marianne, his adoptive sister gave him a piece of amber containing prehistoric creatures. 60 years later he made a film about amber.

He was bright and after studying in the local Grammar school, he gained a scholarship to Cambridge University. He later served in the Royal navy for two years as his National Service.

The 20 years from 1947 were restless with several jobs and roles including a further period of study. He was not keen to leave his young family and travel for the BBC at that time. He eventually accepted a role as Controller of BBC2. He created the style of BBC2 more than any other Controller. As a keen classical musician he developed the show "Face the music". His versatility was so great that he established "the old grey whistle test". His sense of humour may have been responsible for Monty Python's flying circus". "Pot black"



showed off the benefits of colour TV as did “The history of Western Art”. “Civilisation” and “The ascent of man” were his ideas too. They became the templates for high quality documentaries. His ability was such that he became director of programmes for both BBC TV channels in 1969 and was being considered as a strong candidate for Director General. It is too easy to see him only as a naturalist, he is so much more as well.



Atty lying on top of his Mum

I wonder to what extent Sir David Attenborough inspired Amy, the zoo keeper who also has so much potential and wants to bring us all closer to nature.

Andrew Muirhead

a.g.muirhead@googlemail.com

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Copy Deadline

**The copy
deadline for the
October issue of
Columba News will
be Sunday, Sept 13**

v Congregation and Parish Register



April– May

BAPTISMS

Susannah Isobella Docherty

Robert Hugh James Gillies

DEATHS

“I am with you always to the end of the age” *Matthew 28:20*

Bobby Kelly

Una Connaughton

Barclay (Barry) Mossie

Jane Symington

Helen (Scott) Hamilton

Allan Hosie

Margaret Duncan

Peter Macdonald



Who to contact

Interim Moderator:

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Associate Minister:

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17 Winston Avenue, Prestwick.
Tel:- 471625

Session Clerk:

ROBERT A. BARTHOLOMEW,
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Depute Session Clerks

KEITH FULLERTON
GILLIAN WATSON

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

Church Charity Number: SC014338

Church Services :

10.30am - Morning Worship;
10.30am Sunday School,

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: **MONDAY FELLOWSHIP**
(fortnightly):
Mr T. R. Swinn, 441896

TUESDAY

10am: Knit and Natter
Carol Morrison, 07999444200

WEDNESDAY

2pm: **FITNESS with FRIENDS:**
Mrs Margaret Doncaster, 477381
5.45pm: **9th AYR BROWNIES,**
Sally Bentham 07817169436

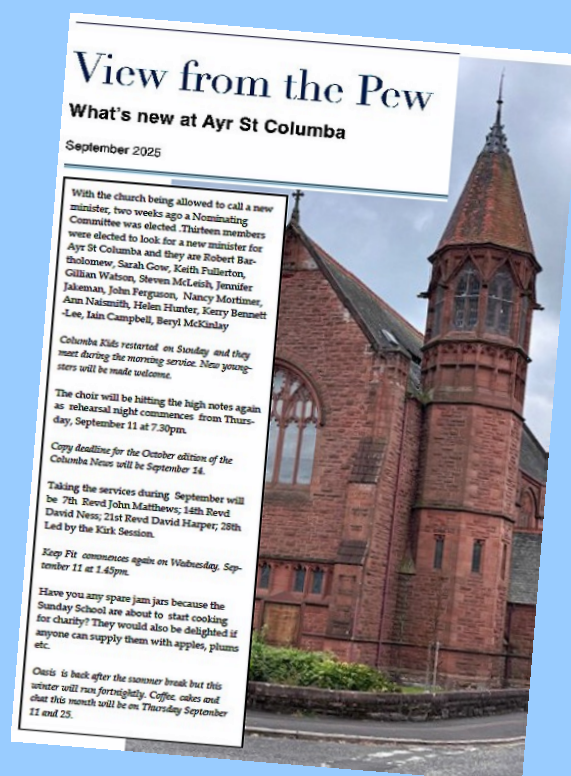
THURSDAY

10am-noon: **OASIS CAFE**
Mrs M. Doncaster 477381 Mrs P. Naylor
570020
6.30pm: **CUB SCOUTS:**
James 07966233002
7.30pm: **SENIOR CHOIR:**
Matthew Hynes, 870449

FRIDAY

6pm: **BEAVER SCOUTS:**
Fiona Wilson, 290414
7.30pm: **SCOUTS:**
James, 07966233002

Are you enjoying our monthly publication?



Hope you are all enjoying our extra newsletter that comes at the beginning of every month. The email publication *View from the Pew* has all the latest news from Ayr St Columba. If you haven't signed up for church emails then a number of printed copies are available at the church door.