

LARGS: ST COLUMBA'S PARISH CHURCH

Gallowgate Street, Largs

Scottish Charity No. SC002294

-----www.largscolumba.org-----

LANDMARK

NOVEMBER 2022



ADVENT

*A season of Hope
and Expectation*

Dear Friends,

Can you believe how close we are to Christmas and celebrating the birth of our Saviour, Jesus? And there seems so much yet to do as our Nativity Scene outside of the church comes to life with light, bearing witness to the life of Christ!

This last year at St Columba's has been a year when we have settled into how we live in the shadow of Coronavirus. Our worship, while still filled with praise and prayer and giving glory to God, is now less formal. As too is how we celebrate Holy Communion. And our young church, God's Families, is thriving. So 2022 has been a year of encouragement.....and it is not yet finished.

Still to come are our Advent Services of Worship: Christingle; Carols by Candlelight; Outdoor Nativity at Kelburn Estate; and Indoor Nativity at St Columba's. We are so blessed with all that God is equipping us to do as we live our faith for Him. However, there is still more to come and 2023 promises to be equally fruitful.

The Presbytery Mission Plan has been occupying many people's thoughts. However, discussions are still ongoing, and we won't know any more information until about March. So, we keep cheerful and carry on with faith and hope, in the strength of God's Holy Spirit within us.

As we look ahead to next year, we will be holding a good old-fashioned get together on the afternoon of Valentines Day. A gift in love. The invitation will be given to all of our church members, together with everyone associated with St Columba's. There will be fun and laughter; warmth of friendship and temperature; food and drinks; and, of course, entertainment. This gathering is to celebrate who were as a people of faith in our town. Transport will be provided for those who need it. So, please put this date in your new diary and look out for your invitation which will arrive at the end of January.

Another venture for 2023 is our Summer Mission which will be in either June or July. The team visiting us will (if we get permission to do so) put up a big stage on the prom where there will be live music and people speaking publicly about Jesus and the hope that we can have in Him. It promises to be a time of great excitement as we try to reach out to a larger part of our local communities with the help of others who are experienced in doing mission.

Until we get to next year, I hope that you can enjoy the remainder of this year. May God continue to bless you wherever you are. And may you know His peace.

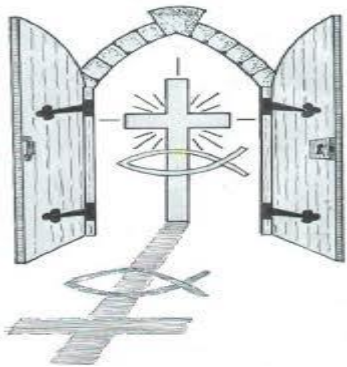
Have a wonderful Advent and Christmas.

With every blessing.



Rev. Dr. Graham McWilliams

Open Doors at St Columba's



During the month of December, the church will be open on a Thursday, Friday and Saturday afternoon between 2.00pm and 4.00pm. This is to provide an opportunity for prayer and reflection as Christmas approaches. Tea, coffee and a warm welcome will be available.

Heat and Hospitality

A bowl of hot soup and a roll, followed by tea and coffee is on offer to everyone, with no cost, on Friday 25th November from 11.00am - 3.00pm and on the last Friday of each month from January onwards.

This is an opportunity to come in from the cold, have something to eat and meet friends, old and new.



God's Families

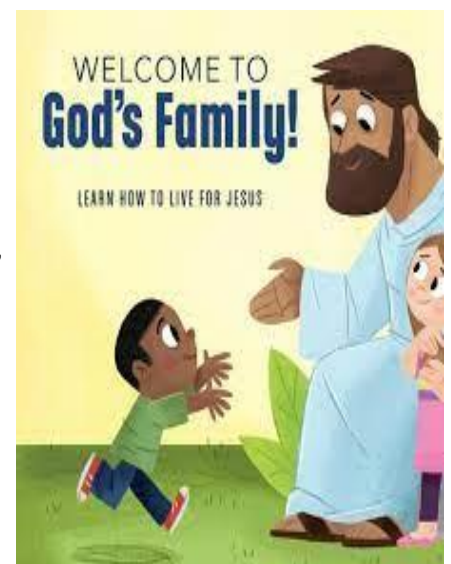
Worship - but different

God's Families meets on Saturday 26th November from 10.30am – 12 noon and on the last Saturday of each month from January onwards.

Everyone is welcome and there is something for all ages, from informal worship and play activities to snacks and bacon rolls.

The November session will take the form of a puppet show and sketch about Christmas preparations.

All children will receive a Real Advent Calendar as they count down to the real meaning of Christmas – the Birth of Jesus.



Christingle

Morning worship on Sunday 4th December will revolve around the Christingle as we learn about its meaning and then have the opportunity to make up our own Christingle. Tea, coffee and mince pies will be served afterwards.



Advent Tea Room



Tea, coffee and Christmas treats will be served on Saturday 10th December from 11.00am – 3.00pm. There will also be an opportunity to buy some Christmas gifts at one of our stalls and there may even be a visit from Santa Claus!!

Our Nativities: The Reason for the Season!



Outdoor Nativity

Why not come along to Kelburn Country Park on Sunday 11th December at 3.30pm and be transported to Bethlehem as we relive the Christmas Story in readings and carols? Everyone will be made most welcome.

Indoor Nativity

We will once again relive the birth of Jesus but in a slightly warmer setting!! Our Nativity Play will form morning worship on Sunday 18th December at 11.30am.

A warm welcome awaits everyone and tea, coffee and mince pies will be served afterwards.

