

**THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND,
LARGS: ST COLUMBA'S PARISH CHURCH**

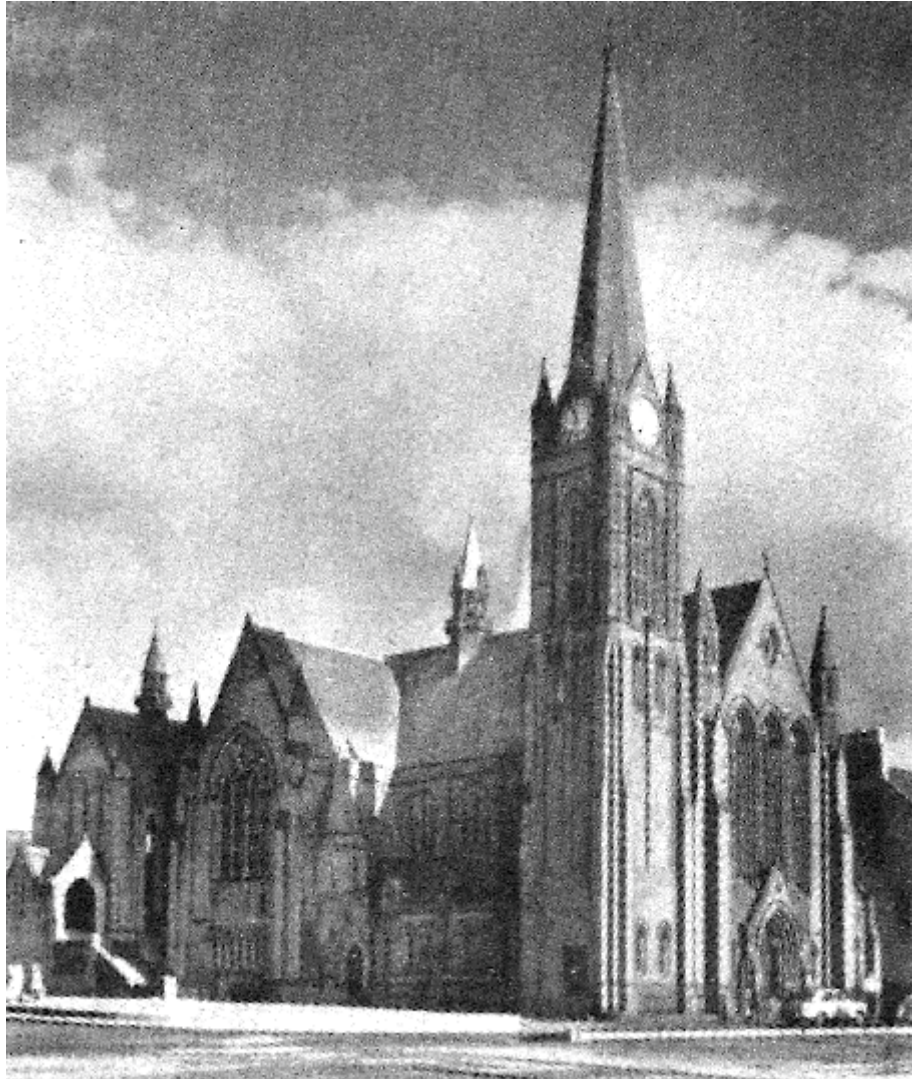
www.largscolumba.org

Scottish Charity No. SC002294

LANDMARK

VOLUME XIII NUMBER 8

NOVEMBER 2015



MINISTER:

Rev Christian J Vermeulen MA, BTh, DipLT
14 Fairlieburne Gardens, Fairlie
Tel: 568515

SESSION CLERK:

Mr John Lewis BSc
40 Gogoside Road, Largs
Tel: 686631

TREASURER:

Mr J Donald Wallace CA
2 Fife Place, Fairlie
Tel: 568489

CHURCH SECRETARY:

Linda Beveridge
St. Columba's Parish Church
Gallowgate Street, Largs
Email: secretary@largscolumba.org
Tel: 686212

ORGANIST:

Mrs Rhona Gourley L.T.C.L., L.T.C.L. (CMT)
2 St Beya Gardens, Millport
Tel: 531282

CHURCH OFFICE: Tel: 686212

MINISTER'S LETTER
Being part of a Parish -
Being part of a Community

I am convinced that as human beings we are social beings born to live in community, and central to that is food. I am convinced that the Christian is built around sharing food and sharing stories. We call ourselves a Parish Church, but are we really? What might it look like for us to live among our neighbours as neighbours, community stakeholders alongside them? Could we be neighbours, rather than a church based service provider telling people about their needs and how we would meet them? As followers of Jesus I believe we are called to create community not just in church, but out in the parish. But where to begin?

Looking at the Old Testament, you will find that the entire Jewish religious calendar around ten national parties, or 'feasts.' It seems God went out of the way to tell people to celebrate and to enjoy His good gifts! Such parties were inclusive gatherings, with lots of good food, good friends, and good times:

Happy is the land whose king is a noble leader and whose leaders feast at the proper time to gain strength for their work, not to get drunk... A party gives laughter, wine gives happiness, and money gives everything! (Eccl.10:17,19)

Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength....And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing. (Nehemiah 8:10,12)

The partying continued into the gospels, so much so that Jesus is accused of indulging in parties (Luke 7:34)! And when Jesus spoke of heaven, he called it a banquet party. (Luke 14:15-24).

What if we as followers of Jesus *in* the neighbourhood – the parish - began to throw parties? What if our neighbours accused us of indulging in too many parties? We, church attending people, were good at it in the context of the 'church' with its innumerable potlucks and other celebrations. *Why not in our own homes and with neighbours, instead of church folk?* As we approach advent and the darkness of winter why not throw a neighbourhood Christmas Open House. Issue a simple invitation to a neighbourhood bring and share evening or afternoon, put it through the mailboxes of everyone in your street or block. See what happens! Who cares if they don't come to church or our church? Who cares if they are from another religion or none? This is about being a neighbour to your neighbours. It's about community or parish.

Can we rediscover what it means to love your neighbour as yourself? We don't need an excuse to be neighbourly. You don't need any agenda, just let the conversation flow and take its natural course. I look forward to hearing your stories.

Chris

A PRAYER FOR PEACE

Peace is the gentle lapping of the waves on a sandy beach
 Snow softly falling on a winter's night
 The flight of a bird
 The smile on a baby's face
 Reading quietly a favourite book
 Every night when we settle down to sleep
 Peace is a happy heart
 When we are content
 Lord, grant us peace.

WORSHIP CALENDAR

Sunday 1 Nov	11.30am	Rev. Chris Vermeulen
Sunday 8 Nov	10.50am	Rev. Sandy McCallum Remembrance Sunday
Sunday 15 Nov	11.30am	Rev. Chris Vermeulen Guild Week
Sunday 22 Nov	11.30am	Rev. Chris Vermeulen
Sunday 29 Nov	11.30am	Rev. Chris Vermeulen
Sunday 6 Dec	11.30am	Rev. Chris Vermeulen

DATES TO NOTE

Thursday 5th Nov:	Kirk Session Meeting with Ian Stewart, former Church of Scotland Interfaith Officer
Sunday 8th Nov:	Remembrance Sunday
Friday 13th Nov:	Christian Aid Concert Largs Amateur Operatic Society & Strathspey Reel Band
Sunday 15th Nov:	Service at Haylie House Residential Care Home
Wednesday 18th Nov:	Joint Kirk Session Social Gathering Fairlie Parish Church
Sunday 29th Nov:	Alternativity Advent Supper, Fairlie Parish Church
Saturday 12th Dec:	St Columba Experience Concert Stedfast Silver Band & Largs Amateur Operatic Society

PRAYER CORNER

Please remember in prayer:

- | the courageous people serving in our armed forces today
- | their families waiting for their safe return
- | those who have died in the service of their country
- | family and friends who mourn the loss of loved ones
- | those who have been physically or psychologically injured
- | medical personnel who risk their own lives while caring for others
- | civilians whose lives have been disfigured by war or terror
- | leaders using their wisdom in the search for reconciliation and peace



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE

Sunday 8th November 2015, 10.50am

St. Columba's: Rev. Sandy McCallum will lead worship in St. Columba's Parish Church at the earlier time of 10.50am on Sunday 8th November.

Clark Memorial: The annual Remembrance Sunday service for the town is hosted this year by Clark Memorial Church, Largs, where veterans, civic officials and youth organisations will be in attendance.

CHURCH REGISTER

Deaths

27th Sep 2015 Margaret Elizabeth McKellar,
Stevenson Court

Weddings

24th Oct 2015 Rebecca Jayne Nicol and
Mark McCulloch

DUTY ELDERS

1st Nov - **Mr Wallace (Convenor)**, Mr Currie, Mr Hewitt, Mr Lewis, Mr R Rae, Mr Welch, Mrs Anderson, Mrs McManus, Mrs Rae.

8th Nov - Mr Laurie, Mr Rankin, Mrs Bell, Mrs Butler, Mrs Jackson, Mrs Laurie, Miss McFarlane.

15th Nov - **Mr Boyle (Convenor)**, Mr Hendry, Mr Murdoch, Miss Black, Mrs Counter, Mrs Houghton, Miss McKellar.

22nd Nov - **Mr McNaught (Convenor)**, Mr Jamieson, Mr D Jenkins, Mr I Jenkins, Mr Laing, Ms Gallettie, Miss Kennedy, Mrs Lyon, Mrs McEleny.

29th Nov - **Mr Wallace (Convenor)**, Mr Currie, Mr Hewitt, Mr Lewis, Mr R Rae, Mr Welch, Mrs Anderson, Mrs McManus, Mrs Rae.

6th Dec - Mr Laurie, Mr Rankin, Mrs Bell, Mrs Butler, Mrs Jackson, Mrs Laurie, Miss McFarlane.

13th Dec - **Mr Boyle (Convenor)**, Mr Hendry, Mr Murdoch, Miss Black, Mrs Counter, Mrs Houghton, Miss McKellar.

20th Dec - **Mr McNaught (Convenor)**, Mr Jamieson, Mr D Jenkins, Mr I Jenkins, Mr Laing, Ms Gallettie, Miss Kennedy, Mrs Lyon, Mrs McEleny.

27th Dec - **Mr Wallace (Convenor)**, Mr Currie, Mr Hewitt, Mr Lewis, Mr R Rae, Mr Welch, Mrs Anderson, Mrs McManus, Mrs Rae.

3rd Jan - Mr Laurie, Mr Rankin, Mrs Bell, Mrs Butler, Mrs Jackson, Mrs Laurie, Miss McFarlane.

10th Jan - **Mr Boyle (Convenor)**, Mr Hendry, Mr Murdoch, Miss Black, Mrs Counter, Mrs Houghton, Miss McKellar.

17th Jan - **Mr McNaught (Convenor)**, Mr Jamieson, Mr D Jenkins, Mr I Jenkins, Mr Laing, Ms Gallettie, Miss Kennedy, Mrs Lyon, Mrs McEleny.

24th Jan - **Mr Wallace (Convenor)**, Mr Currie, Mr Hewitt, Mr Lewis, Mr R Rae, Mr Welch, Mrs Anderson, Mrs McManus, Mrs Rae.

31st Jan - Mr Laurie, Mr Rankin, Mrs Bell, Mrs Butler, Mrs Jackson, Mrs Laurie, Miss McFarlane.

BLYTHSWOOD CARE

The collection van will be parked in the Clark Memorial Church grounds on Friday 6th November and 11th December between 11.00am and 11.30am, to uplift suitable goods. The uplift of larger items of furniture and books can be arranged by telephoning the depot at Hillington on 0141 882 0585.

TRIBUTE TO MARGARET ELIZABETH MCKELLAR

(From words spoken by the minister)

Margaret was born on 15 July 1948, the daughter of Margaret and John McKellar and the younger sister of Ian.

She was born and raised in Largs and was always part of the life Largs, St Columba's, becoming an elder in 2004. She was educated at Largs Primary School and Largs Higher Grade School. After school she worked in McLeod's in Bath Street till it closed, then as a seasonal worker with the Parks Department of Cunningham District Council at the Bowling Green and Putting Greens.

She had a short spell in Stevenson's fruit shop, the flower shop in the Main Street. Margaret had a qualifications for child care and in better weather she could be seen cycling up and down from her home in Eastern Avenue to her work.

Margaret was a Brownie, Guide and Ranger in Guiding in Largs and started up the 5th Largs Brownie Pack in this Church. She had her Pack Holiday Licence and Campers Permit and was also Division Pack holiday Adviser. Her Brownies were always doing handcrafts as well as at Pack Holidays when one time, as Margaret Kennedy recalls, they had a power cut in the middle of the night and all the wee teddies were stuck to the window and all the Brownies wanted, when the power came back on, was to dry them and not to bother with breakfast.

Margaret assisted in embroidering the Senior Section Standard. Her spare time was spent doing handcrafts including knitting Christmas Scenes, Halloween Pumpkins and Easter Bunnies; a number of which were donated for charities.

Over the years she participated in the Largs Horticultural Society show and won many awards. When it became time for a Cub Scout Pack Holiday, with so many boys going, one was always short of leaders to assist with a group or with the cooking over the weekend. Margaret was always willing to assist either as a group leader or cook. Her handcraft skills were second to none and the Cubs enjoyed making her crafts.

Her handcraft skills continued for many years culminating in stuffed animals (sold to raise money for charity), bananas and scenes for the Christmas Manger. Margaret was involved with the Young Church at St Columba's for over 50 years and she has touched the lives of countless young people over the years. Our current Young Church were devastated to hear of Margaret's passing and this past Sunday they made a freeze showing their memories of Margaret. You can see it on the church noticeboard. Her love for the children of this church is why Margaret's mother requested the congregation give generously towards that work as they left the church service.

LIFE AND WORK SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2016

Anyone who would like to renew their subscription to Life and Work for next year can visit the Vestry between 10.00am and 12 noon on Wednesday 18th November. The annual subscription for Life and Work in 2016 will be £26.00. District Visitors will be delivering renewal notices to subscribers at the beginning of November. If any member of the congregation would like to begin a subscription to "Life and Work", please get in touch to receive a free introductory copy. Thanks go to all the District Visitors for their ongoing help with the distribution of "Life and Work" and "Landmark" throughout the year.

Linda Beveridge

2015 ALTERNATIVITY ADVENT SUPPER, FAIRLIE

We would like to invite members of
St Columba's Parish Church
for both a devotional and an enjoyable evening
on **Sunday 29th November**
6.30 – 8.00 pm
in **Fairlie Parish Church**
(soup, fish and chips, oatcakes and cheese)
Adults £6.00, young people £3.00
Please contact Linda in the Church office,
tel: 686212, for tickets (numbers are limited)

YOUNG CHURCH

Thanks to your generous donations at Harvest we were able to take 435 items down to the foodbank in Ardrossan which were gratefully received. Craig who runs the foodbank showed us how they are sorted out and then how they make up the different sized food parcels ready for collection. Craig will hopefully be coming one Sunday to tell you a little more about how the foodbank works. Meanwhile please keep donating regularly so we can keep supporting this worthwhile cause. As you will all know, we recently lost a dedicated and much loved leader in our Young Church in Margaret McKellar. She was a part of our Young Church for many years and looked after and taught the little ones. Margaret was always popular with the children - they had to be quick to get to sit next to her in church! She was particularly skilled at creating a craft for every occasion and the children always went home with something they had made based on that week's religious story. The children have created a poster of their memories of Margaret and if you haven't already seen it you can find it outside the library. She will be remembered in years to come by a prize being set up in her memory.

Alison Tunnicliff

MONDAY'S ALTERNATIVE CLUB

We met on 5th October and played Table Tennis, and again on 26th October for a film night at Veronica's house. Our meetings in November will be on 9th - speaker to be confirmed - and on the 23rd a Christmas Craft night. Both will be in the Session Room at 8pm.

Alison Tunnicliff

ST COLUMBA EXPERIENCE

Our final concert takes place on Saturday 12th December at 7.30pm featuring the Stedfast Silver Band from Greenock and the Largs Amateur Operatic Society. Tickets will be available from Robert Jamieson, Dorothy Bell and John Lewis.

John Lewis

PEREGRINES

Our first walk of the new season was along the banks of the River Clyde from Erskine towards Glasgow. So, on 30th September seven in number set off from Vikingar in very misty conditions. Coffee was taken at the Erskine Garden Centre which allowed conditions to clear and become quite pleasant. The walk was about three miles in total along mainly tarmac paths.

Bill Gemmell

On Saturday 17th October, in brilliant sunshine, Nan, Bill P and Christine drove to Darvel, via The Bobbin Cafe in Newmilns, to do the Loudoun Hill Walk.

We parked in Darvel Main Street and, after two false starts, eventually found the right road and followed the sign for Loudoun Hill. There was a very narrow path which was shoulder high with nettles and brambles which eventually opened out onto the old railway line. This too was not for the fainthearted or those with weak ankles as there were deep holes in the grass made by cattle.

We also had to traverse several stiles which were anything but easy to climb. When we made it to the road leading to Loudoun Hill, the signs disappeared and we had to traverse fields with barbed wire fences to reach the base of the hill itself. Again we had a difficult climb to the top where we ate our well-deserved picnics and admired the spectacular 360 degree views.

It was not an easy descent back to the road and we decided to walk on the busy A71 road back to Darvel. This route was so much quicker and we were happy with our achievement. Hot baths were the order of the evening to ease our aching limbs!

If you feel inspired to join us, (maybe not on such an arduous walk!) Robert Jamieson can give you a copy of our programme.

Christine Gallettie

K.I.T. CLUB

I would just like to remind those who have put their name down for the K.I.T. Club Christmas Meal that we have booked the meal at the Woodhouse Hotel for Tuesday 15th December at 12 noon for 12.30pm.

The ladies who have put their names down for the Mini Bus: Hugh will pick you up at your door and bring you to the Woodhouse, where we will all meet and go in for Lunch together.

After the meal Hugh will take you back to your homes. Jim, Irene Sheena and I look forward to meeting you all again on the day.

Eileen Rankin

THE GUILD

After our opening lunch, it has been wonderful for our members to get together again for fellowship and friendship over the winter months.

We look forward to a varied programme during this first session, including our Guild Service in the church on Sunday 15th November which we hope will be well supported by church members.

Our syllabus is posted on the church notice boards and we invite all who are interested to come along to any or all of our meetings. I am sure that there is something to suit all tastes. We look forward to welcoming you.

Christine Gallettie, Convenor

LANDMARK

As the December edition of Landmark will be the last one until February 2016, please send any articles for submission to the Church Office by Monday 23rd November at the latest. The December edition of Landmark will be available for uplift on Sunday 6th December.

Linda Beveridge, Church Secretary