



WELCOME

to the life,
work and
mission of St
Columba's
Parish
Church

VOLUME

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LANDMARK

Largs: St Columba's Parish Church of Scotland

Dates to Note

March

- 2nd Guild Meeting (2pm)
- 9th Guild Meeting (2pm)
Monday's Alternative Club Meeting (8pm)
- 10th Presbytery of Ardrossan Meeting at St Columba's
- 11th Peregrines walk: Eglinton Country Park
- 16th Guild Meeting (2pm)
- 21st Peregrines walk: Benmore Gardens
- 23rd Guild Meeting (2pm)
Monday's Alternative Club Meeting (8pm)
- 28th God's Tots celebrate Easter (10.30am)
- 29th Largs United Morning Worship at Clark Memorial Church (11am)
- 30th Guild Annual Business Meeting (2pm)

April

- 1st Jolly Tots Easter Bonnet Toddle to Aubery Park (10.30am)
- 5th Palm Sunday Morning Worship (11.30am)
Glasgow Philharmonic Choir Concert (7.30pm)
- 12th Easter Sunday Morning Worship (11.30am)
- 15th Peregrines walk: Kilchatten Bay, Bute
- 19th Homemount House Service (3pm)
- 20th Monday's Alternative Club Meeting (8pm)
- 25th God's Tots (10.30am)
- 26th Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion (11.30am)
Hebron Concert (7.30pm)

May

- 4th Monday's Alternative Club Meeting (8pm)
- 9th The National Girls' Training Choir of Scotland Concert (3pm)
- 17th Burnlea Nursing Care Home Service (3pm)
- 18th Monday's Alternative Club Meeting (8pm)
- 23rd God's Tots (10.30am)
- 31st Largs United Morning Worship (11am)





Dear Parishioner

You may be wondering why you are receiving this copy of the St. Columba's Parish Church magazine: Landmark? Well, the answer is that you are either a listed member of St Columba's or you live within the boundaries of the Parish Church.

If you live within the parish boundaries then let me explain what that means. It means that, if you are not a member of another Christian church, then the minister of St Columba's is your minister, whether you have any active connection to the Church of Scotland, or not. In other words, everyone living within the parish boundaries of a Church of Scotland has the right to call upon the services of the minister when needed.

Living within the parish also means that you are entitled to be married in St Columba's Parish Church (next to Nardini's), by the minister. Or have your funeral taken by the minister, also, whether within the church, or at the cemetery, or crematorium.

During these times of change in our society should you need extra support, for any reason, then you are entitled to make approach to the church, and we will do our best to help. Please either phone our church secretary, Linda, on 686212 or pop into the church office. Alternatively, please call the minister, Graham, directly, on 07853 774 383.

If you would prefer not to receive any future editions of Landmark, please call the church office or email secretary@largscolumba.org

St Columba's Parish Church

hopes to remain a place of peace and safety for all people for years to come. When the front doors are open, please feel free to come in and spend time in the presence of God in prayer and reflection. Should you find the front doors closed during the day, please enter through the side door.

A prayer at Easter

*God, give us eyes to see
the beauty of the Spring,
And to behold Your majesty
in every living thing -
And may we see in lacy leaves
and every budding flower
The Hand that rules the universe
with gentleness and power -
And may this Easter grandeur
that Spring lavishly imparts
Awaken faded flowers of faith
lying dormant in our hearts,
And give us ears to hear, dear God,
the Springtime song of birds
With messages more meaningful
than man's often empty words
Telling harried human beings
who are lost in dark despair -
'Be like us and do not worry
for God has you in His care.*

Helen Steiner Rice



Holy Week Services

6th – 12th April

at St Columba's and Fairlie Parish Churches

St Columba's Parish Church

Mon-Fri	Church open for Prayer and Reflection (11.00 - 4.00pm) Walking <i>His Way</i> (12.00 - 12.30pm)
Good Friday	Time of Reflection and Prayer (2.45 - 3.15pm)
Easter Sunday	Songs of Praise (11.30am)

Fairlie Parish Church

Mon-Fri	Church open for Prayer and Reflection (11.00 - 4.00pm) Walking <i>His Way</i> (6.00 - 6.30pm) (including Holy Communion on Thursday evening)
Good Friday	Tenebrae (12.00 noon)
Easter Sunday	Early Morning Celebration (8.30am at Pier Rd) Songs of Praise (9.45am)

Largs Churches Together

Mon-Fri	Journey to the Cross (7.00pm)
Good Friday	Walk of Witness from Episcopal Church (10.00-11.30am)

Walking *His Way*

Each day during Holy Week there is the opportunity for people to come to the church to spend some quiet time in reflection and thanksgiving for the actions of Jesus, as He took the pain of the cross upon Himself for the forgiveness of the sins of the world. In both St Columba's and Fairlie Parish Churches there will be a short Act of Worship which will take those who come along on a journey through Holy Week as we remember and give God thanks for Jesus. These times are open to everyone and you can just come and go as you please; you don't have to be able to come to them all.



From the Manse



Dear all

The lead-up to Christmas is always a busy time but I hope that you managed to find some time to relax with family and friends. Our family is no different from others. We're always on the go and time to relax can be sparse.

But this year was a wee bit different when one of the younger members of our extended family had a baby, just after Christmas Day. The baby's name is Joseph, meaning 'God shall add'. Quite appropriate for this time of year. However, Joseph's name also got me thinking about the names we give to Jesus.

One of the names that Jesus was called is the Messiah; the Saviour of the World. But, through His life, Jesus was also given other names; other titles like: Christ; the Son of God; the Son of David; the Light of the world and the Lamb of God. And while we may not regularly use all of these names today, I wonder if you've ever thought about the meanings of the ones that we do use?

The name "Son of God" is used by people today, and it is used of Jesus on many occasions in the New Testament referring to His divinity; being *of God*. And this name for Jesus has become part of the Christian profession of faith. Therefore, calling Jesus the Son of God has biblical support. And when we say that Jesus *is* the Son of God we are expressing that we accept that Jesus *is* fully divine: that He is part of the Holy Trinity of God: Father, Son and the Spirit.

But the name that we hear most often for Jesus in church, and it is possibly the name that most people feel quite comfortable with for Jesus, is the Lamb of God. It's the name we use for Jesus at Communion. But I wonder if you've ever thought what this name means?

The title, *Lamb of God*, only appears in the Gospel of John, with the exclamation of John the Baptist: "*Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world*" [John 1:29] And, for the people of God in the world today, this statement probably gives *us* the greatest comfort because in this name we understand the reason why Jesus came to earth; to be the sacrificial Lamb of God; taking whatever punishment is truly due to us, upon Himself. The title, Lamb of God informs us that, through *His* death and resurrection, humanity may have access to the eternal Kingdom of God and life everlasting.

Every name we use in life is filled with meaning, whether we understand this or not. It might be quite fine for us to use names without knowing their meaning when talking about the weather, or any other insignificant situation. But when we speak of Jesus, and call Him by another name, we should realise that we are doing so because of thousands of years of tradition when people who lived and knew Jesus, *or at least knew of Him while He lived on earth*, have come to know that He was more than an ordinary man. That He was of God; that He is God.

We are now in the time of Lent; the time when we prepare ourselves for Holy Week and Easter, and the death and resurrection of Jesus: the Saviour of the World. Through prayer we should use the different names for Jesus which reflect a different aspect of Him because through the use of these different names we can come to know the Servant of the Lord, fully, as He fully knows us.

Whatever experiences you find coming your way this year, I hope that you can know some of the peace of God and the hope that God has given to all of us in and through His Son.



Yours in Christ

A stylized, handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Graham".

Graham



Contact Graham

*As a member or a parishioner of St Columba's, the Rev. Dr. Graham McWilliams is available to you. Please either pop along and see him at the church vestry or pick up the phone and call him on **07853 774383**. If you would like the minister to visit, or if you have a specific need, please just let him know.*



Advent & Christmas 2019



Following the many and varied opportunities to gather, remember and celebrate the birth of Jesus, on Nativity Sunday, 22nd December, the congregations of St Columba's Parish Church and Fairlie Parish Church, together with members of St John's and Clark Memorial Parish Churches, and others from across the town, enjoyed a truly inspirational Nativity Service, as St Columba's was transformed into a local version of Bethlehem. The church was full and everyone agreed that our worship celebrated the birth of Jesus in an original and uplifting manner. The service consisted of the congregation singing carols, new and traditional, and the story of the nativity was ably narrated by Elders Alison Tunnicliff and Lesley McWilliams.

Through rhyme the story of Jesus' birth was acted out as Mary (Niamh McGinty) and Joseph (Callum McWilliams) walked to Bethlehem where the birth of Jesus, played beautifully by baby boy, Ollie McGill, happened one peaceful night. The choir played their part as they were dressed as angels while members of St Columba's and Fairlie acted the parts of the shepherds, wise men, King Herod and the star. Also present in the church were two well behaved sheep, provided by a local shepherd, Jim McNeil.

The nativity scene in the church grounds allowed, for everyone who saw it, the opportunity to reclaim the story of the birth of Jesus for Christmas. We hope that everyone had an enjoyable time at Christmas; and you are invited to join in the celebrations, once more, later this year.

St Columba's Parish Church Guild

Daffodil Tea

Stalls

Soup

Tea Room

Saturday 14th March, 10am – 2pm



An Australian Christmas

Saturday 27th June

Many people in Largs have family members or friends living in Australia and, for them, Christmas and New Year was fraught with concern about the raging fires which engulfed much of the land. The temperatures were excessive, land and homes were destroyed, and almost 500 million animals were believed to have been killed.

While our hearts went out to everyone who suffered from these intolerable circumstances the question remains, 'What can we do?'

So, the Kirk Session at St Columba's has decided to hold '*An Australian Christmas*' on Saturday 27th June, within the church and grounds. What we hope to do is: sing Christmas Carols in the sunshine; have a barbeque from lunchtime; enjoy a few games and craft making activities; and raise funds which we will send to Australia to help rebuild the devastation.



Further information will be available nearer the time but we ask that you put the date in your diary and hope that the people of Largs will support this venture and uphold the link that Largs has with the people of Australia.



A PLACE TO CALL HOME
COMMUNITY HUB • DROP IN SPACE

Bereavement
Parenting & Family
Relationships
Faith enquiries
Life skills
Social prescribing

Relax and chat in confidence

4 Aitken Street, Largs

f The Living Room, Largs

www.livingroomlargs.co.uk

Church Life

CHOIR

Under the leadership of our organist, Mrs Rhona Gourley, the choir rehearse weekly and sing at Sunday Morning Worship.



CHURCH FLOWER MINISTRY



Church flowers beautify the sanctuary and are always appreciated by those who receive them afterwards. With your continued support we can continue to share the love and compassion which comes from us all. We would like to thank everyone who donates money for, arranges and delivers flowers. The calendar for 2020 is on the wall outside the kitchen door, and donors can choose a date which is important to them. If you would like to be part of our team, please let Mary Wallace know, and please let Graham know of anyone who may appreciate a delivery of church flowers.

Dorothy Houghton

CHURCH VISITING ANGELS

A group of about ten members of the church are 'Church Visiting Angels'. Each person in the group can visit members of the church who may be at home, more than they get out, with a view of bringing comfort, conversation and news about the church.



Every Visiting Angel regularly worships, and is an active member of the congregation, and can share the news of what the church is doing: what we've been talking about and what events are planned. If any practical assistance is needed then we'd be glad to help. If anyone would like to recommend a friend or neighbour to receive a visit, please contact either Alison Tunnicliff or Graham McWilliams, and we will endeavour to ask a suitable visitor to pop along.

GOD'S TOTS



God's Tots meet from 10.30am to 12 noon on the last Saturday of the month, for children under 5 (siblings welcome). There's lots of fun, including songs, games, crafts, soft play and bible stories, along with snacks and refreshments for children and adults.

Gillian McEleny 07845 032234

GUILD

The Guild is open to both men and women, and we meet at 2pm each Monday afternoon from October to March in St Columba's for fun and friendship, a cup of tea and to listen to interesting speakers. In February and March we will hear about topics as varied as Mary Livingstone and an Indian Wedding and we will have an afternoon of music with Sonora. Our closing meeting for the session is our Annual Business Meeting on 30th March. The Guild supports a range of charities worldwide, and our aim is to help where we can and to serve in Jesus' name. You will find our programme on the church noticeboard, and a warm welcome awaits you!



Christine Gallettie, Convenor, 01475 689024

JOLLY TOTS TODDLERS



Jolly Tots Toddlers meet from 10-11.30am on Wednesdays during term time for songs, crafts, free play and healthy snacks, with time for the adults to chat over a cuppa. All families with children under five are welcome. We will be having an Easter Bonnet Toddle to Aubery Park on 1st April which is a sight not to be missed. We are planning 'Chill Out' nights for mums and dads too. There is only one rule at Jolly Tots and it applies to children and adults: **have good fun!!**

Gillian McEleny 07845 032234

MONDAY'S ALTERNATIVE CLUB

MAC meets fortnightly on a Monday evening at 8pm during term time. We are a small, informal and friendly group of women who meet for various activities such as coffee and cake, craft, games, table tennis and occasional speakers. Anyone is welcome to come along and join us.



Alison Tunncliff 07800 717909

PEREGRINES



The Peregrines are a sociable group of people who arrange local scenic walks which are pleasant but not too demanding, and always include coffee stops. A list of upcoming walks is on our noticeboard, and new members are always welcome. Please phone the person named beside each walk if you would like to join them.

Wednesday 11th March

Saturday 21st March

Wednesday 15th April

Eglington Country Park

Benmore Gardens

Kilchatten Bay, Bute

Christine tel. 01475 689024

Robert tel. 01475 673114

Christine tel. 01475 689024

PRAYER GROUP

Members of the Prayer Group pray individually and as a group at our Prayer Service on the last Sunday of every month. Prayer requests can come in person or via email, our Prayer Tree, church elders and the minister, and are all treated with confidentiality. We often pray on behalf of people locally, nationally and globally.



PRAYER TREE



We have found that many visitors to the church make use of the Prayer Tree in the nave of the church: Christians, people of other faiths and people of none, find this a way of making contact with things of the spirit. The Prayer Group include these in their weekly prayers.

YOUNG CHURCH

Young church meets every Sunday from 11am at the back of the sanctuary. We participate in the first part of the service and then continue in the upstairs hall with various activities. All children and young people will be made welcome. Last year Young Church, with your help, helped to raise £152 for Water Aid, collected 1108 items for the North Ayrshire foodbank in Ardrossan, and toiletries and nightwear for the local branch of Women's Aid in Saltcoats.



Alison Tunncliffe 07800 717909

St Columba's collect donations of

- ♥ **small change** for Water Aid
- ♥ **food** for the North Ayrshire foodbank
- ♥ **toiletries & nightwear** for women and children
for the local Women's Aid branch



spotlight on God's Tots

God's Tots meet from 10.30am to 12 noon on the last Saturday of the month, for children under five and their families, and older siblings are always welcome.

The format is similar to the Wednesday Jolly Tots sessions and includes activities based around a Christian message. This year we are having great fun exploring the stories of the Old Testament, and we have already met Noah and all his animals and Jonah, when we heard about the enormous whale which swallowed him up! Our March session will be a very special Easter celebration which will conclude in the church and involve an Easter tree! During April and May we will be back to the Old Testament to find out about some very scary situations that a boy called David and a man called Daniel found themselves in! We will also learn that like all the characters in the story, if we trust God and listen to what he wants us to do, we need not be scared because he loves and cares for us all.



Each month we learn an exciting new song and we are now very fortunate to have a large TV screen to display the song words and a great sound system to help our singing!

Bacon rolls and coffee are served to the adults and the children enjoy a tasty snack at the same time. Our craft activities are based around the stories we have heard (watch out for giants and lions) and the children will be given a small gift to take home to remind them of the story and the message that it gives.

At God's Tots we are always delighted to welcome new families into the family of St. Columba's Parish Church. Please think about coming along, we would love to meet you.

Gillian McEleny 07845 032234

Lent Lunches

**Every Wednesday from
26th February – 1st April, 12 noon to 1.30pm
in Clark Memorial Church Hall**



**christian
aid**

We're raising funds for Christian Aid to help people of all faiths and none in poverty across the world. We'd love you to join us!

Marriage and Renewal of Vows in the Church

A time of celebration!

A few years ago, I was blessed to be able to marry my niece and her fiancé in St Columba's. However, the church celebration almost didn't happen. Initially, this young couple thought they could only get married in a hotel. They didn't realise that many church ministers would have been happy to marry them.



My niece was not a strong 'church goer' but she had an understanding that there is a God; although she didn't know much about Him. What she had learned about God was what the chaplains at her school had presented during Assemblies: Christmas (The birth of Jesus); Easter (The death and Resurrection of Jesus); and Harvest (the celebration of God's gifts to the world). But, after having a conversation with her about what faith is, I was happy to marry them in the Name of Jesus, and to ask God's blessing upon them. The service was very personal, the day was beautiful, the sun shone, and everyone was well turned-out.

Marriage can be a real blessing and many couples like to mark some milestones in their relationship by renewing their marriage vows. Again, this is a very special occasion and last year we celebrated 25 years of marriage with Mr & Mrs Willie and Marjory Brown. The church was beautifully set out so that, following the Service of Thanksgiving, the guests were able to remain in the sanctuary and sit down for a wonderful buffet meal. We wish Willie and Marjory, and all their family, another blessed 25 years together.

Ministers are more open to discussing the opportunities for marriage in churches. And marriage services can be crafted to fit the hopes and dreams of the couple. So, if you would like to speak about the possibility of being married in Church, please, just pick up the phone and speak to the minister or pop into St Columba's for a chat.



Parish Minister Register

Baptisms *He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. [Titus 3: 5]*

December

8th Oliver James Stitt, Montgomerie Drive, Fairlie

Deaths *When you were baptised, you were buried with Christ [Colossians 2: 11]*

November

15th Gordon Gourley, St Beya Gardens, Millport

16th Sarah Walker, Kelvin Street, Largs

18th Angus Turner, Brisbane Crescent, Largs

26th Michael Nevin, Largs

December

4th Elizabeth (Betty) Robertson, Fairlieburne Gardens, Fairlie

12th Marion Marshall, Eastern Avenue, Largs

24th Doris (Bette) Gurton, Montgomerie Drive, Fairlie

24th Dorothy Riddell, Highfield Terrace, Fairlie

28th Anne McNeil, Inverkip Road, Greenock

28th Joe Docherty, Greenock

January

4th John (Ian) Kerr, Rosebank Gardens, Largs

11th Margaret Purcell, Brisbane Street, Largs

21st Kenneth (Ken) Hodge, Irvine Road, Seamill

A Gift to the Church in your Will

The work of the Church has been assisted greatly over the last few years by many generous gifts in the wills of members, and those who support the work that the church does. If you wish to make a gift in your will to support the work of St Columba's Parish Church, it can directly support our local communities. A gift to the church in your will is exempt from Inheritance Tax. If you would like to leave a legacy, please speak to your solicitor, or the church treasurer.

You cannot live forever but your legacy can



a concert featuring

Simon Elman, Chrissy Rodgers & Helen Shapiro

HEBRON is a vocal trio who present their biblical Messianic songs in a variety of styles, including folk, jazz, blues, bluegrass and Hebraic. With close vocal harmonies and acoustic instruments (bass, guitars, ukuleles and banjo), Hebron's music has broad appeal. In their concerts of testimony and songs, most of them original, Hebron endeavours to declare a simple and clear Gospel message so needed today.

7.30pm on Saturday 26th April 2020

St Columba's Parish Church, Largs

Entrance by ticket only (no charge) from Christine Gallettie on 01475 689024

A collection will be made in aid of the Messianic Testimony charity

The National Girls' Training Choir of Scotland

60 Minutes of Song



NYCOS

3pm on Saturday 9th May

St Columba's Parish Church, Largs

The Heritage Centre

in St Columba's Parish Church

**open 12 noon to 4pm, Monday to Saturday,
during the tourist season
entry is free, and donations are welcome**

The Heritage Centre is a visitor attraction which caters for all ages and tastes. The exhibits range from pre-Christian times and include a history of the Church. It has information about many residents of Largs with an emphasis on the 18th century but not forgetting the well-known sons and daughters of the town today. A varied programme of concerts is arranged every year to raise funds to help pay for the administrative costs of The Heritage Centre.

Concerts

Glasgow Philharmonic Choir	7.30pm	Sunday 5th April
Glasgow Phoenix Choir	7.30pm	Sunday 14 th June
Co-operative Funeral Care Band	7.00pm	Saturday 18 th July
Organ Recital	2.00pm	Thursday 20 th August
Westerton Male Voice Choir	7.30pm	Friday 13 th November

Community Groups in St Columba's Parish Church

Karen Aitchison School of Dancing
ballet, tap, modern & Highland dance classes

Opportunities in Retirement (OIR) Country Dancing

Pilates with Jane

Rainbow Group

a drop-in social club for adults with additional support needs

Yankee Dandee Line Dancing

If you would like more information about these community groups who meet in the church, please contact Linda in the church office tel. 686212

Duty Teams, Beadle & Reader Rota

March		Beadle	Reader
1st	A	John Macdiarmid	Isa McManus
8th	B	Douglas Blair	Margaret Kennedy
15th	C	Bill Puckrin	Karen Strachan
22nd	D	Alister Hewitt	Moira Buchanan
29th	A	Anne Crawford	Christine Gallettie

April

5th	B	John Lewis	Gillian McEleny
12th	C	John Macdiarmid	Bill Puckrin
19th	D	Douglas Blair	Mary Wallace
26th	A	Bill Puckrin	Isa McManus

May

3rd	B	Alister Hewitt	Margaret Kennedy
10th	C	Anne Crawford	Moira Buchanan
17th	D	John Lewis	Karen Strachan
24th	A	John Macdiarmid	Christine Gallettie
31st	B	Douglas Blair	Gillian McEleny

June

7th	C	Bill Puckrin	Bill Puckrin
14th	D	Alister Hewitt	Mary Wallace
21st	A	Anne Crawford	Isa McManus
28th	B	John Lewis	Margaret Kennedy

DUTY TEAMS

- A** Mr Boyle (C), Mr Murdoch, Miss Black, Mrs Houghton, Mr Delussey, Mr Turner
- B** Mr Jamieson (C), Ms Gallettie, Miss Kennedy, Mrs Lyon, Mrs McEleny
- C** Mr Wallace (C), Mr Hewitt, Mr Lewis, Mrs McManus, Mrs Rae
- D** TBA (C) Mr Rankin, Mrs Butler, Mrs Jackson, Mrs Tunnicliff

Prayer of Forgiveness and Hope

In a time when our world is being challenged by changing climate events, leading to raging fires, floods and droughts across the lands, this prayer is a prayer for hope recognising God's hand remains upon our world.

Eternal Father,
You have provided the people of this world with abundance.

Yet, in our greed,
we have sought to exploit all that we have
in the search to gain riches and wealth.

Lord, forgive us.

Forgive us;
for the neglect we have shown to those who are vulnerable,
to those who sleep rough and those who beg on our streets.

Forgive us;
for using all the fossil fuel available
without thought of the impact on the world's climate.

Forgive us;
for forging our own personal aims for wealth
without considering the wider implications.

Forgive us;
for being a selfish people,
doing our own thing with little thought of You.
May this year bring a time of peace, of thoughtfulness, of love.

Give to us a new hope, found in Jesus,
that we may work together
to achieve a rebalance of the worlds provision:
sharing what we have with those in need.

And may all that we do give glory to
Your great and mighty Name.
For this we ask through Jesus, the Saviour of the World.
Amen.



MINISTER

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01475 531282



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Gallowgate Street
Largs
Ayrshire
KA30 8LX



01475 686212



Church Office Normal
Open Hours
are 10am-1pm,
Tuesday to Friday



largscolumbia.org



St Columba's Parish
Church, Largs