

Ayr St Columba Church



2019



Ayr St. Columba Church is a friendly, warm and welcoming church on the west coast of Scotland. People have been coming to this building to worship God for over a hundred years. While our town has journeyed through many changes over those years, the constancy of the witness of the "Church on Midton Road" has remained uninterrupted. The mission of any Church is to reflect through its presence, its music, its fellowship and its beauty the transcendence of God, and we seek to do that here in all that we share.

CONTENTS:

Cover - Easter Baptism

1. Contents
2. Introduction and Our strengths and weaknesses
3. Worship
4. Unitary Constitution
5. Unitary Committees
6. Convenors
7. Review & Planning; The Office
8. The Manses
9. Music and our Pipe Organ
10. The Ministry of Flowers
11. The Ministry of Caring and Outreach
12. Our Charity Support
13. Supporting our Young travellers
14. Young travellers continued
15. Our young Church
16. Our History
17. Our Sanctuary
18. Church organisations and Social Groups
19. Social Groups and Columba News
20. The Church and Parish
21. Statistics
22. Our Clubs and Organisations
23. Clubs Continued – and useful contacts

INTRODUCTION

The Minister is supported by Associate Minister Revd. David T. Ness. The Church is governed under Unitary Constitution – by the Clerk’s Committee and seven Committees - **Central** (Administration); **Education; Finance; Fabric; Worship, Mission and Outreach; Pastoral** and **Hospitality** headed by the Session Clerk, ably supported by Committee Convenors.

In addition, a raft of willing hands, sustain:

St Columba Kids and Messy Church; Bible Study, Prayer Groups and our Ministry of Flowers.

The Guild and Ladies Fellowship; The Men’s Association, and the Men’s Association Games Group

Uniform Organisations—of which there are Rainbow Brownies, Brownies and Guides; Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Venture Scouts;

Community and Outreach activities are also maintained by volunteers – Nursing & Care Home Worship Groups; Parent & Toddler Groups; Lunch Café; Oasis Coffee Group

There are also a number of social and wellbeing groups including Fitness Groups; Country Dancing; Badminton.

OUR STRENGTHS AND OUR WEAKNESSES

Strengths include:

- a) friendly, welcoming, supportive and generous people
- b) a large, strong, traditional and faithful Congregation
- c) a small but enthusiastic Sunday School (St. Columba Kids)
- d) a strong will for mission and outreach
- e) hard-working and committed Office Bearers
- f) a wealth of talent within the Congregation
- g) well-maintained buildings with flexible accommodation
- h) a strong and competent administration
- i) a healthy level of giving
- j) good governance of finances
- k) a wide range of organisations and clubs
- l) a highly accomplished organist and a fine pipe organ
- m) a first-class Manse

Weaknesses include:

- a) somewhat reticent about change
- b) the demographics of the Congregation
- c) the missing generation – young families and children

Challenges include:

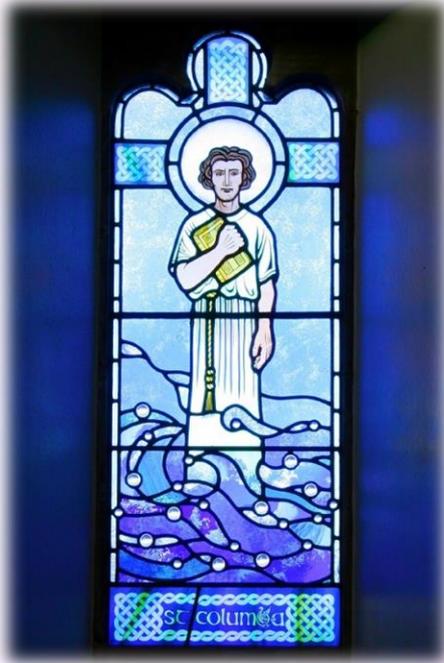
- a) a need for initiatives with young people and families
- b) provisions for Bible Class and Youth ministry
- c) need to focus mission activities
- d) communicating procedures with the wider Congregation

On Sunday 24th February 2019 the Kirk Session confirmed the decision to depart from Act 1, 2015 (*Ministers and Deacons in Civil Partnerships and Same Sex Marriages Act*).

WORSHIP

Here at Ayr St. Columba - everyone matters.

Our Worship is broadly traditional but with an eye on the future!



The Family Service at 9.30 am is tailored for all age family worship.

At this Service worship is designed especially with families in mind. This half hour service offers a worship space for all - from tiny babies, young children, young adults to our most senior members. All are welcome.

St. Columba Kids meets at 10.00am every Sunday, and currently provides a fun, learning and reflective environment for our children and young people. St Columba Kids use the Midton Road Hall; and Orr Room from September to June. In the region of 25 young people regularly attend classes which meet immediately after the Family Service. This is a fun place to hear traditional Bible stories with a contemporary slant! Watch films and take part in all sorts of great craft ideas and projects. The Midton Hall is equipped with multi-media facilities.

Bible Class - there are currently no young people of Bible Class age meeting as a Group. There are a few who regularly attend Church, one or two helping with St Columba Kids and there are young people who will be aged to move up to Bible Class next session.

The Morning Worship Service at 11.15am is a traditional worship service of approximately one hour in which the congregation meet to engage with God through preaching, biblical text, prayer and music. Praise is led by the Organ and Choir.

On average 450 – 500 people attend the two morning services.



The Evening Service at 6.30pm is held on the last Sunday of the month from September to May. This is a relaxed service with a mixture of traditional and more modern music from the BBC hymnary - a service of reflection at the close of the day. Duties are generally carried out by the youth organisations.

Communion Services three services are held on the last Sunday of January/April/June and October and on the fourth Wednesday afternoon of the month from Sept – May. The Church is dressed for Sunday Communion.

Bible Study Group. The Bible Study Group meet on alternate Wednesday evenings to discuss a wide range of Biblical topics from different perspectives, using a range of approaches. Discussion often continues over a cup tea in the kitchen.

Prayer Groups meet once a week in the Church and there are home Prayer Groups.

COMMUNICATION

Columba News – our Church Magazine is packed with information; news of activities; exciting events. Contact details of office Bearers, Congregational Register updates and much more! There are 6 issues annually preceding Communion Services and extra issues at Christmas and after summer ahead of the Organisations restarting.

Website and Facebook - as part of our Communication base our website has general information; Photographs; the Intimations are published weekly, and special events and Calendars are also posted. The Office regularly receives emails from the website

The Ayr St Columba Facebook page is used to keep parents informed of St Columba Kids meetings and events; to publicise Church Services, concerts and special occasions and the Messy Church Facebook page is full of information and photographs of Messy Church; Holiday Clubs and special child centred events. We also have a Facebook page that serves our Parish at Lochside.



UNITARY CONSTITUTION

How we work

Under the Unitary Constitution we work with 7 Committees which deal with the wide range of activities within our Church. Each Committee is entitled to regulate its own procedures and a separate Session Clerk's Committee oversees the work they do. The areas of responsibility for the 7 Committees are set out in a separate note.



Convenors

Convenors of each Committee are appointed by the Kirk Session with the exception of the Clerk's Committee which is convened by the Session Clerk.

The Clerk's Committee

In addition to overseeing the work of the seven Committees, the Clerk's Committee is responsible for the agenda for the Kirk Session, the delegation of areas of responsibility, the remits for the Committees, the prioritisation of Church business and Presbytery liaison.

The members of the Clerk's Committee are the Session Clerk, the Minister, the Assistant Minister (if in post), the Convenors of each Committee, the Assistant or Depute Session Clerk and the Presbytery Elder. A Minute of each meeting is kept by a Minute taker.

The Kirk Session currently comprises 114 Elders.

Meetings of the Kirk Session and its Committees

The seven Committees report regularly to the Clerk's Committee on matters within their remit. The Clerk's Committee discuss these and decide on relevant items to be brought to the Kirk Session for information, debate or approval. The Clerk's Committee also consider other matters for inclusion in the Agenda for the forthcoming Kirk Session meeting.

The Kirk Session has six scheduled meetings per year on the second Tuesday in February, April, June, September, October and December. The Clerk's Committee meet two weeks ahead of each of these Session meetings.

There is one annual meeting of the Trustees.

There is one annual Stated Business Meeting.

Session Clerk's Committee

Oversee work of Committees, Agenda for Kirk Session, Duty of Care for Employees, Delegation of areas of responsibility, Identification of Remits for Committees, Prioritisation of Church Business, Future Developments, Presbytery Liaison

Central Services

Office Requirements
Roll Keeping
Hall Lets and Keys
Elders' Districts
Duty Teams
Communion Duties
Special Services
Fire Safety Administration
Communications (Columba News, Website)
Publicity
Data Protection
Funeral Duties
Safeguarding
Worship Teams in Residential Care Homes

Fabric

Maintenance of Buildings and Property
Property Register
Inventory
Wednesday Team
Reports and Returns to Presbytery
Health and Safety
Hospitality and Fellowship
Welcoming and Hospitality
Flowers
Christmas Lunch and Parties
Church Excursions

Finance

Stewardship of Church Finances
Financial Needs of Church
Giving, Gift Aid
Budget and Accounts
Financial Reporting
Insurance Matters
Employees' Remuneration

Education

Sunday School and Bible Class
Youth and Adult Education
Bible Study
Library
Book Group
Elder Training
Heartstart
Liaison with Uniformed Organisations

Pastoral

Pastoral Care/visiting Team
Drivers for Sunday
Nursing Homes,
Bereavement Counselling
Liaison with Baptismal Families
Liaison with Church Organisations
Over 80's flowers

Worship, Mission and Outreach

Outreach
Governance of Activities at Lochside
Response to World Events
Church Organist and Music
Liaison with Charities
Prayer Group

UNITARY CONVENORS

Photos



Bob Bartholomew
Session Clerk



Tom Cairns
Treasurer



John Stewart
Fabric Convenor



Bryce Hartshorn
Education Convenor



George Park
Presbytery Elder



Jane Hunter
Hospitality & Fellowship



Linda Sharp
Pastoral Convenor



Irene Bartholomew
Central Admin



Helen Greig
Mission & Outreach

REVIEW AND PLANNING

The Review and Planning Committee was set up in October 2015. It considers current matters and is tasked with the coordination of future developments and the preparation for events such as the Local Church Review. The Committee comprises the Session Clerk (Convenor), the Minister, the Treasurer, the Assistant Session Clerk and such other members as are agreed by the Kirk Session. The Committee normally meets once a month, but will meet more frequently as and when necessary. It does not have any general delegated authority, although matters will, from time to time, be delegated to it for action.

THE OFFICE

Central to the day to day running of Ayr St. Columba is the Church Office. Not only the place from which all administration emanates, but a friendly place where daily visitors enjoy a cup of tea and a chat. The Office Staff are masters of multitasking—especially if it involves tea and cake!!

The office is fairly high tech with one desktop PC and three Laptops, a Macbook, two desktop printers plus a colour copier, a monochrome Laser Printer and a Risograph—all of which are only as efficient as their operator!!

Here we produce the weekly pew leaflet and Intimations printing around 500 every week. We produce Funeral Orders of Service and unique covers for special services. A vast array of tickets for the many in-house events are also created and produced. In addition, matters pertaining to the Roll, the Duty Teams and Elders Districts etc are also filtered through the Office.

The Office hours are broadly – 9.00am – 12.30pm but everyone spends many more hours here! On Monday/Tuesday/Thursday and Friday you will find the Church Secretary and The Church Officer who are both part time ; the Minister and volunteers from Finance; Cradle Roll secretary; and hospitality convenor who regularly use the “spare” desk.

On Wednesday morning - the **CHURCH MAINTENANCE TEAM** meet to keep everything running smoothly. This is a skilled group of volunteers who look after the general fabric of the Church, undertaking many minor repairs, they maintain the gardens, set up the Hall for meeting and functions and many other tasks requested of them. One of their number even deputises for Santa for parties at Christmas. They are a very willing and sociable group.

SAFEGUARDING AND GDPR

We have robust procedures for safeguarding both the Congregation and Children and the Data we collect, store and use. The former overseen by our Safeguarding convenor and her support team and the Data is supervised by the Central Admin Committee.



THE MANSES



Ayr St. Columba has two Manses.
The Minister resides in the main manse in Alloway.
This is a spacious 10 apartment home set over two levels in a secluded Cul-de-Sac. There is a double garage and well-maintained enclosed gardens.
The Manse is double-glazed throughout; gas fired

central heating; in good decorative order.

The property is close to the local primary school, post office, village shops and parks and within walking distance of Secondary schooling.



The second Manse is situated in Chalmers Road Ayr and is currently vacant.
This Manse is an 8-apartment extended Bungalow.
This Manse is currently on the rental market.



MUSIC



CHORAL MUSIC has, from the formative years of Trinity church to the Ayr St. Columba of today, provided a greatly valued contribution to worship. It is appropriate here to recall with appreciation the distinguished tenures of both Elizabeth C. MacIntyre ARCM, Organist and Choir Leader from 1920 to 1955, and Leslie R. Thornton BA, FTCL, Organist and Director of Music from 1960 until 1998. Matthew Hynes BA (Mus) (Hons), the present Organist and Choir Master at St. Columba, took up the position in February 2007. He is a graduate of the Royal Scottish Academy of

Music and Drama, where he studied organ with Dr. George McPhee.



Our choir presently comprises over twenty enthusiastic voices, yet, in common with many another church, the need to recruit new members, especially men, remains an ever-present one.

Regular practices take place on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm, from the start of September until the end of May. Additionally, the choir meets throughout the year on a Sunday morning, at 10.55am, for a short rehearsal prior to the 11.15 service. Anyone considering augmenting our

existing voices is warmly encouraged to speak to either Matthew or any member of the choir. A friendly welcome at our rehearsals is assured.

Recently we have dedicated a new Continuo Organ, the purchase of which was made possible by a generous donation from the late Mr. Sydney and Mrs. Sarah Leslie, to the Memory of the first Minister of the Union, Revd. Dr. Bill Christman. This is a superb addition to our Sanctuary and will be used in the newly created Centenary Aisle and for concerts.



Bell Chime

Ayr St. Columba replaced a tubular Carillon chime with a new set of four bells in 2016, completing the full octave by the addition of a



further four bells in 2018. This was the first full set installed in Scotland in the 21st Century and was manufactured and installed by the Taylor Bell Company based in Loughborough, England. Taylors have been manufacturing bells since 1784 and they continued a line of bell founding which started in the 14th Century.

The bells today ring to mark the start of each church service, such as those on a Sunday and midweek communion services. They also complement wedding services and there is a single toll which is rung at Funerals. Matthew Hynes, the director of music, has been supplied with a keyboard to allow the playing of any hymn tune or other suitable piece of music to enhance the worshipful atmosphere and welcome to Ayr St Columba Church.

The Ministry of Flower

There is an enthusiastic Flower Team whose skill enhances the Sanctuary on each returning Sunday. Led by Mrs. Anne Drennan and Mrs. Corrie Lawrence, a team of twenty ladies also provide wonderful floral contributions to all major Church events within the Sanctuary and halls. Every Sunday 6 bouquets of flowers from the Church, are delivered to members needing support.



The Ministry of Caring

Over 80's flowers - we celebrate birthdays with cards and flowers and milestone Anniversaries with floral arrangements. The recipients are always delighted to be remembered at these special times.

The Worship Teams

There are several residential care-homes within the parish. Ayr St. Columba has separate teams for six of these where, on one individually-chosen but fixed Sunday afternoon each month for most months of the year, each team makes a visit for a short act of worship. The format of the latter will include prayer, singing, reading from the Bible, a short meditation or reflection or comment, a



benediction, but otherwise each team tailors its service to the ambience of the individual home and the perceived needs of its residents and those who attend the service.



VISITING

Formed a few years ago, our **Pastoral Care** visitors, under the leadership of Mrs Linda Sharp, visit many of our housebound and chronic sick members. This is a great support to our Ministry Team who value the feedback.

BAPTISMAL SUPPORT The Sacrament of Baptism is conducted after the Sermon and on Baptismal Sundays we organise a creche for the younger children and they are given a front row seat for the Sacrament. Families are also welcomed and supported by members of the Pastoral Team while they wait. Again, we use flowers to welcome the new life into the Church family.

CRADLE ROLL more floral gifts for the Cradle Roll Service. This is usually held in August when all babies under Sunday School age are invited to a special service. After the service we have ice cream and the youth leaders are on hand with lots of information about St. Columba Kids – this is a very happy occasion.

CHARITIES and GIVING

Here in St. Columba we also regularly support many **local, national and International Charities.**

Our Lunch Café, which meets fortnightly from September till March, supports our local **Hospice, Whiteleys and CHAS;**



We collect 1 and 2 pences to support **Mary's Meals** and donate approximately £1000 every year; our **Christian Aid** representative encourages us to contribute generously to this charity and to disasters around the world.



“Macmillan Largest Coffee Morning in the World” is an annual event; and each year we identify a local group to support through our 20's in the Pews collection.

We support the local **Food Bank** and South Ayrshire **Clothing Bank**



At major festivals of Christmas and Easter further collections are made for charities chosen by the Minister and Kirk Session.

Supporting our Young People

Special soup lunches and coffee mornings are regularly organised to support special projects.. The congregation are very generous both financially and with prayerful support of our young people engaged in overseas projects. These are many and varied – Alan, an optometrist, works in Africa with Vision Aid Overseas;

Alan writes: I have been privileged in so many ways, not least to have grown up in this amazing Congregation, whose support is unstinting. Vision Aid overseas allows me to give something back. We supported Colin when he cycled many, many miles with the PEPY RIDE 2007 - to Support rural Cambodian communities.



Also, David, Angus and Rory

who have undertaken different projects



with Raleigh International. Rory's first project was a Water and Sanitation project in a community called La Naranja in Nicaragua. Angus built bridges in Costa Rica and Kirsty travelled as a volunteer in Borneo.



Megan, a trainee doctor, wrote: The 2017 teaching trip to South Africa was an unforgettable experience and our team trained and passed 550 first aiders which was an amazing achievement. Thank you for your generous support with my fundraising.

Dana writes: "In July 2015, I was very lucky to be selected to go on a volunteering trip with VESA. We spent our time in a small village called Khula where we built a house for a family, volunteered at an orphanage, visited a local school and helped out a crocodile and cat sanctuary. During this experience, my highlight was meeting all of the lovely families and children that appreciated our help and support."



Gillian, a dental surgeon, has had her plans rearranged due to a change of government in Moldova and now heads for the Dominican Republic to provide essential medical and dental assistance.

So much is taken for granted with medical, optical, and dental health – running water and shelter – but vast areas of our world have no access to any of this care. Our young people are not afraid to stand up and be counted. Many, many more ordinary and extraordinary young people, events and causes are supported.

We are so affirmed by the selfless attitudes of all of our young people.

ST COLUMBA'S KIDS were delighted to be able to send off a cheque for £975.30 to the Vine Trust, which was their charity of the year for the 2017/ 18 session. Through filling smarties tubes with 20ps, selling Christmas crafts, carol singing, and inviting people to take part in a retiring offering at their prize giving service the children were able to raise this money to support the work of this great charity.



In the past year – the Congregation has made donations to 33 charities and funds in excess of £27,000 have been donated



A wonderful team of volunteers has been assembled to take Messy Church forward. While there are only a few families regularly attending the response from the children, young people and their parents is very positive. Meetings are held on the last Saturday of the month. The Team broadly follow the official Messy Church guidelines but work with our own themes.

Holiday Club

We run a Holiday Club during the Easter and Summer holidays. The Club runs weekday mornings for 5 days. The numbers attend vary from 35 – 55 and are well supported by volunteers from the Congregation. These are jam-packed weeks of fun and laughter each day with a message based on Scripture. Everyone enjoys being part of this happy week.



Light Party

On All Hallows eve we run a Light Party as an alternative to traditional and ever more darkly focussed Halloween parties. The theme is always Light in the Darkness and we have had 70 children and parents attending these evenings. They are based on the SU Light Party idea and again are well supported by volunteers from the Congregation.



Our History

On 4th January 1981 the congregations of Cathcart, Sandgate and Trinity united to become Ayr St. Columba, as decreed by the General Assembly's Union and Readjustment Committee.



A special Arbitration Committee from Edinburgh had already decided that the former Trinity Church would be the location of the new congregation and that the hall of the former Cathcart Church, on Cathcart Street, would be retained. Although most of the furnishings of Ayr St. Columba remain those of the former Trinity Church, several items of historical significance from



Cathcart and Sandgate were incorporated, the most important being the War Memorials, which take their place with those of Trinity already in place.

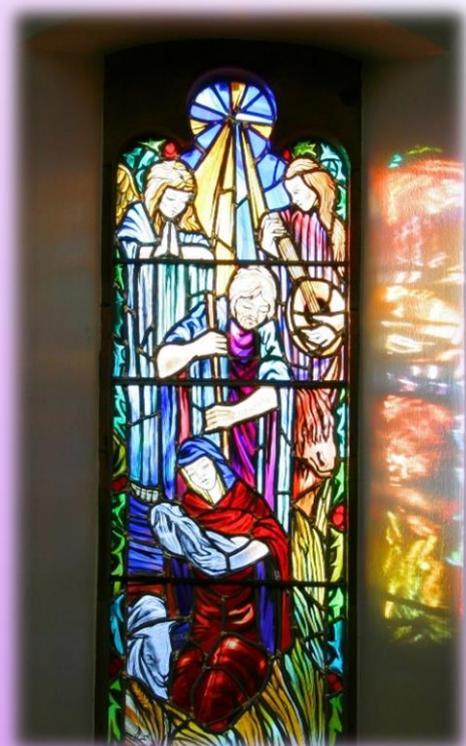
With the induction of the Rev. W. J. Christman as the first minister on 3rd June 1981, the new congregation quickly found its stride.

Extract taken from the book "The Church of Midton Road, 1902-2002" by Ronald W. Brash, M.A., F.S.A.Scot

The stained-glass windows

The Sanctuary houses many beautiful stained-glass windows, fourteen in all. The first and largest is the Chancel window, dedicated in January 1913, which commemorates Richard Cockburn MacLaurin, the principal founding-member of Trinity Church and whose name was first on the original congregational roll. Between 1913 and 1973 another four windows were dedicated, and the remaining nine between 1997 and 2018. Although dedicated over a span of 105 years for different purposes and with different themes, taken together the windows illustrate to great effect Christ's life and message.

In the last twenty-one years Ayr St. Columba and its people have become notable patrons of renowned stained-glass artists – Susan



Bradbury, Moira Malcolm and Roland Mitton - and helped give fresh impetus to an ancient tradition.

The gift of a locally made Oak Cross adorns the Chancel. The original Cross has been transferred to the Church Hall at Cathcart Street, where the Kirk Session and many clubs regularly meet.



The Centenary Aisle

At the dawn of the Millennium the Congregation pledged donations which were to be used to create a lasting contribution to the Sanctuary, and so began the journey to reconfigure a unique worship area within the Sanctuary.

After a great deal of debate and deliberation and under the expert eye of the then Clerk to the Board Charlie Jack—the Centenary Aisle was built.

This is a superb area which is much in demand for small services, intimate weddings, midweek service of Holy Communion and as a meeting room. The addition of this facility has greatly improved the diversity of service provision.

The all glass front can be fully retracted to open the area during full attendance.

The reflective resonance of the glass has not gone unnoticed by those of a musical persuasion and the choir and



organist revel in the brightness of their singing and playing!



The most recent additions to the Centenary Aisle are the gifts by separate donors of three beautiful stained-glass windows celebrating the linked themes of "Worship", "Prayer" and "Service and Love", and bound together by the great artistic imagination of the artist Moira Malcolm, into an effective one window of nine lights.

The addition of the small Communion Table and the hand-hewn Cross, which was gifted to the Sanctuary, complement the modern design. A Continuo Organ, dedicated to the Memory of the late Dr. Bill J. Christman BA, BD completes the Aisle.

We are very blessed by the many lovely gifts given to God's Glory and in memory of family, which enhance the beauty of our church and our worship therein.

ORGANISATIONS and SOCIAL GROUPS

THE GUILD

We are all proud to be members of Ayr St Columba Guild – a Guild of some 80 members, the ages covering 5 decades.

On a wintry evening in Ayr with the wind blowing, the rain pelting down, the Convener thinks that there will not be a good turn-out that night. Such is the dedication, friendship and fellowship of the members, the Convener is always proved wrong and is amazed by the attendance of the stalwart Guilders. Formed in 1981 after the Union of three Churches, St Columba Guild has gone from strength to strength and over the last decade the Annual Christmas Coffee Morning has raised almost £20,000 for National Guild Projects and other local charities.

Although the Guild historically was formerly referred to as the **Woman's Guild**, some time back it became known as **The Guild** to include both men and women. As there is a very strong Men's Association in St Columba The Guild does not impose, but enjoys the company of its members at joint meetings and also opens an invitation to the Congregation at large. All are welcome at the meetings of St Columba Guild.

The members enjoy working together, worshipping together and serving their Master, "Whose we are and Whom we serve".

Dorothy Bone Convener

MEN'S ASSOCIATION

The organisation started 1956. The title and purpose - ***"To promote a spirit of Christian fellowship among the men of the congregation"*** – remain the same but are now interpreted to include all genders within and out-with the church. All are welcome to attend the meetings which take place on alternate Monday nights from 7.30 p.m. A session lasts from the beginning of each October to the end of the following March, with a break for Christmas and the New Year. A programme of outside speakers on a multitude of topics is established well in advance. The meetings start with a hymn, a reading, a prayer and an offering before the speaker addresses the meeting for up to 45 minutes, followed by questions and refreshments.

In 1982 the first minister of Ayr St. Columba, the Revd. Bill Christman, initiated what has become the ***"Thursday Games"*** where anyone interested meets in the Church Hall every Thursday afternoon between early September and the following April for carpet bowls, snooker, refreshments and stimulating conversation.

Current combined membership is 36.

Surplus funds are distributed to nominated charities after approval at the AGM each March. These amount to over £12,000 since 1993/94.

LADIES FELLOWSHIP

The Ladies Fellowship (formerly called the Monday Club) is a group of long standing in the life of the Church and meets every fortnight from October to March. The ladies meet in fellowship to enjoy not only each other's company, but also to be entertained by interesting speakers and entertainers.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Social events are very important, and our Hospitality Committee organise all manner of events that bring the Congregation together. These include - a biennial Burns Supper; annual Seniors' Outing with High Tea in the summer; the Seniors Christmas Party; Tea and home baking following the evening Services; Mulled wine and mince pies following the Service of Readings and Carols; Congregational Christmas Lunch and a whole host of celebration events.



OASIS – is a weekly café that came into being as a place for members of the Church and local Community to meet for a chat, read the papers and connect with each other. We had in mind the growing number of people who live alone and lack regular contact with friends and family. Tea, coffee and home-baking

make this a favourite venue.

THE CHURCH AND THE PARISH



Situated at the apex junction of Midton Road and Carrick Park, Ayr - the Church serves a wide-reaching Parish. The Parish boundary runs along the seafront from the South Harbour to the River Doon and inland bordering Seafield Golf Course and north towards town. Within the Parish there are two primary schools and one secondary School. Ayr Grammar Primary is a local authority schools and the co-ed fee paying Wellington School, which is both primary and secondary. The Minister is sole chaplain at

Wellington School, having contact with children from P1 through to Secondary 6. Assemblies are held in the school and the School hold their end of term and special services at Ayr St Columba.

The Parish also serves a number of Care and Nursing Homes and the Worship Teams provide monthly services at some of these Homes.

At St. Columba there is a strong sense of caring across the generations. We have a roll of 1150 members and attendance at Sunday morning service is around 460. We are blessed to have contact with many children and young people – 25 regularly attend Sunday School; approximately 100 attend uniform organisations which meet in our Halls.

For several years now, our Congregation has been supporting the church situated in **Lochside** on the north side of the town and Lochside is included in the parish boundaries of St Columba. We finance the provision of pulpits supply each Sunday and both congregations are exceedingly proud of our association. There has been a "Go for it" funded Project running in this area of our Parish in the past 2.5 years but due to staff changes the Project is currently running on a much-reduced basis. Funds are available to support initiatives at Lochside and there is an amazing opportunity to develop this area of our Outreach Programme.

The Parish covers a large area of the town, both South and North of the river Ayr and the Congregation comes from an even wider area of the county, this means we are a very diverse family with all the inherent challenges and benefits!

We seek the same measure of diversity in our spiritual companionship that we find in the make-up of our town. In keeping with our belief in the value of inclusiveness, all are welcome as we explore, question, learn and trust one another. Intellectual integrity and diversity of experience lead us to challenge ourselves and one another and to grow in faith.

THE STATISTICAL make-up of the Parish is noted here in an extract from the LCR of 2016

Statistics that were taken into consideration for Ayr St Columba which included the profile for Lochside, an extension of the main body of the parish, from the 2011 census and Church of Scotland Parish Profile

Ayr St Columba Parish

has a population of – 6,357

311 in pre-school (0-4years), 412 in primary school

251 in secondary school, 663 student age (16-24yrs)

1,416 young adults (25-44yrs)

1,682 aged between 45-64yrs

1,622 aged 65+yrs, with 959 being retired

1,180 households consist of 1 person, 491 of those are 65+yrs

363 Lone parent households

565 provide unpaid care, 151 of those provide 50+ hrs per week

2,396 in employment F/T, P/T, self; 272 unemployed, 277 sick/disabled

2,401 say they belong/affiliate with the Church of Scotland

St Columba North – Lochside

has a population of – 4,550

330 in pre-school (0-4years), 312 in primary school

180 in secondary school, 523 student age (16-24yrs)

1,451 young adults (25-44yrs) • 1,026 aged between 45-64yrs

728 aged 65+yrs, with 456 being retired

1,018 households consist of 1 person, 361 of those are 65+yrs

one parent households

provide unpaid care, 126 of those provide 50+ hrs per week

1,826 in employment F/T, P/T, self; 247 unemployed, 319 sick/disabled

1,297 say they belong/affiliate with the Church of Scotland



CHOIR
THURSDAY 7.30PM



LIBRARY
Carrick Park Vestibule



THE GUILD
Monday (fortnightly)
at 7.30pm



Men's Association
Fortnightly at 7.30



Fitness and Relaxation
all levels of fitness welcome
Wednesday 2pm - 4pm

Ladies Fellowship
Monday (fortnightly) at
7.30pm



Men's Association
Thursday Games



Friday
Cathcart Street Hall
(Fortnightly)
12pm - 1.30pm

Parent and Toddlers Groups

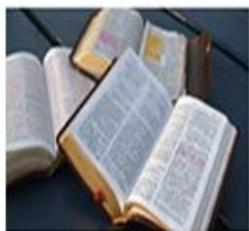
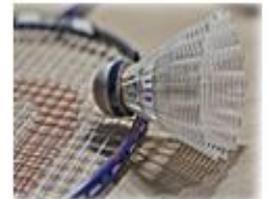
Monday 10 - 11.30 am

Toys; games tea and coffee - juice and treats!



Warm welcome to parents, grandparents and carers of pre school children

Badminton
Thursday
10.00am



Bibe Study

Prayer Group



Book Group

Wednesday Team
9.30AM - 12 NOON
General Maintenance



Oasis Café
Thursday
10 - 12 noon

drop in and enjoy homebaking!



Wednesday
7.30pm



Wednesday
5.45pm



Rainbows

Rainbow Brownies
Monday



5.30pm - 6.45pm



Friday
6.30pm

Friday
7.30pm



Thursday
at 6.30pm



<https://www.ayrstcolumba.co.uk>



Find us on Facebook



copy of Accounts
available on
the website



INTERIM MODERATOR:
SESSION CLERK:
CHURCH SECRETARY:

DLacy@churchofscotland.org.uk
sessionclerk@ayrstcolumba.co.uk
irene@ayrstcolumba.co.uk