

Columba News



October
2020
No. 236



Autumn days

Photograph courtesy of J. Hutson



Autumn colours over the tranquil fairways of Belleisle. The church will mark Harvest at services on Sunday, October 25

Waiting to welcome you

Sundays	Team	Leader
October 18	Team 2	Mr J. McConnachie
October 25	Team 3	Mrs M. Howie
November 1	Team 4	Mr H. Peters
November 8	Team 5	Mrs J. Murnin
November 15	Team 6	Mr M. Whiteford
November 22	Team 7	Mr N Reid
November 29	Team 8	Mrs L. Sharp
December 6	Team 9	Mr D. Campbell

From the manse

October 2020

Dear Friends,

Remembrance

This will be a very strange year for marking Remembrance Sunday.

As at other times, our services on Sunday, November 8, will be limited to **50 people** at each service. We will offer our now regular two morning (30 minute) diets at 10.00am and 11.15am.

Both services will be Services of Remembrance with a two minute silence and poppy wreaths.

If you are unable to be present at a service, please join members in church in prayer and personal silence at home:

**They shall grow not old
as we that are left grow old;
age shall not weary them
nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
and in the morning,
we will remember them.**

In our liturgy in church, we will remember the courage, devotion to duty and self-sacrifice of our men and women who served in our armed forces during the conflicts of the past century or so: those wounded in the fight or perished at home, who are buried at sea or in some corner of a foreign field.

We will remember also those who were our enemies, whose homes and hearts are as bereft as ours.

And, we will remember those who returned home but whose lives bore the scars of war with loss of limb or reason.

In this season of remembrance, Sunday, November 1, is All Saints' Day. We call to mind those in the Church and our local community who served Christ in their life on earth.



In our services on All Saints' Day, we will, with love, we remember our own loved ones: people we love and have lost.

We give thanks for those cherished in our hearts, whose memory we will never forget, and whose lives shaped and shape our own.

Every blessing,

Scott

At the time of writing, government restrictions on visiting homes may become more limited but, hopefully, that will ease.

Going forward, if you would like a visit from me or our Associate Minister, David Ness, please don't hesitate to be in touch.

We will follow guidelines and visit you when we are permitted to do so. Simply call the manse (01292 226075) or email me (scottsmckenna@aol.com). David's telephone number is 01292 471625.

The purpose of the visit may be a pastoral matter or simply an opportunity for a chat.

We've had to cancel our festive events

The Hospitality Committee hopes everyone is well and coping with the many challenges of Covid 19.

Sadly we have now cancelled the Senior Citizens' Christmas party and also the Festive Congregational lunch this year.

Until we can all meet up again please look after yourself and stay safe .

*Jane
Hospitality Convenor*

The Guild



I am certain I share the same sentiments as my fellow members of the Guild in that we miss the Church and all its activities, the Guild, Irene's Keep Fit Class and particularly meeting in fellowship.

Contact by telephone, text message or Email has been great but there is nothing to match the human meet and greet syndrome of face to face.

This Guild Session should have commenced on September 28, Ayr Guilds Together Autumn Rally has been cancelled, the Guild Annual Gathering should have taken place at Dundee on September 5 and the Guild Big Sing at the Tron Church in Glasgow due to take place in December has also been cancelled.

A very moving and worthwhile Virtual Gathering was screened on the Church of Scotland website on Saturday, September 5 this year in place of the scheduled Dundee meeting and Avril Jackson and I

“attended” by sitting at our laptops in our own homes. This was an excellent second-best and the Virtual Communion conducted by the retiring National President, Marion McIntyre's husband from their home in Shetland was very moving.

Our Syllabus for this Session was planned, but our Secretary Maureen has contacted the speakers booked for the first half and all have agreed to come on the corresponding dates in 2021/22. Hopefully the remaining speakers will also be very amenable to change. We are therefore ready to convene again whenever we can safely do so.

The National Guild is trying to keep us all informed and next year sees a new 3-year Strategy and new projects to support. The Guild Office in Edinburgh will also produce helpful advice and suggestions to help Conveners with the annual Theme when arranging meetings. The work of the Guild nationally

continues and staff have to be paid.

And now for the ***BAD NEWS!!***

As mentioned above, although we cannot meet at present, and it will be some while before we can, the work of the Church of Scotland Guild must go on and Edinburgh needs financial support to keep up the momentum.

I am not pressurising any of our members to do so, but if you can help to keep things going it would be very generous if you would donate your annual capitation fee of £12 to this cause.

If we were meeting in our usual way we would be contributing by way of an offering at our fortnightly meetings.

Obviously we are not doing so at present, so this amount would help to cover the cost of keeping The Guild afloat.

I do not wish anyone to be forced into subscribing to The Guild, but if you wish to do so would you please pay this by cheque to our Treasurer, Elizabeth Gardiner, 17 Ronaldshaw Park, AYR KA7 2JJ by the end of NOVEMBER. Cheques should be made payable to "Ayr St Columba Guild".

Meantime I hope you all enjoy the Autumn and, most of all, keep safe and well.

***Dorothy Bone,
Convener***

Men's Association

Due to current legislation regarding Coronavirus, it is with regret that it is necessary to cancel the Men's Association meetings for the first part of our session i.e. from October to December.

A decision regarding the meetings scheduled for early 2021 will be made nearer that time.

Stay safe.

***John Ferguson
Secretary***

Thank you for all the support

Phyllis, David and Colin wish to thank everyone concerned, for their cards, flowers and expressions of sympathy at this sad time.

Thanks also to those present at the Church as the cortege passed.

Special thanks to the Minister, Organist and Muriel Wilson for their very comforting service.

Many thanks Phyllis McBride and Family

Lochside Statement

This statement from the Session Clerk was read out at Lochside Church on Sunday 27th September.

At its September meeting, the Kirk Session of Ayr St Columba Church discussed a proposal which will affect the future of Lochside Church. The matter arose because the Presbytery of Ayr, along with all other Presbyteries across the country, has to find a way to significantly reduce the number of churches in their area. This is because the average attendance at churches generally has been falling so much in recent times and there are currently more churches than will be required in the future.

Ayr Presbytery has asked churches in the different areas of the town to develop plans for the future. The churches in North Ayr are in one group and the churches south of the river are in a different group. In due course, plans will be formed to cater for future Christian worship in each of these areas. These are plans for the long term and will not come into effect for some time.

The Kirk Session has accepted that churches north of the river will be best placed to manage the long term future of ministry and mission at Lochside and these churches will therefore be asked to include Lochside in their plans. No churches will be exempt from re-organisation and Ayr St Columba will be engaging with other churches to decide how they will fit in to the new groupings to be formed south of the river. It will be change for everyone.

At the Session meeting, Mrs Morag MacPherson spoke very strongly and passionately about the loyalty that worshippers at Lochside have shown to Ayr St Columba. This is something which we acknowledge and which we value very much. We were delighted when people at Lochside chose to become members of Ayr St Columba Church and whatever the eventual shape of churches might be in the future, everyone at Lochside Church is very welcome to remain as a member for as long as they wish and to attend services at Ayr St Columba, if they so wish.

There will be no immediate changes. Ayr St Columba will continue to support Lochside Church next week, next month and next year. During the current crisis everything will move slowly at Presbytery level. We do not know when the plans for the different areas will be drawn up and we would therefore not expect to see them put into effect for a long time.

In the meantime, we send our best wishes to Revd Roddy McNidder and to everyone in the congregation as Worship Services at Lochside take place once more. We hope you will stay safe and well and that you will enjoy your long awaited return to the building.

Bob Bartholomew Session Clerk

From The Satellite Office

I am writing on a beautiful Autumnal morning, there is a mist hanging over the shrubs and planters and the tall trees are shrouded in fine watery clouds. This is a very different view than I experience in the Church office at Carrick Park!

I do miss the interaction with people, those who work and those who just pop in from time to time, but working from home definitely has plusses! Some days the time passes fairly leisurely and on others, it is just as busy as it was pre-lockdown.

Since I last wrote, we have moved from Private Prayer to two morning Services at 10am and 11.15am.

Additionally we now have a full recorded service available on the website, Facebook and YouTube.

This has been a steep and exciting learning curve for our very talented in-house team who have acquired filming and editing skills in an incredibly short time. Last week the recording of Morning Worship reached over 375 people, this is so positive.

The 10am service has regularly hit the maximum of 50 attendees and on one Sunday Bob and I had to sit in the office!

For this reason, you are encouraged to “book” a place by phoning me during the preceding week on 265794. The second service at 11.15 is holding its own and we are coping well with the numbers attending without the same need to book a place.

Our media platforms are well used and while we understand not everyone is able to access the information posted on the website or facebook this is a great asset.

A special thank you to families of members who are printing off information or making sure they visit with an iPad to allow folks without the online facility to see and hear what is going on!

I continue to be indebted to our superb elders who are maintaining contact with their district regularly and keeping us up to date with anyone who is unwell or in need of an extra phone call.

The spike in Covid cases has meant that we have not been able to visit but in the short window when this was possible, I know members really appreciated a personal contact from Church.

We have a number of members in hospital or unwell at home and we keep them in our thoughts and prayers. Please keep in touch, let me know how you are keeping.

The days of sunshine are always a blessing, but when it rains remember what it was like to jump in the puddles!

Irene

What is Your Opinion ?

When lockdown was first declared in March this year, every church in the country, including our own, closed down. Since that time we have been striving to find the best ways to allow worship to continue and services to resume. We would like to know what members feel about what we have been able to offer and what they would like to see happen.

Ayr St Columba Church has provided written, audio and recorded Services on the website, it has made the Dial-a-Sermon service available for those without access to the internet, it has opened its doors for private prayer and it now offers two Services each Sunday.

Following detailed guidance from the government and from the Church of Scotland, we have worked hard to make the environment of the church as safe as possible.

At the same time we have tried to retain the familiar, welcoming atmosphere which we all associate with our sanctuary.

Please let us have your thoughts on any aspect of the Services or the environment. Is there anything that you especially like and are there things which you feel could be improved?

If you have not felt able to return to the building, is there anything we can do to make that easier for you? We are at a critical point in the life of the Church and we need your honest opinions.

So, if there is anything which you feel is not going well, let us know. Equally, if you are finding aspects of the services or the environment to be particularly good, please tell us.

Everyone associated with the Church, from the Minister and office bearers to the newest member, wishes the experience in Church to be positive and uplifting, despite the situation which currently surrounds us. Your opinion will help us in this endeavour.

You are invited to send your thoughts by email to the Minister (scottsmckenna@aol.com) or Session Clerk (sessionclerk@ayrstcolumba.co.uk) or by mail to 30 St Leonard's Road, Ayr KA7 2PT.

Thank you.

Bob Bartholomew

Irene
hard at
work in
the
satellite
office



The new
look
Columba
News
takes
shape



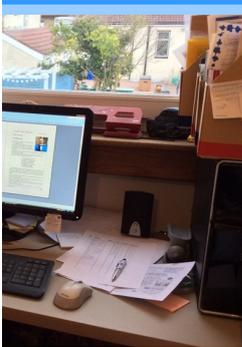
New technology takes its place at Ayr St Columba

When lockdown
a halt to all
It also means
building a v
With the pa
brought into
ba News m
The Kirk Se
60 elders ta
Also the se



Filming
the
Sunday
service in
the
sanctuary





Anne busy editing the Sunday service before it goes on line



lockdown arrived due to the Covid pandemic, sadly the church had to call off all services due to regulations. This meant that groups could not meet in the halls which made the Midton Road a very quiet place indeed. The pandemic looking like it was here for the long haul, new technology was brought into play with emails, Zoom meetings, filming of services plus the Columns moving in-house, all to help the church move forward. The R&P Session last month held their first Zoom meeting over the internet with members tackling new tech. The service at Midton Road is being filmed weekly for the internet.



Andrew Muirhead helps iron out the Zoom problems as the Session Clerk hosts a meeting to prepare for the next Session meeting



The church R&P hold a meeting on Zoom

TAKING AN ECO LOOK by Andrew Muirhead

It is possible to refurbish a room without it costing the earth?

Most of our activities have a carbon footprint. Household utilities, food, travel and purchase of goods all cause emissions that add to climate change. Can we keep this to a minimum?

Cost is traditionally financial but also, can be measured in environmental impact.

Here is an example:

My daughter shared her flat with two lodgers until recently. The flat was decorated with neutral colours as is often the case with shared property.

This picture does not show it off to best effect, however the 1970s tiles and gas fire were functional but not really her taste. Interestingly this type of gas fire is very efficient and easily matches central heating, fired by a modern A+ condensing gas boiler. You can see the arm of an armchair, at least 50 years old and already recovered once. The rickety coffee table is out of sight. The 10 year old carpet is in reasonable condition

with a few minor stains in the middle and some wear.

Taste, available cash and enhancement of property value are important considerations when renovating. Should we consider anything else? What would you do if cash were in short supply? What would you do if cash were plentiful?



Here is what was done. Most of the clutter has been moved which helps show it off. The change is from bland to bold! The old gas fire has been retained but looks different with the baby pink spray paint and the ceramic lamp base has been kept and sprayed. The lampshade is new along with a new central lampshade (seen in the mirror), coloured to match the chair fabric and walls respectively.

The wall is dark, but not gloomy, because the room has a large bay window, white ceiling and fawn carpet. The tiles around the fire place are certainly bright and the pattern is picked up by the new rug that protects the carpet from more wear centrally. The renovated coffee table has been tiled to match the fire-place. The loose joints were repaired. The ancient arm chair has not yet been recovered with the yellow fabric, but the cushion cover is new (made from material scraps with a borrowed sewing machine).

Carbon emissions are mostly down to personal decisions. Glazed tiles and paint have a carbon footprint but a decision to refurbish rather than replace furniture, a lamp and a gas fire avoids emissions. When we choose an item that is likely to be durable, such as a tiled table, this can again reduce emissions in the long term.

It is possible to refurbish a room without it costing the earth and still make it your own.



Andrew Muirhead

Volunteer, Living Lighter project. This project is a Scottish Government funded project designed to support Government policy to become carbon neutral.

Rules and Decisions

In the past seven months our Church has gone through a quite remarkable series of stages and experiences. We are not alone in this by any means, but the unique circumstances have required a form of thinking and decision making which we have not known before. To keep the Church alive and to provide a safe environment for worshippers have been the key elements for deliberation.

We have not had the luxury of simply choosing a date and opening the doors again. The situation has been and continues to be more than a little complex. The UK Government and the Scottish Government make regular statements regarding what is permissible.

This means the situation is changing often. Keeping up to date and alerting members to new arrangements has been a genuine challenge.

In addition to this, serious consideration must be given to the guidance from the Church of Scotland. Their guidance document attempts to address all forms of Church activity and it has been revised frequently.

We are currently operating on version 7, which contains 64 pages of detailed information.

The first five pages list no fewer than 110 changes and updates which have been made since it was first published.

Everything we do in the Church and all the decisions we make have to be in line with the rules which are operating at the time. We have been delighted by the quality of the Services that have taken place and by the attendance and the support of our members. It is reassuring to know that the environment in which we are operating has been set in accordance with the rules to make it not only welcoming and uplifting, but also as safe as it can be in these exceptional times.

The Minister has shown a calm and steady resolve to lead us through the ongoing challenges.

Faced with such a crisis so early in his ministry with us, he has responded splendidly and has ensured that the Church is well, that it is active and that it is seeking to reach and support all its members. No matter how important rules and decision-making may be, it is people who make a difference. Please be assured that we have a very good man at the helm and that we have many good people amongst us.

We continue to be grateful to everyone who supports our Minister and other decision makers in these demanding circumstances and we wish you all safe days and good health.

Bob Bartholomew
Session Clerk

A Prayer for Remembrance

O God,
whose heart is broken
by the violence in the human race,
forgive us that we have lacked
the imagination and collective will
to create a warless world.



Forgive us for breaking faith
with those who gave their lives,
for the unconscionable gap between the
rich and poor,
for corruption and deceit in high places,
for the profit gained by the sale of weapons,
for the spirit of domination in our world leaders,
for learning so little from the deaths of
100 million in the past century.

In You alone is our hope;
in Your power, which can purify the human heart
and set our feet upon the path of peace, do we trust.
You can do great things
in willing hearts.
Break, then, our hardened hearts.
Break them with grief, with memory, and with hope.
In the name of the Prince of Peace.

Bruce Sanguin



Who to contact

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Tel:- 07847639528

Church Office: Carrick Park, Ayr.
Tel:- 269524 Office hours: 9am-noon,
Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri

Church Services (Midton Road):

9.30am - Family Service;
10am Sunday School,
11.15 - Morning Worship;
6.30pm - Evening Services
(Last Sunday of the month)

Church Services (Lochside):

10am Morning Worship

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

7.30pm: **THE GUILD** (fortnightly):

Mrs D. Bone, 441651

7.30pm: **MEN'S ASSOCIATION**
(fortnightly):

Mr T. R. Swinn, 441896

7.30pm: **LADIES FELLOWSHIP**

(fortnightly):

Linda Sharp, 286951

WEDNESDAY

2pm: **HOLY COMMUNION** (4th Wed):

Church Office, 269524

2pm: **FITNESS with FRIENDS:**

Mrs Margaret Doncaster, 477381

5.45pm: **9th AYR BROWNIES,**

Mrs E. MacDonald, 445529

7.30pm: **GIRL GUIDES:**

Susan Christie, 442374

7.30pm: **9th AYR RANGER GUIDES**

(every second Wednesday):

Susan Christie, 442374

THURSDAY

10.30am: **OASIS CAFE:** Mrs Rene Kidd

10.20am: **LADIES BADMINTON:**

Mrs Elizabeth MacDonald 445529

2pm: **MEN'S ASSOCIATION GAMES:**

Mr R. Park, 268788

6.30pm: **CUB SCOUTS:**

Mr D. Hope, 263376

7.30pm: **SENIOR CHOIR:**

Church Office 269524

FRIDAY

6pm: **BEAVER SCOUTS:**

Fiona Wilson, 290414

7.30pm: **SCOUTS:**

Jereon Bolte, 07511489755

SATURDAY

4pm: **MESSY CH4URCH**

(last Saturday of the month):

Irene Bartholomew, 269524

Church Charity Number: SC014338

Congregation and Parish Register

August-October

*And with the morn those angel faces smile,
which I have loved long since, and lost awhile!*

Cynthia Pitt,
James Clark,
Margaret Berrey,
Mabel Davidson
Kathleen Donaldson,
Muriel Cochrane
Margaret Boyle
Elizabeth Lawrence
Mary Johnstone

Templeton House,
Glenfairn House,
Heathfield House,
Glenfairn Care Home
Glenfairn Nursing Home
Creggan Bahn
Belmont Avenue
Queens Nursing Home
Sessionfield Farm

We welcome new members

Mrs Gwen McPhail
Mrs. Isabel Shields
Mrs Elizabeth Graham

District 5
District 24
District 78



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for the Christmas issue will be
Sunday, November 15
Copy should be emailed to
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St Columba Kids in action

Since the summer St Columba's Kids have not been able to meet in person but we have been producing St Columba's Kids Online. It had been hoped that we would be able to meet again in person however that had not come to fruition, though it is hoped we will be back together in person this Autumn. The Sunday School teachers have been working hard to share the truths of scripture through their online videos and the related crafts, challenges and prayers.



HOLIDAY CLUB AT A DISTANCE 2 **SUMMER 2020**

Holiday Club at a Distance took place again at the end of the Summer Holidays! Craft kits were available to collect and children enjoyed a week of stories, songs, crafts and challenges all based around Love, Joy, Peace, Faithfulness and Patience. We hope that by the time Easter comes round we will be able to run Mega Makers Holiday Club as we had planned for last Easter.