



SUMMER EDITION 2026

Issued 22nd May 2026



Our patron St Columba

Here are some interesting reflections by James Willetts on Saint Columba.

I wonder what Saint Columba would make of the transformation of the Church Hall and the preparations for another season of CBS. Can he see - and perhaps he can! - what is happening in the church named after him in Largs, some 1400 years after he came to Scotland? How would it all fit with his own values and aspirations, and the way he led his life?

Probably very well. He was not only a missionary, but he was a founder of many monasteries - including of course the one on Iona - that became centres of faith and learning. They made important contributions to the community, offering education, guidance, hospitality and shelter for travellers and the poor. Through his work, Columba fostered a sense of shared purpose and faith. Stories about him often show his compassion and sense of justice. He helped people to resolve disputes, supported people who were vulnerable or facing difficulties in their lives, and engaged in a way that reflected a genuine care for the well-being of others.

It is great for the local Largs community that St Columba's Episcopal Church can provide an inviting and versatile space for groups to run their activities, where learning and sharing events can take place, and where friends and families can get together to mark significant life events. Working together on projects like this, and the car-boot sales, brings individuals together in a very positive way too. A shared purpose, a bit of co-operative problem-solving, socialising and eating together, help to make people feel less isolated and better able to get through the challenges life throws at everyone from time to time.

All of which seems to be consistent with the values our patronal saint demonstrated in his own life.

I spend a lot of time in Stratford-upon-Avon and, when I can't worship at St Columba's in Largs, I go to Holy Trinity Church there. Some years ago I spotted a stained-glass image of St Columba in the east window - a happy reminder of the good work being done in his name in Largs.

James Willetts

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A note from the editor

I welcome any articles, news items, information or poems that are important or special to you. The **COPY DEADLINE** for the Autumn edition of the church magazine is **15th August 2026**.

Robin Spencer, Editor

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What's on – this/future issues

As this summer we will be celebrating the 150th anniversary of the founding of St Columba's Episcopal Church in Largs, there are several articles on the subject from different sources. Enjoy!

With vestry approval, I am personally interviewing members of the congregation, with an aim to collate a short biography of most (perhaps even all) members of St Columba's SE Church, so that we can all have a better idea who our fellow church members are. The biographies will be available in printed and / electronic format in due course.

I will also include a selection in each edition of the magazine over the next 12 months.

Personal details will only be published following approval of the text.

The church WhatsApp group

St Columba's Episcopal Church has a very active social media group on WhatsApp, where we share reminders, raise and answer queries, and broadcast information (such as progress on the church hall repairs).

If you wish to join the WhatsApp group, please message Hilary Moran on **07989 693410**

The Interim Rector Writes



Dear friends,

As we move into the summer months, we realise that time marches on. And so do we one way or another. I do hope you will find a real blessing as each month follows another. There is much excitement to the new ministry at St Columba's and that is great as it's certainly a step forward in mission and ministry. Always remember God strengthens us and encourages us, letting us be aware of how much he loves and cares for us.

So it's full steam ahead. Now that the hall has been restored and the organ has had a full service, you have much to offer the people of Largs with this beautiful building and warm, friendly congregation.

We celebrated Pentecost recently when the church received that energising force of the Holy Spirit and the disciples were given those plans by Jesus, those impossible plans worked. **"God works from the inside out"**. That is the great message of Pentecost, The Holy Spirit blows where it wills and change blows in when it is needed.

With Blessings, Sandy

Vestry Meeting - Snippets

- The position of rector at St Columba's SEC has been offered and accepted.
- The first car boot sale this year held on 18th April raised £675 despite poor weather.

The Life of St Columba

Columba (Colmcille) was born in Gartan, Tír Chonaill (County Donegal). around 521AD to Fedelmí mac Ferguso (great-grandson of Niall Noigíallach - Niall of the Nine Hostages from whom the Northern Uí Néill rulers of Donegal and Tyrone were descended) and Eithne. Columba was thus born into a powerful and pagan ruling family.

He was baptised in Temple-Douglas, in the County Donegal parish of Conwal (midway between Gartan and Letterkenny), by his teacher and foster-uncle Cruithnechán. Columba then lived in the remote district of what is now Glencolmcille for roughly five years. When sufficiently advanced in letters he entered the monastic school of Movilla, at Newtownards, under Finnian of Movilla who had studied at Ninian's "Magnum Monasterium", Galloway. Now a deacon, aged twenty, and having completed his training at Movilla, he travelled southwards into Leinster, where he became a pupil of an aged bard named Gemman. On leaving him, Columba entered the monastery of Clonard Abbey, situated on the River Boyne in modern County Meath, governed at that time by Finnian, noted for sanctity and learning. Here, as a young Deacon, he imbibed the traditions of the Welsh Church, for Finnian had been trained in the schools of David.

It is said that in 561 he supported his Northern Uí Néill kin (either praying for success, or possibly fighting) in the battle of Cul Debrene, against the High King of Ireland (Southern Uí Néills - hence distant relatives). Some records allege Columba suffered a penitential exile from Ireland because of his participation in this battle. Whatever the reason, in 563, aged 42, he travelled to Scotland with twelve companions in a wicker currach covered with leather. According to legend he first landed at Oronsay on the Kintyre Peninsula, but on climbing the hill he could still see Ireland, so he moved farther north up the west coast of Scotland.

Some records allege that Columba converted the local Picts that controlled the lands around Iona at the time, and they gifted him the island of Iona. Other records say that Iona was made over to him by his kinsman Conall mac Comgaill, King of Dál Riata, who perhaps had invited him to come to Scotland in the first place. Whatever the truth is,

it is clearly recorded by Adomnán that 11 years after arriving in Scotland, in 574, Conall mac Comgaill's successor, Aedan, travelled to Iona to be ordained as King (of Dál Riata) by Columba. By then, Iona was well established as Columba's centre, from which he administered several other religious dependencies that he had founded.

He was very energetic in his work as a missionary. In addition to founding several churches in the Hebrides, he developed his monastery at Iona into a school for missionaries. He was a renowned man of letters, having written several hymns, he is also credited with having transcribed 300 books and has two poems attributed to him: "Adiutor Laborantium" and "Altus Prosator", both being examples of Abecedarian hymns in Latin. One of the few, if not the only, times he left Scotland was towards the end of his life, when he returned to Ireland to found the monastery at Durrow.

There are many 'stories' of miracles he performed during his work to convert the Picts, including when he banished a ferocious "water beast" in 565 to the depths of the River Ness after it had killed a Pict and tried to attack Columba's disciple, Lugne. He visited the pagan King Bridei, King of Fortriu, at his base in Inverness, winning Bridei's respect, although not his conversion. He subsequently played a major role in the politics of the country.

According to traditional sources, Columba died in Iona on Sunday, June 9th 597 AD, and was buried by his monks in the abbey he created. The Annals record the first Viking raid made upon Iona in A.D. 795, with further raids occurring in 802, 806 and 825. Columba's relics were finally removed in 849 and divided between Scotland and Ireland.

In Ireland, the saint is commonly known as Colmcille. Colmcille is one of the three patron saints of Ireland, after Patrick and Brigid of Kildare, and he is the patron saint of the city of Derry, where he founded a monastic settlement in c. 540. The name of the city in Irish is Doire Cholm Cille and is derived from the native oak trees in the area and the city's association with Colmcille.

The main source of information about St Columba is the [Life of Columba \(Vita Columbae\)](#), a [hagiography](#) written by [Adomnán](#), one of Columba's successors at Iona. [Saint Columba's Feast Day](#), is June 9th.

Introducing

Raymond Henry Hynd Young

b. 1948, Saint Albans, Hertfordshire

I come from humble background, one of 13 living children (8 sisters / 4 brothers). My father was Scottish, from



Cambuslang, near Glasgow and I lived with my parents and siblings until I was 9 years old, then spent three years in foster homes and Briar Patch Children's Home in Letchworth. At 12 I went to live with my new and long-term foster parents, Jean and Ray Hutton, initially in Watford, and then in Oakham, Rutland. I attended the Vale of Catmose College in Oakham leaving there with 10 O-levels and the 'Warden's Prize' (warden was the name this school gave their headmaster).

I joined the Royal Navy, aged 16. As a Marine Engineering Artificer. I initially served on HMS Eagle, an aircraft carrier, where I was chosen to go to Britannia Royal Naval College in Dartmouth. As a Midshipman I served on HMS Norfolk, where I met Prince Charles several times doing bridge watchkeeping, we often chatted, Charles telling me how much he liked the Goon Show. In 1972, aged 24, after 7 years serving in the RN, I left the navy because by then I had got married and decided my place was ashore.

In 1972 I began my 36 years career in local government, working as a Committee Clerk with Kirkcaldy Town Council / District Council for six years, followed by one year as a Chief Admin Officer in Forfar, Angus District, seven years for Falkirk District Council before moving in 1986 to Irvine and Cunningham District Council as Deputy Director of Administration. In 1995, following yet another local government reorganisation, I became Principal Officer with North Ayrshire Council in charge of four local offices, one of which was Largs, which is where I met my wife Linda, who I married in 2007. We moved to Largs in 2010, partly because Linda was born and bred in Largs.

I have 4 children (Russell, Dale, Nicola and Alan), three stepchildren (Sarah, Deborah and Andrew) and 12 grandchildren, so life is never dull.

Linda Love Young, nee Northcote

b. mid 60's in Largs

I've lived all my life in Largs. After school, I went to college in Greenock to do a Secretarial and Administration



course. I then worked for Graham Ross, a photographer, who taught me how to develop black and white photographs for the Largs and Millport Weekly News. In the 1980's I was managing all their photos, and I stopped working in the late 1980's to have a family.

Later on, I went back to work, this time for the MOD, seconded to Rendell, Palmer and Tritton, civil engineers that carried out the RNAD Facility 210 project (handling submarine nuclear missiles when the submarines arrived in Helensburgh for repairs and maintenance). In 1995 the company moved to Coulport (across the water from Gourock, near Kilcraggan), so I went to work for Strathclyde Regional Authority, which then became North Ayrshire Council.

Nowadays, I am an Activities and Wellbeing Co-ordinator. I loved my parents and I've had a good, happy life all in all, compared to some we've done well. I was also a Lead Panel Rep for Children's hearings, which changed my life, especially when you read and hear of some of the unbelievable horror stories (*sic that children have experienced*).

Jane McCance

b. 1974, Bearsden, North Glasgow



I was born in 1974 in Bearsden, North Glasgow. My mum was married to a Dane (a politician, a Director of Education, and in later years a Lutheran Minister) but divorced him while I was a baby. She then married a (presbyterian)

Church of Scotland Minister and moved to Coatbridge in Lanarkshire, where I was brought up as a 'Daughter of the Manse'. I attended a girls school in Glasgow, and then went to Glasgow School of Art where I got an undergraduate degree in Art.

In 2004 (aged 30) I got married and moved to Largs, where I gave birth to my son Aubry, but after one year I got divorced and raised Aubry as a single mum. At that time, I worked for the local newspaper, the Largs and Millport Weekly News. After that, I owned a gift shop in Largs, called "My Ship and I" and ran that for a while. Then in 2013 I worked full time as a painter (painting pictures), which I still do today.

In 2017 I left Largs and went back to Glasgow, living in Pollokshields on the south side of Glasgow, and Aubry went to the Hutcheson school in Glasgow. It was in Glasgow where I met my 2nd husband, who was a reader in Music at Glasgow University. We got married in 2018 and moved to Newlands, Glasgow, which is where I joined the St Mary's Scottish Episcopal Church Newlands. Sadly, my husband became very ill in 2021 and died in 2022, and it was after then that I moved back to Largs (in 2022). I am still here in Largs, and I am really happy that my son Aubry went to study at St Andrews University.

POETS CORNER (anon)

In the dead heat of summer,
 under scorching skies of blue
 It's far too hot to wander, up and down the strand.
 So it's down the way to Seamill Beach
 Where the water's cold and clear
 A crystal view of Aran from a mile of golden sand

With some bangers on the barbie
 And a cold beer in the hand
 You feel you are in heaven in such a pleasant land
 Then a 'quick dip' in the ice blue sea,
 And the water's just cool not cold
 So a dip becomes a refreshing swim
 And a dive if you are feeling bold

And as the sun sinks low in the sky
 The air still sweet and warm
 Homeward bound we wend our way
 With tingling skin and sleepy eye
 To dream of summers like this that never end
 O dearest Scotland, what magic is used
 To create such joyful bliss as this?

New rector – latest update



The Vestry of St Columba's has been working with Bishop Nick advertising and interviewing for a new priest here at St Columba's. The process reached a point where the post has been offered.

The chosen candidate for our vacancy visited the charge with his spouse for three days in April and followed an itinerary designed to give them a flavour of Largs including a tour of the local area, visit to Haylie House, visit to the Isle of Cumbrae and the Cathedral of the Isles, a meeting with clergy and lunch and dinners with Vestry members and their spouses before meeting Bishop Nick and staff at the Diocesan Office in Glasgow.

Following that visit it was a unanimous decision of Vestry to recommend to Bishop Nick that he be appointed to our vacancy. An offer was made to the candidate who readily accepted the appointment and is currently awaiting a visa to enable him and his spouse to move to Largs. Vestry is convinced that he is an ideal fit for St Columba's. He will be designated as the Priest-in-Charge because his contract will require to fit in with the length of his visa i.e. 3-5 years. A Priest-in-Charge has the same duties and responsibilities as a Rector and can apply to be a Rector after 5 years.

The candidate's name remains confidential until Bishop Nick makes a formal announcement to the whole charge and the wider diocese. Your support will be valued if you don't ask them to share confidential details which they cannot do. For now, please continue to hold the Vestry members in your prayers as they begin to make preparations for the arrival of a new priest.

A letter from our Bishop



"It is a real joy to send my greetings as you mark the 150th anniversary of the founding of St Columba's Church in Largs.

One hundred and fifty years is a remarkable span of time. It represents generations of prayer, worship, service, faithfulness, sacrifice, generosity, laughter, funerals, grief, baptisms, confirmations, marriages, Eucharists and song. It represents all those whose names are still remembered, and many more whose names are known only to God, but whose faithfulness helped make St Columba's the church it is today.

Anniversaries matter. They help us to give thanks. They help us to remember that we did not begin the story, and we do not carry it alone. We have inherited something from other people, and we will, in turn, pass it on to other people.

But Christian anniversaries are never only about looking back. They are also moments of threshold. We stand with gratitude for what has been, and with hope for what is still to come.

There is a lovely phrase in the Gospels about John the Baptist. He comes to "prepare the way of the Lord." John's task is not to draw attention to himself, nor to control what God is about to do. His task is to get people ready. To clear the ground. To open hearts. To point beyond himself to Christ. That feels to me like a good image for this moment in the life of St Columba's, particularly as you prepare yourselves to welcome a new priest.

You are standing at a threshold. You are giving thanks for 150 years of worship and witness in Largs. You are preparing for a new chapter in your common life. And the invitation of God in such a season is not to be anxious, or impatient, or afraid, but to be ready. Ready to ask, not simply, "How do we preserve what we have known?" but, "How is Christ calling us to serve this community now?"

The next 150 years will not look exactly like the last 150 years. They cannot. The world has changed. Largs has changed. The Church has changed. But Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and for ever. The calling of the Church remains what it has always been: to worship God, to proclaim good news, to form disciples, to care for the vulnerable, to welcome the stranger, and to live as a sign of God's generous love.

My prayer for St Columba's is that this anniversary year will deepen your confidence. Not a brittle confidence in your own strength, but a holy confidence in the God who has been faithful to you through many seasons, and who is faithful still."

Best wishes, Bishop Nick

Ascension Day



Holy Trinity Ayr choir joined with St Columba's Episcopal Church choir on Thursday 15th May to jointly celebrate Ascension Day at St Columba's church in Largs. It was a joyful occasion, with an excellent attendance (75+) in church that greatly appreciated the joint choir's harmonious singing.

Why isn't St Columba the Patron Saint of Scotland?

It's rather curious that the patron saint of Scotland is not the person who evangelised the Scots, but someone about whom little is known for sure, and who never came near the place.

Between 300 and 600 AD, Celtic Christianity was centred on Ireland and the West Coast of Scotland. Men and women like Patrick, Brigid, Columba, and Ninian, spent their lives preaching the gospel, caring for the poor, and setting up religious establishments to carry on their work after they died. By the end of the seventh century, a significant monastic industry was growing in these islands, following a growing development of the cults of saints and martyrs throughout Latin Christendom. What was different here was that local saints became important, well before the same phenomenon occurred in Europe, where Peter and Paul, and other New Testament figures were favoured as heroes.

The Gaels adopted Columba as their patron in their battles with the Picts, and by the ninth century, thanks to miracles such as dreams about Columba before a great victory, he was regarded as the patron saint of the Scots or Gaels. Northumbria (which included the Northern half of England, and the southern part of Scotland) had been evangelised from Iona, and followed the Celtic tradition, but Rome was keen to bring it into the mainstream of the Roman church established in England by St Augustine.

The Synod of Whitby in 664 AD was the showdown between the Celtic tradition and the Roman church. The main points of difference were to do with the way monks cut their hair, and the way the date of Easter was calculated. The Synod decided that the Roman / Augustinian church was the authoritative church, with the Celtic remnant relegated to an inferior position. Wilfrid, the spokesman for the Augustinian side, had recently returned from Rome, with some of the bones of St Andrew. He gave them to Acca, Bishop of Hexham, who took them into Pictish country when he was driven from Hexham (c. 732), and founded a bishopric on the site of St Andrews.

Around the year 832 AD, before the battle of Athelstaneford between the Picts under King Angus mac Fergus and the Northumbrians under King Athelstane, Saint Andrew appeared to Angus in a dream and promised victory. During the battle, a saltire cross was seen in the sky, putting heart into the Scots. Athelstane was killed, and Angus ordered the Cross of Saint Andrew to be the badge of the Picts.

In 1305, the Pope (Pope Clement V) recognised Edward I of England's claim to overlordship of Scotland, and excommunicated Robert the Bruce, and all the people of Scotland. The Declaration of Arbroath in 1320 was Scotland's response to the excommunication. It was an appeal to the newly elected Pope (Pope John XXII) to lift the excommunication of Robert the Bruce and asserted Scotland's position as an independent kingdom, rather than being a feudal land controlled by England. The Declaration of Arbroath claimed that the King of kings and Lord of lords, our Lord Jesus Christ, after His Passion and Resurrection, called them [i.e. the Scots], even though settled in the uttermost parts of the earth, almost the first to His most holy faith. Nor would He have them confirmed in that faith by merely anyone but by the first of His Apostles -- by calling, though second or third in rank -- the most gentle Saint Andrew, the Blessed Peter's brother, and desired him to keep them under his protection as their patron forever.

This was designed to gain the support of the Pope for Scotland against the English. The Pope identified himself with St Peter, the "senior" apostle, and by invoking his "brother", St Andrew, the Scots hoped to outrank the English saints such as Augustine or George, who weren't even apostles. The myth that the Celts had migrated from Ancient Scythia, where Andrew had preached, implied that they were Christians long before the English!

This manipulation worked and St Andrew became the patron saint and the saltire was adopted as a national symbol.

Many thanks to Gib FitzGibbon for sending in this interesting article – Ed.

Special place in Scotland

The Scott Monument



Edinburgh is one of my favourite cities in the world and it's not just because of its obvious beauty and historical significance. I have a very heartfelt and spiritual connection to this splendid metropolis. My dearly loved and much missed parents Joyce and

George Kenny from Salford chose Edinburgh as their honeymoon destination way back in July 1947. They met just after the War during which my Dad served in the Royal Navy.

They met at a dance hall in Manchester and it was love at first sight! They married at St Peter's church in Swinton less than 12 months later. I still cherish the original Edinburgh guide book with an asterisk next to an address in Royal Terrace that had taken their fancy. I also have the letters they exchanged with the guest house proprietor to confirm the booking. The wedding photo is of my Mum and Dad looking very much in love



Sadly, I lost my Dad when I was only 16 and my Mum when I was 25. Being an only child, whenever I visit Edinburgh I feel a strong connection to them both. I vividly remember my Mum telling me about their climb to the pinnacle of Scott Monument and how joyful she felt looking down on this beautiful city, clutching my father's hand and feeling, almost literally, on top of the world. Their whole lives stretching ahead of them with so much happiness to look forward to as a young, newly married couple. Their honeymoon sparked a lifelong love for Scotland and they toured many times in their old Morris car.

It's an affinity they passed to me which is one of the reasons we relocated to Largs from Manchester upon our retirement

Reminiscences by Julie King

Fundraising Walk: 3rd -9th May



I and 2 friends, Patrick and Marguerite Hunter Blair, did a sponsored trek over 6 days covering 95 of the 215 mile Southern Upland Way from Portpatrick to Sanquhar. A huge "thank you" to all those who supported us raise £2,430 (14th May) for Combat Stress, a charity supporting former service personnel with mental health issues. You can still donate via this link: justgiving.com/page/christopher-evans-6

Day 1 – A gentle walk of some 10 miles along the dramatic coastal path from Portpatrick to Stranraer. The weather was sunny and it was a good way to loosen up for further walks.

Day 2 – Passing through extensive fields and farms on our way to the Kenmuir Arms Hotel in New Luce, we enjoyed a welcome coffee and cake stop at the ruins of Castle Kennedy. Distance – 15 miles.

Day 3 – This saw Paddy and me walking 18 miles from New Luce to Bargrennan, as Marguerite had important admin work to complete. We were soon into open countryside with small woods and plenty of sheep and lambs accompanying us.

Day 4 – We were back up to 3 for today's 18 mile walk from Bargrennan to Craigenrae. The walk initially took us through woods before we ventured into the stunning scenery of Glen Trool. The sun still shone for us, despite a damp start.

Day 5 – Paddy and I walked this 16 mile part of the trek from Crainenrae to Stroanpatrick. We met up with a couple we had met previously, but otherwise we didn't see many other folk. Sun still shining and still no midges.

Day 6 – Marguerite did not join us for the 18 mile walk to Sanquhar, Paddy's forester, Ian, joined us instead. We set off in sunshine and a cool wind, to walk up the local prominent hill Benbrack. At Sanquhar, we met up with Marguerite and her car.



The Church Organ – repaired!



THE ORGAN (Harrison & Harrison 1881)

We commissioned a report on the condition of our organ by Macdonald Organs with a view to total refurbishment, cleaning included. The organ was experiencing a drop in the sound quality and had not been restored since 1998. Experts recommend this process is carried out every 15 years so the work was well overdue. The report presented a large saving on the costs and it was decided in January that we would proceed, and instructed Macdonald Organs to carry out the work.

The organ is quoted as being a fine example of Victorian, English voiced instrument which produces warm and rich sounds very well suited to accompanying worship. The instrument was originally voiced to suit Choral Matins when that service was the principal mode of worship, long before the Eucharist took over.

Work commenced on 23rd February when some 546 individual pipes were removed and transported the short distance to our empty Rectory where cleaning the accumulated dirt and dust could be carried out, again savings were made as transporting pipes to a workshop would have incurred additional expense. The organ room was then thoroughly cleaned out and better lighting installed to aid with inspections. The pedal board, usually almost inaccessible because of limited space was also restored, and other faulty aspects were tackled and repaired.

The evidence of the effectiveness of this expansive work showed itself on Easter Day when I, as organists actually do in celebration, opened the large reed stops! I could describe the new condition of the organ as going from a Morris

Minor to a Ferrari – such was the sound. I find that I can adopt a more restrained stop selection for hymn playing and experiment with what were the less pleasing reed pipes.



The organ has been pronounced good for the next 70 years, which means that future organists and congregations can enjoy our instrument for a long time to come, with no major repairs envisaged. The decision to restore the organ has been a sound one (yes I know!) and we have future proofed our music in worship. It has been a splendid job and helps celebrate St Columba's 150th Jubilee.

Colleen Anderson, Director of Music

The Church Hall – repaired

Now the hall roof has been given its completion certificate, we can legally use the hall again.

Over 95% (by value) of the storm repair work for the hall has been completed, with just the sanding and sealing of the wooden floor, and fitting the new curtains remaining.

An estimated 85% (by value) of the repair work to the kitchen, hallways and toilets has been completed, with just wall painting, re-fitting radiators and laying new flooring remaining.

The target date for full completion is 7th June.

Early Saints Pilgrimage



Update on Early Saints Pilgrimage

Saturday 13th June

We have now engaged a spiritual leader Rev Mark Braithwaite who lives on Arran. He sounds very good on the phone and is working on engaging us with our past early Saints in a variety of ways.

Invitations have gone out to Largs Churches Together and to Scottish Episcopal churches in our area and on Bute. It seems there is most interest for a day trip, but a few of us might go early and have a night away.

Hilary Moran

Treasurer's Corner

Regular readers will be aware that refurbishment of the hall has gathered pace over the past few months, such that we now have received an electrical certificate (hall was rewired) and on May 13th we hosted a visit by NAC's Planning Department which issued our construction completion certificate. Thanks to all our various contractors, we passed with flying colours, which means we can now officially use the hall – just in time for our next Car Boot Sale on Saturday, 23 May. The Vestry hopes that you are pleased with the extensive work that has been carried out to transform the hall into a modern facility.

Whilst all this work is successfully completed, involving extensive insurance claims, it has meant that we have had to liquidate a significant part of our investment portfolio to cover extra costs associated with replacement of the hall's lower roof, upgrading of the restrooms, kitchen and entrance hall. In addition, we have also installed a low wall to the church dunny steps as recommended in our last Quinquennial Report.

Life at St Columba's

Director of Music

Colleen Anderson 07967 114624

Property Convenor

Mark Yeomans 01475 520296

Fundraising Committee

Hilary Moran 01475 686213

Protection of Vulnerable Groups Co-ordinator

Victoria Johnston 07961 762973

Mother's Union

Hilary Moran 01475 686213

Church Hall Convenor

Linda Young 01475 686241

Church Flowers

Joan Hutton 01475 672927

Sidesmen

Alice MacDonald 07833 120400

Christian Aid

Alice MacDonald 07833 120400

Reps on inter-church Christian Aid Committee

Intercessions Rota

Frances Robertson 01475 686947

Altar Servers

Alice MacDonald 07833 120400

Readers Rota

Gib FitzGibbon 01294 823992

Coffee Rota

Jennifer FitzGibbon 01294-823992

Largs Churches Together

Alice MacDonald 07833 120400

Press Officer

Hilary Moran 01475 686213

Magazine Editor

Robin Spencer 07818 035789

Health and Safety Officer

Alice MacDonald 07833 120400

Baptism, Wedding, Funeral, Confession by arrangement with the Rector

Pastoral Visitors in the congregation

Rector (to be appointed), Alice MacDonald, Linda Whitby and Armored Allen

Diary jottings

June : Early Saints Pilgrimage to Bute.

October : Artist's talk on Sacred and Liturgical art.

November: St Columba's choir will perform a special composition by Sir James MacMillan.

SERVICES & FUTURE EVENTS

Weekly Services

Sunday

8.00 am Holy Communion
11.00 am Sung Eucharist

Wednesday

10.00 am Holy Communion

June

7th June Patronal Festival : shared lunch
13th June Pilgrimage to St Blane's Monastery
14th June Taizé (5.00 pm)

July

8th July Vestry Meeting
18th July Car boot sale + organ recital

August

15th August Autumn Magazine - copy deadline
22nd August Car boot sale + organ recital
30th August L&DCT Brisbane Evangelical Ch. 5pm

THE HALL'S BIG CLEAN UP



A team of church members assembled in the church hall on Saturday 11th April and worked hard to clean off the dust that had settled everywhere following the storm repair works undertaken by contractors Steven Gough and Co.

Radiators were wiped, doors and wall dados were carefully cleaned, floors were swept and mopped, the kitchen was given a complete overhaul – even the blinds were given an individual wipe clean.

Sadly, we were not able to use the hall for the car boot sale as it was still technically 'a building site' and could not be used until the works have all been completed, in order to avoid problems with our insurance.

The Scottish Episcopal Church



The Scottish Episcopal Church is a self-governing province of the world-wide Anglican Communion.

This is a family of over 70 million Christians in more than 160 countries. Our nearest relations are the Church of England, the Church of Wales and the Church of Ireland. Through the Porvoo agreement we are also in full communion with many other branches of the Church.

St. Columba's in Largs, is one of over 60 Episcopal congregations that work and worship within the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway. We are part of Ayrshire Region and our neighbours include congregations in Ardrossan, Dalry, Troon, Kilmarnock, Prestwick, Ayr and Maybole.

The area covered by St. Columba's includes Largs, Skelmorlie, Fairlie and West Kilbride. Ecumenically we play a very active part in Largs and District Churches together. We welcome all regardless of any defining characteristic that may otherwise be used as the basis for discrimination.

Church Rotas

If you would like to join one of the church rotas (Readers Rota, Intercessions Rota, Sidesman Rota or the Coffee Rota), please contact :

Readers Rota – Gib FitzGibbon 01294 823992
Intercessions – Frances Robertson 01475 686947
Sidesmen – Alice MacDonald 07833 120400
Coffee - Jennifer FitzGibbon 01294 823992
Email – i2fg@aol.com

St. Columba's Episcopal Church

Aubrey Crescent, Largs
Interim Rector: Sandy Montgomerie
St. Columba's Church, Largs
Telephone – 07950 737277

The Vestry

The vestry members are elected by the congregation to work with the Rector for the administration of the church. It meets in January, March, September, November and as required.

Chair – Sandy Montgomerie
Secretary – Ray Young
Treasurer – Chris Evans
Lay Representative – Gib Fitzgibbon
Alternate Lay Rep – Hilary Moran
Rector's Warden – Linda Young
PVG Co-ordinator - Victoria Johnston
People's Warden – Alice MacDonald
Property Convenor – Mark Yeomans
IT Services - Gregor Anderson
Members - Linda Whitby, Jane McCance and Thomas Parker

Scottish Charity Number – SC004796

Defibrillator and Training



A defibrillator, cabinet and a bleed pack have been purchased at a cost of £1015, to be met from the proceeds of a recent car boot sale and additional donations. It will be located outside the Church and will be registered and maintained by the First Responders. Linda Young has arranged for twelve members of the congregation to be trained by HeartStart on its operation.

Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway

49 Cochrane Street, Glasgow G1 1HL
0141 221 5720
Diocesan website:
<http://glasgow.anglican.org>

Key contacts

Bishop

The Right Reverend Dr Nick Bundock
bishop@glasgow.anglican.org

Bishop's Personal Assistant

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Enquires regarding Finance

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
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Diocesan Secretary & Treasurer

Susan Burr
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Director of Diocesan Operations

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The church magazine is printed and published by St. Columba's Episcopal Church, Aubrey Crescent, Largs, KA30 8PR. The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Rector or the Vestry. If you know of anyone who cannot access the online version at <https://larges-church.co.uk/magazines> or collect it from church, we can arrange for a copy to be sent to them.