

St Columba's

Scottish Episcopal Church

Largs

December 2014 | January 2015



'God's love was revealed when God sent his only Son into the world so that we could have life through him.'

1 John 4:9

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 in 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, Irvine, Troon, Kilmarnock, Prestwick, Ayr and Maybole.

The area covered by St Columba's includes Largs, Skelmorlie, Fairlie and West Kilbride and ecumenically we play a very active part in Largs Churches Together.

SERVICES AT ST COLUMBA'S

Sunday: 8.00am Said Eucharist

11.00am Sung Eucharist (*Choral Matins on second Sunday of the month*)

6.30pm Evening Prayer

Refreshments are served in the hall following the 11.00am service

Wednesday: 10.00am Said Eucharist

Festivals and Saints Days as announced

The Daily Offices of **Morning Prayer** (8.00am) and **Evening Prayer** (5.00pm) are offered publicly in church on most weekdays.
Please check the church noticeboard for details.

The church building is also open for private prayer on most days.

Visit our website www.largs-church.co.uk

Christmas Message 2014

In 1951, I was told many years ago, for my first birthday I was given a set of what were then called Fairy Lights, for the Christmas tree. I grew up with these lovely things and enjoyed them well into my teens – what happened to them, I don't really know. They were larger than modern lights, spherical, in delicate colours and they cast a beautiful soft light through the fragrant greenery of the tree – every Christmas I see them in my mind's eye and wish I still had them. I've never been able to find anything remotely like them. Their memory is important to me, they are iconic, really, of Christmas past for me, iconic of a very special and precious kind of light.

But not just of Christmas past. I wonder if you share with me a sense of an ever-darkening world, of really dark things happening at home and abroad. The darkness of fear – fear for the future, fear of the other, fear of sudden terror and murderous violence, fear of what may still be revealed of abuse at all levels of our society – all of these and many more dark things, gather around us and in us and stalk our world, God's world. So that when at Christmas we hear again the words of St John proclaiming Christ as the light that the darkness can never overcome – *the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it (1.5)* - we are challenged once more to hold fast to the hope that in the end the light will have it, the light will have it.

But not simply at the end – now as well. The light has some of it now, too. Not all is dark and not all is bad news, not at all. People still seek what is just and true and beautiful, people still reach out across barriers of hatred and fear, people still do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with their God. People of many faiths and people of none. But some of them do all these things for they know the Light that shines in the darkness and they love that Light above all else and all others. And they hope, even know, that the Light will have it in the end and is having it now in their struggles and commitments. And the Light will draw all other lights to Himself. Christmas is, above all, their time, their celebration.

+Gregor

Year's Mind

*Please remember before God those who have died
and whose year's mind falls in December and January*

December:

1st Phyllis Douglas

4th Susan Dayman, Isabella Anderson, John Gutherson

6th Dick Barnes

7th Margaret MacKay

8th Norman Barrett

11th Tom Stott

12th Sonia Hunter, Doreen Barnes,

13th Jack Clough

15th Margaret Goldie

16th Sarah Spencer, Hilda Logue, Heather Fletcher

17th Ann Sadler

25th Connie Donaldson, Ernest Pow

29th Marjorie Jones

30th Jessie Ferguson, Peggy Dagnell, Terry Witt

31st Alfred Thomas

January:

1st Gwen Lawson

2nd James Rankin, Leslie Estill, Elizabeth McGlashan

3rd Louise Boyle

5th Doreen Pow

6th Vivienne Somerville

7th Sybil Evans, Grace Saxton

10th Joyce Doreen Downham

12th Jessie Harvey

14th Ian Angell

16th Tiger (John) Lyon, Harry Powell

17th Gerald Jolley, Lesley Heath, Jean Duguid

20th Gordon McTavish

23rd Doris McFarlane

24th Amy Fryers, Don MacLiver

28th Audrey Cooper

31st Ann Cuthbertson



From the Registers

Funeral

Gareth Robert Evans

13 November 2014



Dates for your diary:

6 Dec	2.00pm - 4.00pm Yuletide Afternoon
7 Dec	4.00pm Taize Service
13 Dec	2.00pm Service of Light & Remembrance (<i>Clark Memorial</i>)
15 Dec	10.00am Largs Monday Toddlers Christmas Party
21 Dec	3.00pm Service at Haylie House
21 Dec	6.30pm Nine Lessons & Carols
22 Dec	6.30pm Carol Singing at Hutton Park
22 Dec	7.30pm Rector's 'At Home'
23 Dec	4.00pm Carol Service (<i>Benedictine Monastery</i>)
24 Dec	4.00pm Children's Christingle Service
11 Jan	12.30pm Congregational Lunch
15 Jan	7.00pm Regional AGM at Irvine
18 Jan	3.00pm LCT Christian Unity service (<i>Clark Memorial</i>)
21 Jan	5.00pm Unity Vespers (<i>Benedictine Monastery</i>)
1 Feb	6.30pm LCT Candlemas Service

Bunting



It would be very handy if we had our own set of decorative fabric bunting. Vicky Johnson is happy to run this up if some of us are willing to cut out the individual triangular pieces of material. Please speak to Vicky if you would like to help and she will give you the fabric and template.

‘O Wisdom ...’ A Taize service for Advent

There will be a service of preparation, silence and reflection in the style of the Taize Community at 4.00pm on Sunday, 7 December. Together in words, music and image we will reflect on the Advent titles of Christ.

Columba’s Creatives Collection

Columba’s Creatives has proven to be a big hit with local children. We have a healthy average of over a dozen each week!

The running of this outreach not only entails the time commitment of the leaders, it also has cost implications.

Perhaps you would like to take the opportunity to show your support of Columba’s Creatives by contributing to the expense of materials used. If you would, please give to the retiral collections at the close of the Sunday services on 7 and 14 December.

Many thanks for your prayerful and financial support,

The Rector



December Prayer Calendar

- 1: (*St Andrew - transferred*) The people of Scotland
- 2: The Scottish Parliament
- 3: The Westminster Parliament
- 4: H.M. The Queen
- 5: Local Industry
- 6: (*St Nicholas*) Sailors
- 8: (*Conception of the BVM*) Young mothers
- 9: Diocesan Centre Staff
- 10: Gregor our Bishop
- 11: Our Pastoral Visitors
- 12: Home Communicants
- 13: Our Vestry
- 15: Our Choir
- 16: All office-bearers
- 17: Local hospitals and hospices
- 18: Our family
- 19: Hall users
- 20: Voyagers and travellers
- 22: The lonely
- 23: The homeless
- 24: (*Christmas Eve*) Children and young people
- 25: (*Christmas Day*) Thanksgiving for our Lord's Incarnation
- 26: (*St Stephen*) All Deacons
- 27: (*St John the Evangelist*) College of Bishops
- 29: Vulnerable adults
- 30: The recently bereaved
- 31: Those who regret the past or fear the future



Compline anyone?

Instead of saying Evening Prayer at 6.30pm each Sunday a service of sung Compline will be offered during the first three Sundays of Advent (beginning on 30 November).

Do come along and make this part of your preparation for the Christmas season.

January Prayer Calendar

- 1: (*Circumcision of our Lord*) God's blessing on the year ahead
- 2: The Scottish Episcopal Church
- 3: The depressed
- 5: The Largs Monday Toddler Group
- 6: (*Epiphany of our Lord*) Spreading of the gospel in the world
- 7: All who suffer for their faith
- 8: Amnesty International
- 9: The Emergency Services
- 10: Local Volunteers
- 12: Social Services
- 13: (*St Kentigern, Bp. 603*) The people of Glasgow
- 14: A just peace in Israel/Palestine
- 15: Aid Agencies
- 16: Those affected by the Ebola virus
- 17: The World Council of Churches
- 19: Greater ecumenical partnership
- 20: Largs Churches Together
- 21: The College of Bishops
- 22: All Church Leaders
- 23: Action of Churches Together in Scotland
- 24: Churches Together in Britain and Ireland
- 26: Diocesan Clergy
- 27: Gregor our Bishop
- 28: Those living with illness
- 29: Local Nursing Homes
- 30: All Carers
- 31: All who must use Food Banks



Study Group



The study group continues to meet each Wednesday in the Rectory 12.00noon until 1.30pm until 10 December.

We use *'Up the Crow Road'*, a series of reflections by Revd Les Ireland, Rector of St Cyprian's, Lenzie.

A simple soup and sandwich lunch is supplied and all are very welcome to participate.

Regional Council A.G.M.

The A.G.M. of the Ayrshire Regional Council will begin with a Eucharist at 7.00pm on Thursday, 15 January at St Andrew's Episcopal Church, Irvine.

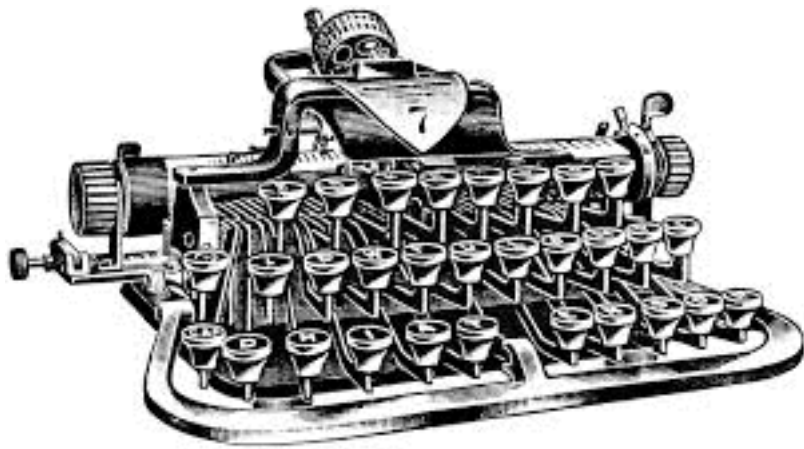
Congregational Lunch

Our annual congregational lunch will take place at the Willowbank Hotel immediately following the 11.00am Sunday service on 11 January.

The cost will be £15. Look out for menu details and signing-up list in the porch - select your menu and pay by the end of December. The meal includes a free panto ... *"O, yes it does!"*



Magazine articles



I am always greatly encouraged to have articles passed on to me for inclusion in the church magazine. These allow us all to share experiences and information. Please don't be shy at making your contribution - remember it is YOUR magazine!

Largs Churches Together Christmas Card

Please let me know if you are free to help deliver our congregation's quota of LCT Christmas Cards. Many hands make light work!

Also, congratulations to 4 year old Lucy Birch, of Columba's Creatives, for having her Christmas Card design chosen as one of only 3 that will be delivered to each home in the town this year!

Eucharist Together

To help our monthly 'Eucharist Together' to be more accessible, a specific order of service will be produced for the third Sunday of each month from January 2015 for an initial trial period of 6 months.

This service will have age-appropriate hymns, two readings, no Psalm, and use the Peruvian Gloria and Eucharistic Prayer 5. The homily will usually be more interactive than other Sundays.

Yuletide Afternoon



Our annual Yuletide Afternoon will take place from 2.00pm until 4.00pm on Saturday, 6 December. Please speak to Vicky or Norma if you can assist on any of the stalls and they will also be very happy to receive any donations towards the sale. Stall-holders can set-up from 9.30am.

Favourite Hymns

In January you will have the opportunity to name your favourite hymns and I hope to include these, as appropriate, in the Sunday services over the coming months. Forms for your suggestion will be made available.

The Rector

Service for the Bereaved

The annual Service of Light & Remembrance will take place at 2.00pm on Saturday, 13 December at Clark Memorial Church.

Christmas Greetings 2014

Joy and Peace to All
May Kidd



Happy Christmas & A Peaceful New Year to All

Joan Hutton

With Warm Good Wishes for Christmas and 2015
Peter & Elspeth

Wishing Gordon and all my Friends at St Columba's a healthy and happy New Year
Joy Chalmers

A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to All
Jean & John



Christmas Greetings
Chris and Jane Evans

Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year
Fionna Ferguson

With our Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
Jim and Nessie

Hoping you all have a Joyous Christmas
Ray and Linda Young

Blessings of Christmas!
Joyce

With best wishes for a very Happy Christmas.
We shall miss you all.
With love from Hilary & Freddie

Wishing you all a Christmastime filled with peace and joy
Marjorie Spragg





Very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year

Sheila M. Ferguson

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year

Norman Veriod

With all good wishes and thanks to Gordon for bringing me
Communion and to Jean, May and Joan for visits.

Marjorie Sergeant

Best Wishes for Christmas and New Year

Gordon & Audrey Hodgson

A Merry Christmas & Good New Year

Rose Stevenson



Peace be with you at Christmas

Elizabeth Ferguson

Seasons Greetings

From Catriona Nardini

James & Anna wish you all the blessings of the Christmas Season

Christmas Greetings and Best Wishes for the New Year

Eileen

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Gib and Jennifer



Every blessing for Christmas and the year ahead

Fr Gordon

With best wishes for a happy and healthy Christmas
from Frances and Neil Robertson

May the Light of Christmas guide your life

Gill B.

Happy Christmas and an inspiring New Year

Alice and John MacDonald

Vestry Notes

The following matters were discussed and decisions taken at the October meeting of Vestry:

A Short Life Working Group has been established to look at the Church website and determine exactly what we want to achieve through the website and to agree the content to match that vision.

The Diocesan Surveyor has been asked to view damage to the boundary wall of the Rectory garden and an ash tree which appears to be causing the damage in order to offer advice.

Cheques are being sent to the SSPCA for the collection from the Pets Service and to Water Aid for the Harvest Festival collection.

No charge will be imposed for those attending Columba's Creatives as it is one of our main outreach activities but it is proposed to have a couple of special congregational collections; to offer those attending an opportunity to place a weekly donation on arrival and those involved will be encouraged to consider fundraising at Yuletide and/or the Car Boot sales.

The heating in the Hall and Church is being adjusted to make savings and the Hall temperature will be set at 18 degrees C.

20% of the net income from fundraisers will in future go to charity i.e. from Car Boot Sales, Yuletide and any social events but excluding collections in the Church for specific charities such as SHELTER at Christmas.

The next fundraising event is Yuletide on Saturday 6 December from 2 to 4 pm with setting up of the Hall in the morning from 9.30 am. Entry will be £3.

The Bishop has signed off MAP and the agreed strategy for the third year covered establishing Columba's Creatives; establishing a labyrinth and holding Film and Discussion meetings in the Hall. These will be developed and progressed through the year.

The Vestry Awayday will be held at the Curate's House in Dalry on 29 November. The day will begin with Morning Prayer and include discussion on corporate responsibilities, Church finances and stewardship; identifying charities to receive 20% of the proceeds of fundraising; setting the Calendar for 2015 events; exploring what the Church has to offer and how to remove barriers to enable others outside the Church to get involved. The event will end with Evening Prayer.

A box is to be left at the back of the Church for donations of food to the North Ayrshire Food Bank as listed. Vicky Johnson has kindly agreed to take donated items to the Food Bank.

An offer by Jane McCance to do a painting for the altar frontal for use over Christmas was welcomed and accepted.

Ray Young, Vestry secretary

Food Bank

Over the past couple of years there has been a massive increase in the number of food banks in the UK and the number of people using them. There are a number of ideas bouncing around as to why there has been such an increase, the underlying reason remains the same - a shortage of money.

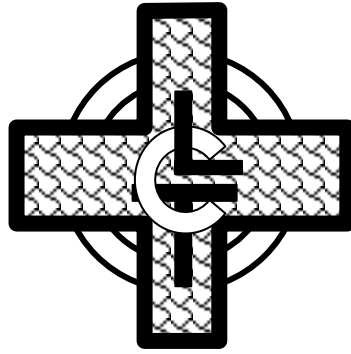
Although food banks are a really good way of doing what Christ expects us to by sharing with those less fortunate, it's equally important to remember that food banks are an absolute last resort for people. It's embarrassing and humiliating, for many it is a stamp of failure.



There are two local food banks one in Ardrossan (Church of the Nazarene), open for over a year and a new one now set up in Saltcoats (Salvation Army). A number of local people are involved and help out through Citizens Advice Bureau on a Thursday and also in transporting food and sorting it before it's given out.

The food bank gives out a weekly list of items that they are running short of, if anyone wishes to have this emailed to them, I'd be happy to pass this on. You can contact me on **vicky-johnston@outlook.com** or mobile number **07961 762973** . Please remember over Christmas and New Year that seasonal food items are welcome too. Thank you. **Vicky**

Those struggling with food bills can now access the Food Bank in Largs each Thursday from 12.00noon until 7.00pm (see poster in the the porch for full details of how to access this confidential service.)



Largs Churches Together

You are welcome to attend a Carol Service at the Benedictine Monastery at 4.00pm on Tuesday, 23 December. The preacher will be Revd Markus Thane and refreshments will follow.

The service to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will take place at 3.00pm on Sunday, 18 January at Clark Memorial Church.

Unity Vespers will take place at 5.00pm on Wednesday, 21 January at the Benedictine Monastery. The preacher will be the Revd T. David Watson and refreshments will follow.



Please check these rotas and note if you are included.

Please feel free to swap with others to ensure duties are covered for all services.

Services and Rotas for December

Day	Services and Sunday readings	Duty at Sunday 11.00am
Monday, 1 <i>St Andrew (tr)</i>	7.00pm Said Eucharist	
Wednesday, 3	10.00am Said Eucharist	
Sunday, 7 <i>Advent 2</i>	8.00am Said Eucharist 11.00am Sung Eucharist 6.30pm Compline <i>Isa 40:1-11; Ps 85:1-2,8-13; 2 Pet 3:8-15a; Mk 1:1-8</i>	Server: Andrew Harvey Reader: May Kidd Intercessor: James Currall
Wednesday, 10	10.00am Said Eucharist	
Sunday, 14 <i>Advent 3</i>	8.00am Said Eucharist 11.00am Choral Matins 6.30pm Compline <i>Isa 61:1-4,8-11; Ps 126; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8,19-28</i>	Reader: Elspeth Robertson Intercessor: Frances Robertson
Wednesday, 17	10.00am Said Eucharist	
Sunday, 21 <i>Advent 4</i>	8.00am Said Eucharist 11.00am Eucharist Together <i>(3.00pm Service at Haylie House)</i> 6.30pm Nine Lessons & Carols <i>2 Sam 7:1-11,16; Ps 89:1-4,19-26; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38</i>	Server: Imogen Harvey Reader: William Clark-Ferguson Intercessor: Alice MacDonald
Wednesday, 24 <i>Christmas Eve</i>	<u>No 10.00am service</u> 4.00pm Children's Christingle 11.00pm Christmas Midnight Mass <i>Isa 9:2-7; Ps 96; Tit 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-20</i>	Server: All available Reader: Jennifer Fitzgibbon Intercessor: Rector
Thursday, 25 Christmas Day	10.00am Sung Eucharist <i>Isa 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-4; Jn 1:1-14</i>	Server: Chris Evans Reader: Gill Beresford Intercessor: James Currall
Friday, 26 <i>St Stephen</i>	10.00am Said Eucharist	Server: William Clark-Ferguson
Saturday, 27 <i>St John</i>	10.00am Said Eucharist	Server: Alice MacDonald
Sunday, 28 <i>Holy Innocents</i>	8.00am Said Eucharist 11.00am Sung Eucharist 6.30pm Evening Prayer <i>Jer 31:15-17; Ps 124; 1 Cor 1:26-29; Matt 2:13-18</i>	Server: Alice MacDonald Reader: Rose Oliver Intercessor: William Clark-Ferguson
Wednesday, 31	10.00am Said Eucharist	

Services and Rotas for January

Day	Services and Sunday readings	Duty at Sunday 11.00am
Sunday, 4 <i>Epiphany</i> <i>Sunday</i>	8.00am Said Eucharist 11.00am Sung Eucharist 6.30pm Evening Prayer <i>Isa 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-7, 10-14; Eph 3:1-12; Matt 2:1-12</i>	Server: William Clark-Ferguson Reader: Joan Hutton Intercessor: Ken Hinshalwood
Wednesday, 7	10.00am Said Eucharist	
Sunday, 11 <i>Baptism of Christ</i>	8.00am Said Eucharist 11.00am Choral Matins 6.30pm Evening Prayer <i>Gen 1:1-5; Ps 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mk 1:4-11</i>	Reader: Alice MacDonald Intercessor: Alison Jones
Tuesday, 13 <i>St Kentigern</i>	7.00pm Said Eucharist	Server: Chris Evans
Wednesday, 14	10.00am Said Eucharist	
Sunday, 18 <i>Epiphany 2</i>	8.00am Said Eucharist 11.00am Eucharist Together (3.00pm Service at Burnlea) 6.30pm Evening Prayer <i>1 Sam 3:1-10; Jn 1:43-51</i>	Server: Imogen Harvey Reader: Aubrey McCance Intercessor: Jennifer Fitzgibbon
Wednesday, 21	10.00am Said Eucharist	
Sunday, 25 <i>Epiphany 3</i>	8.00am Said Eucharist 11.00am Sung Eucharist 6.30pm Evening Prayer <i>Jon 3:1-5,10; Ps 62:6-14; 1 Cor 7:29-31; Mk 1:14-20</i>	Server: Hilary Moran Reader: Alison Jones Intercessor: James Currall
Wednesday, 28	10.00am Said Eucharist	

Readers for February:

1st: May Kidd,

15th: Hannah Harvey,

8th: Elspeth Robertson,

22nd: Gib Fitzgibbon

Diocesan website: www.episcopalglasgow.org.uk

The Clergy

Bishop: The Rt Revd Dr Gregor D. Duncan,
Bishop's Office, Diocesan Centre,
5 St Vincent Place, Glasgow, G1 2DH.
Tel: 0141 221 6911 email: bishop@glasgow.anglican.org

Rector The Revd Gordon B. Fyfe,
St Columba's Rectory,
Aubery Crescent, Largs, KA30 8PR.
Tel: 01475 673143 email: gordon.fyfe@virginmedia.com

Curate The Revd Dr James E.P. Currall,
9 Aitken Street,
Dalry, KA24 4BX.
Tel: 01294 833294 email: jcurrall@talktalk.net

The Vestry

Elected by the congregation to work with the Rector in the administration of the church. Meets in January, March, September, November and as required.

Chair	Rector	673143
Secretary	Ray Young	672410
Lay Representative	Rose Allan	673185
<i>(Alt Lay Representative)</i>	<i>Hilary Moran</i>	<i>686213</i>
Rector's Warden	Linda Young	672410
People's Warden	Alice MacDonald	673370
Members	Gordon Hodgson	674008
	Eleanor Witt	676322
	Vicky Johnston	329722
	Jane Evans	673757
	Elsie Hinshalwood	686984
Treasurer	Chris Evans	673757

Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, Confessions by arrangement with the Rector
Scottish Charity Number SC004796

The deadline for the October magazine is Sunday 23 November.
magazine articles should be sent to gordon.fyfe@virginmedia.com

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The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Rectory or the Vestry

Life at St Columba's

Director of Music	Cailin Anderson	07967 114624
Property Convenor	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>(Contact Rector)</i>
Fundraising Committee	William Clark-Ferguson	07835 454534
Protection of Vulnerable Groups	Linda Young	672410
	<i>Appointed by the Vestry and approved by the Bishop</i>	
Mothers' Union	Hilary Moran	686213
Church Hall Diary	May Walker	673873
	<i>Deals with hall bookings</i>	
Flowers	Audrey Hodgson	674008
Sidesmen	Alice MacDonald	673370
Christian Aid	Nessie Rankin	672357
	Jane Evans	673757
	<i>Representatives on inter-church Christian Aid Committee</i>	
Regional Council	Eleanor Witt	676322
Intercessions Rota	Frances Robertson	686947
Altar Servers	Alice MacDonald	673370
Readers Rota	Rector	673143
	<i>If you would like to join any of the above, please see Frances, Alice or the Rector</i>	
Largs Churches Together	Nessie Rankin	672357
	Eleanor Witt	676322
Press Officer	Hilary Moran	686213
Junior Church	Linda Young	672410
Health & Safety Officer	William Clark-Ferguson	07835 454534

Pastoral Visitors in the congregation
Eileen Binns (Coordinator, tel: 673580)
Elsie Hinshalwood, Joan Hutton and May Kidd