

St Columba's

Scottish Episcopal Church

Largo



February 2017



*“Lord, now you let your servant go in peace,
your word has been fulfilled:”*

Luke 2:29

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 (*check noticeboard for details*)

Refreshments are served in the hall following the 11.00am service

Wednesday: 10.00am Said Eucharist (*Scottish Liturgy 1970*)

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:

largs-church.co.uk

Dear Friends,

Few of us, I'm sure, would say that winter is our favourite season. Although weather-wise this has been a relatively storm-free and remarkably mild winter so far, it has carries with it the natural pattern of short bleak days and leaden skies, of long dark nights and the starkness of trees bare of leaves.

All that aside, I know that for many individuals this has also been a difficult winter because of their having to cope with illness, or worrying about the health of a loved one, or knowing the emptiness left from bereavement.

I recently heard of yet another term that has come to us from our American cousins 'Blue Monday'. Apparently it refers to a Monday in mid January that, for a combination of reasons (financial and climatic) is supposed to be the saddest day of the year.

It may be that, despite ourselves, we can appreciate some truth in this latest terminology. I'm sure all of us have know what it is to feel blue this month for some reason or another.

It is important for us to know that this experience is not unique to us as an individual, nor is it a symptom of our own day and generation. It seems that undergoing these times of darkness and dis-ease is part of the human condition itself.

We see it reflected in throughout the book of Psalms where the psalmist expresses his despair at life and wonders where God is in it all. We even see it in the life experience of our Lord himself when from the cross he shouts a quotation from the Psalms "*My God, my God. Why have you abandoned me?*"

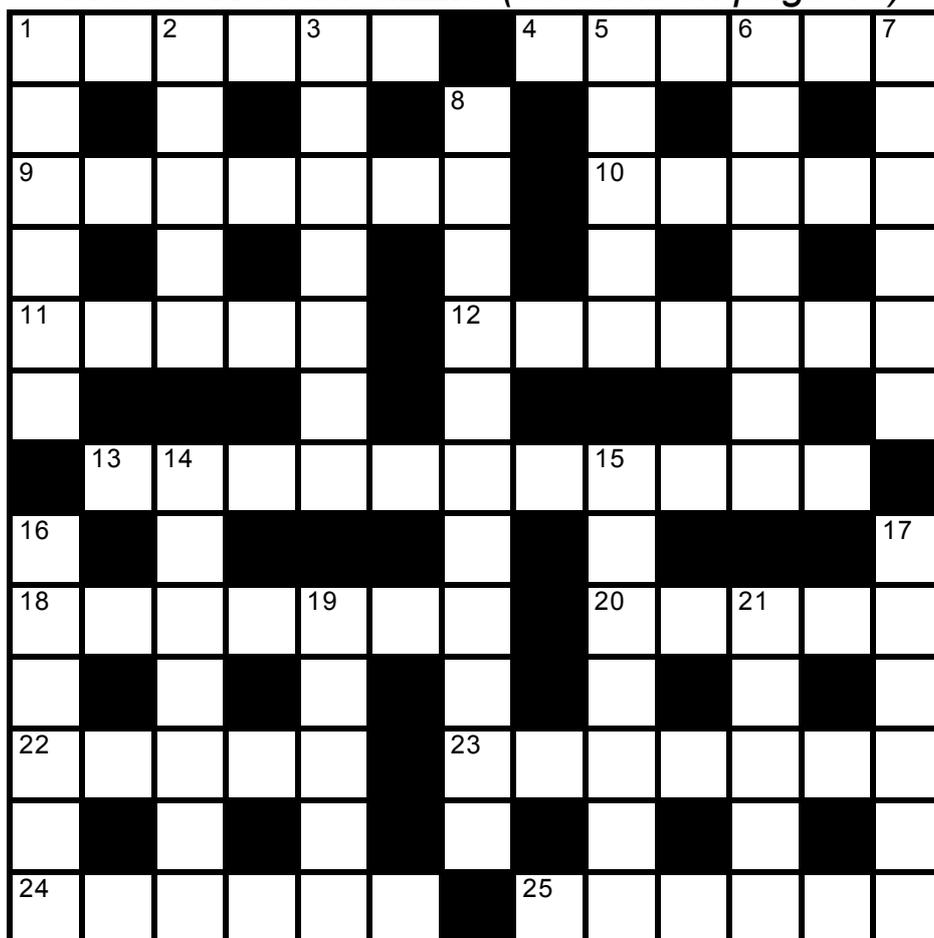
The truth is that God never abandons us. He is alongside us in the darkest night and through the most difficult of circumstances. God never leaves us nor forsakes us.

Even on the bare branches, if we look close enough, we will see the formation of fresh buds and the promise of new life.

yours in the faith,

Gordon

Cross Word Puzzle *(solution on page 16)*



Across

- 1 Place of worship (6)
- 4 Recluse (6)
- 9 Things that can be eaten (7)
- 10 Guide to items in a book (5)
- 11 Space for sporting events, etc. (5)
- 12 Uttered in a monotonous way (7)
- 13 The first of January (3,5,3)
- 18 Painter of "The Last Supper" (2,5)
- 20 Male relative (5)
- 22 Bases or sources (5)
- 23 Most upright character (7)
- 24 Stop (6)
- 25 Front runner (6)

Down

- 1 Julius, ruler of Italy (100BC - 44BC) (6)
- 2 Combine (5)
- 3 Golgotha (7)
- 5 Decree (5)
- 6 The Virgin Mary (7)
- 7 Dinner jacket (6)
- 8 Hopes or aims (11)
- 14 Jealous (7)
- 15 Trip (7)
- 16 Worshipped (6)
- 17 Minister (6)
- 19 Birds' homes (5)
- 21 Belief (5)

Years Mind

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

1st Ann Estill, Florence Powell, Bill Chalmers

2nd Di Sugden, Richard Yeomans

6th Catherine Rodger, Peter Driver

9th Joan Jolley

10th Bill Russell, Avril Watson-Stewart

11th Marjorie MacDonald

14th Ed Duncan, Olive Robinson, Catherine Foster

15th David Johnston

17th Billy Rodger

18th Elisabeth Willetts

19th Mary Williams

20th Liam Chalmers

22nd Jennie Stewart, Tom Gillies

27th Jean Mensing, Norman Spragg

28th Ken Bills

May they rest in peace and rise in glory



From the Registers

Funerals

John Phillips - 15 December 2016

Peggy Perry - 4 January 2017

Ian Guthrie - 9 January 2017

George King - 19 January 2017

VESTRY NOTES

The Vestry met in the Church Hall on 10 January to consider how the storage facilities there could be rationalised with a view to the Gopak tables in the garage being relocated into the store cupboard to be used in place of the square tables which clutter the hall and make it difficult to heat and keep clean as they cover the radiators, reducing heat and accumulate dust below them. It was also felt that the blue stacking chairs which also clutter the hall should be replaced by a chair trolley with folding chairs.

Following an assessment of the storage requirements of current users, the Vestry **agreed:**

1. to ask Vicky Johnston to obtain costings for a chair trolley and 50 wipe clean folding chairs.

Note: Vicky subsequently advised that the best option was for 42 black vinyl folding chairs and a compatible trolley at a total cost of £1,680.96;

2. that 30 of the blue stacking chairs be stored in the garage with the rest being disposed of;
3. that six square tables be stored in the hall, three in front of each of the two windows, with the remainder stored in the garage;
4. that a wooden trolley stored in the sound system cupboard be offered to Ken Hinshalwood for use as a library trolley; and
5. that the sound system be disposed of as it was considered out-dated.

The Vestry met as a Working Party on Saturday 21st January to clear the storage cupboard. Several see-through plastic storage boxes will be purchased to store items on the metal shelving. A full height microphone stand will also be acquired for use in the Church.

Director of Music

The Rector updated the Vestry on the resignation of Colleen Anderson, Director of Music, with effect from 15 January and reported that he had arranged organists to cover Services up until the end of March.

The Vestry noted the action taken by the Rector and will meet in the Rectory on Tuesday 31 January at 7.00 p.m. to discuss the situation further and determine the way ahead.

Ray Young, Vestry Secretary

**FAIRTRADE
FORTNIGHT
27th FEB – 12TH MARCH
*SUPPORT***



Our annual FairTrade raffle will be drawn in the hall after morning service on Sunday 12th March.

Raffle tickets can be obtained (or swapped) - one for each FairTrade label handed in .

(3 labels qualify for 5 tickets, and a wine label for 2 tickets.)

Most supermarkets do a wide range of F.T. goods – bananas, oranges, avocados, juice – and FairTrade chocolate including Cadbury's – as well as tea coffee biscuits & sugar. (If it is easier to bring along the jar or packet rather than getting the label off that's OK – we'll return it with the raffle ticket.

Tickets will be available from Sun 27th February, from May Kidd and Jennifer FitzGibbon .

The prize will be a hamper of fairly traded goods.

Update on Bishop Gregor

Some of you may know that Bishop Gregor suffered a stroke at the close of his New Year holiday. At time of writing he is still in hospital but the regular emails from the Dean of the Diocese suggest he is making good progress. He will, no doubt, need a long period of convalescence once home.

Please keep Bishop Gregor in your prayers at this time.

Any cards or letters to him should be sent via this address:

**Bishop's Office, Diocesan Centre, 5 St Vincent Place,
Glasgow, G1 2DH.** (see inside back cover of the magazine)

and any visits should be arranged via his P.A. :

Mrs Christine Hughes: 0141 221 6911.

The Rector

Flag Pole

The local authorities have now granted permission for our church to erect a flagpole in the grounds near the corner of Greenock Road and Aubery Crescent. This should appear in the next few weeks and it is hoped that it will display national flags when appropriate as well as other flags to celebrate events such as the Largs Viking Festival, Car Boot Sales, Diocesan events etc.

This constantly changing display will help raise the profile of our church in the locality and witness to others that we are a living and active community of faith; one that is engaged with events of the world in which God has placed us.

In the months and years ahead individuals and groups may make or donate their own flag.

You are invited to donate a flag that may have some significance to you or your group. Just have a word with me about your donation and we'll see what comes of it.

The Rector

Prayer Calendar for February 2017

- 1: (*St Bride, Abbess, c.525*) St Bride's, Hyndland
- 2: (*Presentation of Christ in the Temple*) Christ's light to shine on us
- 3: The recently bereaved
- 4: Those suffering long-term illness
- 6: Our Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth
- 7: The United Nations
- 8: Gregor, our Bishop
- 9: The Cathedral Chapter
- 10: The College of Bishops
- 11: Columba's Creatives
- 13: Largs Monday Toddlers
- 14: (*St Valentine, martyr, c.269*) Those whom we love
- 15: Our Choir
- 16: Our Servers
- 17: Our neighbours
- 18: Those we find it difficult to love
- 20: Local businesses
- 21: Local schools and colleges
- 22: Local Clergy
- 23: Nursing Homes - residents and staff
- 24: Our Diocese of Glasgow & Galloway
- 25: The churches of Ayrshire Region
- 27: FairTrade Initiatives
- 28: Farmers and Fishermen



Dates for your diary

- 31 January - 7.00pm Vestry Meeting
- 2 February - 2.00pm Meditation Group
- 5 February - 6.30pm LCT Candlemas Service
- 22 February - 7.30pm Christian Aid Quiz Night at The Willowbank Hotel
- 27 February - 12 March - FairTrade Fortnight
- 1 March - ASH WEDNESDAY - *Beginning of Christian Aid Lent Lunches*
- 2 March - 2.00pm Meditation Group
- 3 March - 2.00pm World Day of Prayer Service in St Columba's Parish Church
- 3 March - 7.30pm 'My Camino', talk by Armorel Allan, with refreshments
- 4 March - 10.00am Diocesan Synod, Dumfries
- 5 March - 4.00pm Taizé Service
- 7 March - 7.00pm Vestry Meeting

Additional Dates for 2017

The following dates for 2017 were agreed by the Vestry at their Awayday in November 2016 and were inadvertently omitted from last month's Vestry Notes.

- Sunday 5 February Largs Churches Together
Candlemas Service 6.30 p.m.
- Saturday 5 March Taize Service 4.00 p.m.
- Tuesday 7 March Vestry Meeting (*Meetings are at 7.00 pm in the Rectory except where shown*)
- Sunday 9 April Palm Sunday
- Sunday 16 April Easter Day
- Tuesday 25 April Vestry Meeting 7.30 pm
- Saturday 29 April Car Boot Sale
- Saturday 27 May Car Boot Sale
- Sunday 11 June Patronal Festival and Lunch/140th Anniversary
Celebration and Gift Day
- Monday 3 - 7 July Summer Mission

Tuesday 4 July	Vestry Meeting and Social
Sunday 9 July	MAP5 Review
Saturday 15 July	Car Boot Sale
Saturday 19 August	Car Boot Sale
Tuesday 5 September	Vestry Meeting
Saturday 16 September	Congregational Away Day to Kirk of the Holy Rood and The Castle, Stirling
Sunday 24 September	Vestry Finance Meeting (after morning Service)
Sunday 1 October	Harvest Festival and Lunch
Sunday 15 October	Congregational AGM
Tuesday 24 October	Vestry Meeting
Saturday 18 November	Vestry Awayday <i>(to Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Parish Church)</i>
Saturday 25 November	Yuletide Afternoon 2 – 4 p.m.

Ray Young, Vestry Secretary

Out with the old!

Many thanks to members of the small work party who turned out to face the long-overdue and mammoth task of clearing out and re-arranging the church's walk-in cupboard in the hall.

This now affords easier access to our equipment, and that of some hall users, as well as offering space for storing folding gopak tables for use in the hall.

As is often the case in one's own home, once one part is tidied it leads to another needing to be tackled. Our work party will meet again in the near future to attempt to create order out of the chaos that is our hall storage garage - watch this space (well, once there is one)!

My Camino



‘My Camino’ - an informal talk by Armored Allan about her recent pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, along the Way of St James – the ancient route from St Jean Pied de Port across the north of Spain.

"A Pilgrimage is a journey of the body and soul. Regardless of our religion, it is an effort to become closer to our God. A Pilgrimage is sometimes undertaken to pray for God's intercession in our lives, or as thanks for an intercession that has been granted. Often, though, a pilgrimage represents nothing more than our desire to let God guide our footsteps and nourish our souls. A Pilgrimage should not be undertaken lightly but neither should it be undertaken in fear. It is intended to be a journey of joy and fulfillment." -Author Unknown.

Date: Friday, 3 March - Time: 7.30pm - Place: Church Hall

Refreshments will be available and a donation towards the ‘Largs Labyrinth’ project would be greatly appreciated.

The LARGS LABYRINTH



An Update ...

The creation of a Largs Labyrinth has long been one of our Mission Action Planning goals here at St Columba's. I am delighted to report that following many years of discussion and planning, and after gaining a substantial grant from the Diocese, construction work is finally underway on this significant project.

The prayer labyrinth should be completed in the next week or so giving it 3 months to bed-in before the first car boot sale vehicles may need to attempt to drive over it!

More will follow on the Largs Labyrinth in further issues of this publication, but I hope you will come and hear Armored speak on her recent pilgrimage and support the Largs Labyrinth project by your donation.

The Rector

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Make a Mother's Day gift catalogue

This year the Mothers' Union has put '**gifts that put mothers at the heart of everything**'. Each gift helps mothers move from life on the margins right to the heart of their families and communities. Whether that's through enabling a mother to read, become a better parent or find the strength in God to change things for the better.

This Mothering Sunday, I can't think of a better way to celebrate my own mum than by helping mothers around the world to be at the heart of a

positive change. And as a mum and grandmother myself, I'd be delighted to receive a Make a Mother's Day gift too! Says Lynne Tembey, worldwide president.

The gift catalogues will be available at church or on line at www.makeamothersday.org . Please order by 15th March this is so the card can be sent to you in time for you to give on 26th March. Alternatively, you can give a gift card in memory of your mother. We can either send an 'in memory' card, or write your mothers name in a book of remembrance in Mothers' Union chapel.

Hilary Moran

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Additions to the Church Library

A member of the congregation kindly donated the following books on dementia in the hope they may be of some use to others. These include the following, all of which can be borrowed from the church library:

'When someone you love no longer remembers'
Written by Cecil Murphey and illustrated by Michal Sparks
Harvest House Publishers

'A time to care' Loving your elderly parents
Emily Ackerman
Inter-Varsity Press

'When someone you love has dementia'
Susan Elliot-Wright
Sheldon Press

'Living with the challenges of dementia' A guide for family and friends
Patrick McCurry
Sheldon Press

'Dementia: Pathways to Hope' Spiritual insights and practical advice
Louise Morse
Monarch Books

'Coping with dementia'

Caring for someone with the mid to late stages of dementia
NHS Health Scotland

Look out for a list of new titles in next month's issue of the magazine.

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The Curse of the Common Cold

1. Aachoo, aachoo, oh! Stop I say. I have a sore throat - It's on the way.
The Curse of the Common Cold.
2. With hankies at the ready. Cough drops, flavoured cherry. I sniffed my way through hot drinks. It's the Curse of the Common Cold.
3. Aachoo, I go again. Now I have a headache. Oh! Woe is me - cough! I need some Lemsip. It the Curse of the Common Cold.
4. Over steaming bowl, I inhale the vapours. Couldn't find a towel, so used newspapers - over my head. It's the Curse of the Common Cold.
5. Up to bed I go, hot water bottle in tow. Eyes streaming - you know my meaning of the Curse of the Common Cold.
6. All night long I cough and splutter. I'm starting to feel like a Demented Nutter, with the Curse of the Common Cold.
7. For several days I feel unwell. With pills, potions, oh! What the hell. It soon will pass, I have been told. No more Curse of the Common Cold.

Pat Peters

Cross word Puzzle Solution *(from page 4)*

¹ C	H	² U	R	³ C	H		⁴ H	⁵ E	R	⁶ M	I	⁷ T
A		N		A		⁸ A		D		A		U
⁹ E	D	I	B	L	E	S		¹⁰ I	N	D	E	X
S		T		V		P		C		O		E
¹¹ A	R	E	N	A		¹² I	N	T	O	N	E	D
R				R		R				N		O
	¹³ N	¹⁴ E	W	Y	E	A	R	¹⁵ S	D	A	Y	
¹⁶ A		N				T		T				¹⁷ R
¹⁸ D	A	V	I	¹⁹ N	C	I		²⁰ U	N	²¹ C	L	E
O		I		E		O		M		R		C
²² R	O	O	T	S		²³ N	O	B	L	E	S	T
E		U		T		S		L		E		O
²⁴ D	E	S	I	S	T		²⁵ L	E	A	D	E	R

Across: 1 Church, 4 Hermit, 9 Edibles, 10 Index, 11 Arena, 12 Intoned, 13 New Year's Day, 18 Da Vinci, 20 Uncle, 22 Roots, 23 Noblest, 24 Desist, 25 Leader.

Down: 1 Caesar, 2 Unite, 3 Calvary, 5 Edict, 6 Madonna, 7 Tuxedo, 8 Aspirations, 14 Envious, 15 Stumble, 16 Adored, 17 Rector, 19 Nests, 21 Creed.

Lent Study Course 2017

'Returning Home': Christian Faith in Encounter with Other Faiths

Our Lent study course will begin in the first week of March. The next edition of the magazine and the website will soon show precise details of meeting times.

This year we will base our studies on material produced by the Council of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland.

This 2017 Lent course explores how Christian faith has been deepened and enriched by encounters with people of different religions. This is not a course that necessarily emphasizes common ground or that is about dialogue but how Christian faith has burned brightly following an encounter with the religious other. It is a course in which you might find familiar Lenten themes in but with, what is hoped, a different approach.

Participation in a Lent Study Course is not for experts, but is there for all of us, that together we may take time in sharing our journey through Lent in preparation for Easter.

Do please consider coming to the Lent Group this year and making the most of this opportunity to deepen your faith.

The Rector



Columba's Creatives Update



For a few years now 'Columba's Creatives' have met in our hall for an hour each Wednesday in the school term time and offered Primary School aged children the opportunity to enjoy crafts, snacks, stories and games together. In this way it acts as our 'mid-week' Sunday School.

Numbers of children attending lately have not been great; with our team of dedicated helpers often outnumbering the children who come along.

At present a possible solution is being tried out: For a trial period we are meeting for an extra half hour, from **5.30pm - 7.00pm**, to see if this will make it a more attractive option for parents who come a distance to drop off their child.

The children who do come greatly enjoy the experience and it gives members of our congregation the chance to share God's story and his love, but it would be much better if numbers were to increase.

Please pray for this venture and be active in encouraging children you know to come along.

The Rector

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 February 2017

Day	Services and Sunday readings	Duty at Sunday 11.00am
Wednesday, 1 <i>St Bride</i>	10.00am Said Eucharist (1970)	
Sunday, 5 <i>Candlemas (tr)</i>	8.00am Said Eucharist 11.00am Sung Eucharist 6.30pm LCT Candlemas Service <i>Mal 3:1-5; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40</i>	Server: Alice MacDonald Reader: Joan Hutton Intercessor: Rector
Wednesday, 8	10.00am Said Eucharist (1970)	
Sunday, 12 <i>Epiphany 6</i>	8.00am Said Eucharist 11.00am Choral Matins 6.30pm Evening Prayer <i>Deut 30:15-20; Matt 5:21-37</i>	Reader: Gib Fitzgibbon Intercessor: Jennifer Fitzgibbon
Wednesday, 15	10.00am Said Eucharist (1970)	
Sunday, 19 <i>Epiphany 7</i>	8.00am Said Eucharist 11.00am Eucharist Together 6.30pm Evening Prayer <i>Lev 19:1-2, 9-18; Matt 5:38-48</i>	Server: Chris Evans Reader: Aubery McCance Intercessor: Ray Young
Wednesday, 22	10.00am Said Eucharist (1970)	
Sunday, 26 <i>Sunday next before Lent</i>	8.00am Said Eucharist 11.00am Sung Eucharist 6.30pm Evening Prayer Deut 11:18-21, 26-28; Rom 1:16-17; 3:22b-31; Matt 7:21-29	Servers: Vicky Johnston Reader: May Kidd Intercessor: Ken Hinshalwood

Readers for March 2017

5th: Stuart Robertson; 12th: Elspeth Robertson

19th: William Clark-Ferguson; 26th: Ken Hinshalwood

Diocesan website: www.episcopalglasgow.org.uk

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

The Clergy

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

Associates The Rt Revd Dr Idris Jones,
27 Donald Wynd, Largs, KA30 8TH.
Tel: 01475 674919 email: idrisjones43@hotmail.co.uk

The Revd David Stoter,
Flat 1, No.4 Rockland Park, Largs, KA30 8HB.
Tel: 01475 329438 email: david.stoter@yahoo.co.uk

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
Treasurer and Lay Representative	Chris Evans	673757
Rector's Warden	Linda Young	672410
People's Warden	Vicky Johnston	329722

Members	Gordon Hodgson	674008
	Jane Evans	673757
	Elsie Hinshalwood	686984
	William Clark-Ferguson	07835454534
	Jane McCance	329392
	Susan Birch	686098
	Imogen Harvey	329722

(Alt Lay Representative - Hilary Moran Tel: 686213)

Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, Confessions by arrangement with the Rector

Scottish Charity Number SC004796

The deadline for the March magazine is Sunday 19th February.
magazine articles should be sent to gordon.fyfe@icloud.com

Life at St Columba's

Director of Music	<i>Vacant</i>	
Property Convenor	Stuart Robertson	01475 675681
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	Vicky Johnston	329722
Christian Aid	Nessie Rankin	672357
	Jane Evans	673757
	<i>Representatives on inter-church Christian Aid Committee</i>	
Regional Council	William Clark-Ferguson	07835 454534
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
Columba's Creatives	Ray & 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