“The shepherds said, ’Let us go to Bethlehem, and see the thing that the Lord has made known to us.’”

Luke 2:15
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,

As a student in Rome I was used to seeing the ruined remains of many ancient temples, but the one the appeared to me to be most unusual in its design and structure was the temple, or four-fold arch, of Janus. Janus was always depicted with two faces; each facing in opposite directions. One looked back to the past and the other forward to the future. He was held to be the god of beginnings, gates, transitions, time, doorways, passages and endings.

Though not invoked any longer, I am sure some of us might understand the creation of such a deity as we approach the end of this year and the start of a new one.

Perhaps, as we look back, we might be filled with sadness and regret at what 2017 has brought us. Perhaps, as we look forward, some of us may be filled with fear over an uncertain future and worry over just what 2018 may have in store for us.

It is interesting to remember that when God reveals himself in the Old Testament he reveals his name as ‘I AM’. Not, ‘I was’ nor ‘I will be’, but rather ‘I AM’. God, then, is to be fully encountered - not in our past or in our future, but now - in this present moment.

This is what the great festival of Christmas is really all about. It is why it is Good News for us and all the world. In the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Word of God takes our flesh, enters time and space, and shares fully in our human experience. Jesus of Nazareth is ‘Emanuel’, which means, ‘God IS with us’.

By his birth long ago in Bethlehem, God in his love in Christ has come to be with us - now in the present moment of each day, that we may no longer be victims of our past nor of what might come to pass.

May you know this truth here and now, during the Christmas season, and into the year ahead.

Merry Christmas!

Gordon
Cross word puzzle (solution on page 20)

Across
6 John the Baptist was killed at this dancer’s request (6)
7 Scriptures read during a service (6)
9 Prepare text for publication (4)
10 Celebration
11 Be glad (7)
13 Handed over (5)
15 Passageway (5)
17 Accept an apology (7)
20 ‘Amen’ is this after a prayer (4,4)
21 Gospel writer (4)
22 Songs sung at Christmas (6)
23 Recover, get back (6)

Down
1 Old-fashioned illumination (6)
2 Basin holding water for baptisms (4)
3 Immaculate (7)
4 Sanctify (5)
5 Wishful (8)
6 Subscribe - to a charity, for example
8 Make a speech (5)
12 Act of worship (8)
14 Speculates (7)
16 Old Testament prophet (5)
18 Mother of Jesus (6)
19 Drink to someone or something (5)
21 Wise men (4)
Years Mind

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

DECEMBER

1st Phyllis Douglas
2nd Isobel Blair Northcote, John Phillips
4th Susan Dayman, Isabella Anderson, John Gutherson
5th Violet Joan Scaithe, John Marshall
6th Dick Barnes
7th Margaret MacKay
8th Norman Barrett
11th Tom Stott
12th Sonia Hunter, Doreen Barnes, Fiona Barnes, Marjorie Sergeant
13th Jack Clough
15th Margaret Goldie
16th Sarah Spencer, Hilda Logue, Heather Fletcher
17th Ann Sadler
18th William Henry Northcote
19th Peggy Perry
23rd Mauraide Kerr Hamilton
25th Connie Donaldson, Ernest Pow
26th Ian Guthrie
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, George King
6th Vivienne Somerville, James Kerr
7th Sybil Evans, Grace Saxton
10th Joyce Doreen Downham, David Flinn
12th Jessie Harvey
14th Ian Angell
15th Joyce Pow (Priest)
16th Tiger (John) Lyon, Harry Powell
17th Gerald Jolley, Lesley Heath, Jean Duguid, Lorna King
20th Gordon McTavish
23rd Doris McFarlane
24th Amy Fryers, Don MacLiver
28th Audrey Cooper, Marion Gutherson
31st Ann Cuthbertson

May they rest in peace and rise in glory
In Flora’s Garden - Past, Present and Future

“Yesterday is history; tomorrow is a mystery; but today is a gift, which is why it’s called The Present!” This little saying in different versions, has been attributed to various people over the years, including Eleanor Roosevelt. Wherever it came from, the substance remains the same: let go of the Past, fear not the Future and enjoy the Present. However, the Christmas season invites us to consider all three at the same time. This is demonstrated in entertainment, in Dickens’ A Christmas Carol and the classic movie It’s a Wonderful Life. In the Christian life, in the midst of our celebrations (the Present), we are reminded of the Old Testament prophecies (the Past) and are eternally being guided towards Easter (the Future).

In the garden, too, this is the time of year to consider all three. Looking back over the season Past, there was little I could do about the weather, which reduced large areas to swamp (though I am growing some interesting mosses and fungus!). I forgot to plant the Nasturtium seeds, didn’t get round to relocating the Day Lily and saw the newly planted Hollyhocks systematically eaten by snails.

On a positive note, there were three spectacular rescues! The first was in May, during the spell of intensely hot and dry weather, which we all thought was going to last all summer. I have three Rose Campions in the border and my book tells me that in dry weather they need “copious watering”. Thus I was out with the watering-can applying copious water to the roots from seven in the morning. Two plants were doing fine, but by mid-day, the third had a severe and near-fatal wilt in the blistering glare of the sun. I knew it needed immediate and emergency action to survive. Water wasn’t helping. It needed shade. In desperation, I fashioned a makeshift tent from tea-towels across two sticks and was delighted to find this gave it enough respite. It fully recovered within half an hour, and continued to do well for the rest of the season.

Later in the year, I was watching the skies above the garden and saw a hapless kestrel struggling to break free from a murder of crows, which were mobbing it mercilessly. I was wondering how this was going to work out, when, to my astonishment, a buzzard appeared from nowhere and started circling in and around the crows. If they were annoyed by a kestrel on their patch, they were enraged by a buzzard, and turned their attention to this intruder. In the melee, the kestrel was able to fly to safety, and the buzzard continued to spiral higher and higher against the sun, confident that no crow would attempt to fly that high. Score 1 for the raptors!
But not all rescues worked out so delightfully. I was sitting beside one of my little frog ponds reading, when I noticed a fly struggling in the water, unable to reach the safety of the sticks placed there as ladders. I took a blade of grass, put it into the water, and the little fly crawled onto it. I then carefully lifted grass and fly out of the water. I was taken aback in the middle of this delicate operation, when a frog suddenly emerged from the Sweet Woodruff at the side of the pond. It shot out a huge pink tongue, scooped up the fly, and ate it! I had such mixed feelings about the whole event and even now I am discussing with myself about intervening in nature’s course. What would you have done?

As I put away the garden tools at the end of the growing season, I paused to think about the Future. In the long days of darkness, there is that tingle of hope: that the sap will rise at the turn of the year and it will all start again. Spring bulbs were planted in October week and I knew that I would be able to watch the first shoots emerging over the coming months. If you look closely, you will already see little nodes on branches of the trees, left behind by autumn’s fallen leaves. These will eventually become the new season’s growth - it’s there already! Significantly, by Christmas Day, the Winter Solstice will already have passed (21 December) and the Shortest Day will be behind us. From then forward, the days will start to stretch again - slowly at first and then with a rush! And next year I must remember to plant the Nasturtiums!

And so, from Past and Future in the garden, as we celebrate the Christmas and Hogmanay season, let me wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, and I hope that you enjoy your Presents!

Flora

Diocesan Advent Quiet Day

10.00am for 10.30am
Saturday, 2 December 2017
at Holy Trinity & St Barnabas,
St James’ Place, Back Sneddon Street, Paisley

‘What do we aim for in Advent?’
led by Bishop Gregor Duncan

Participants are asked to bring their own lunch, but tea and coffee will be provided from 10.00am.
December Prayer List

1: Those living with HIV and AIDS
2: Those living with dementia
4: Local Clergy
5: All Carers
6: Organisations that use our hall
7: Contemplation on God’s love
8: The recently bereaved
9: Holy Trinity & St Barnabas, Paisley
11: Our Toddler Group
12: Local charities
13: Schools and colleges
14: Bishop Gregor
15: Retired Clergy
16: The College of Bishops
18: Local Nursing Homes
19: Farmers
20: Fishermen
21: All who work in retail
22: Those finding life financially difficult
23: The homeless
25: (Christmas) Thanksgiving for the Incarnation
26: (St Stephen) All Deacons
27: (St John) St John’s, Greenock
28: (Holy Innocents) All children
29: Those who use FoodBanks
30: The healing of memories

January Prayer List

1: God’s blessing on this New Year
2: Our loved ones near and far
3: Bishop Gregor
4: The depressed
5: The lonely
6: (Epiphany) Thanksgiving for God’s revelation in Christ
8: Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway
9: Diocese of Brechin
11: Diocese of Argyll and the Isles
12: Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane
13: Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney
14: Diocese of Edinburgh
15: Diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness
16: Staff of the General Synod Office
18: Staff of the Diocesan Centre
19: Local Hospitals and Hospices
20: Vacant Charges
22: Members of our Vestry
23: Members of the Choir
24: Visitors to our church
25: (Conversion of Paul) Christian Unity
26: Action of Churches Together in Scotland
27: Largs Churches Together
29: World Council of Churches
30: Churches Together in Britain and Ireland
31: Those we find it difficult to love

Congregational Lunch

The annual Congregational Lunch will take place following the 11.00am service on Sunday, 14 January 2017 - 12.30pm at the Willowbank Hotel.

The cost of sherry or orange juice and a two course lunch with coffee and mints is £16. Please book your place by printing your name, and marking your selection from the menu, on the sheet when it appears in the porch. Please pass on your monies to John Lamb no later than Sunday, 7 January 2018.
Dates for your diary

29 November - 7.30pm Advent Bible Study (1)
2 December - 10.00am Advent Quiet Day at Paisley & Castle Douglas
3 December - 4.00pm Taizé Service for Advent
6 December - 2.00pm Christian Aid Meeting, Clark Memorial
6 December - 7.30pm Advent Bible Study (2)
7 December - 2.00pm Contemplative Meditation
9 December - 2.00pm Service of Light & Remembrance at St John’s
11 December - 10.00am Largs Monday Toddlers Christmas Party
13 December - 11.00am Church Book Group
13 December - 7.30pm Advent Bible Study (3)
15 December - 4.00pm-6.00pm Christian Aid Carol Singing at Morrisons
17 December - 3.00pm Hutton Park Service
17 December - 6.30pm A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols
18 December - 6.30pm Carol Singing at Hutton Park Care Home
18 December - 7.15pm The Rector’s ‘At Home’
19 December - 4.00pm-6.00pm Christian Aid Carol Singing at Morrisons
19 December - 7.30pm Advent Bible Study (4)
24 December - 4.00pm Children’s Christingle Service
24 December - 11.00pm Christmas Midnight Mass
25 December - 10.00am Christmas Day Sung Eucharist
6 January - 9.30pm - 4.00pm Elementary Food Hygiene Course
6 January - 12.00noon Eucharist for The Epiphany of Our Lord
14 January - 12.30pm Congregational Lunch at the Willowbank Hotel
16 January - 7.00pm Vestry Meeting
21 January - 3.00pm Service at Burnlea Nursing Home
4 February - 6.30pm LCT Candlemas Service

Thank You

Last month’s Christian Aid Cantanti Choir Concert raised a total of £475.
Thank you to all who supported what was a very special evening.
‘She points the way’

4.00pm, Sunday 3 December 2017

A service for Advent of Taizé songs, silence, reflection and prayer followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the church hall.

All donations will go toward the work of Mary’s Meals

Service of Light and Remembrance

This annual service for the bereaved will take place at 2.00pm on Saturday, 9 December at St John’s Parish Church

A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols

Come, join in the annual Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols 6.30pm, Sunday 17 December 2017

Tea and mince pies will be served in the hall following this service.
Saturday 6\textsuperscript{th} January 9.30 – 4pm Elementary Food Hygiene course
In our hall

This elementary course is required for all who do more than just serving coffee and biscuits. It has been arranged for all those who help in any other way in the church kitchen, with food preparation, from preparing soup to making filled rolls. This would take in our activities with toddlers, the car boot sales, fundraising events with food and now our new venture with monthly Sunday lunches.

Elaine Anderson will come to our hall and put us through our paces for a day and at the end you will receive a certificate. She said she would make it fun! We need a minimum of 8 people. A poster for you all to sign up will go in the porch and we need to have all your names by 10\textsuperscript{th} December as she needs the numbers by then to register the course.

What people say about Elaine

The fact that you tailored your teaching specifically for a church was very helpful. I feel better prepared to work well in the kitchen now. \textit{Irvine}

Friendly, fun and relaxed learning. Think it is so much more enjoyable if the tutor is fun and relaxed and knows the subject as well as she obviously did. \textit{Stewarton}

This is what you will cover

Elementary Food Hygiene Course

This is a nationally recognised qualification in basic food hygiene, accredited by The Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland (REHIS ®).

The course includes 6 hours of tuition with a short multiple choice question paper at the end of the course. Successful completion will result in being awarded a certificate in Elementary Food Hygiene.

The course covers the following topics:
* an introduction to Food Hygiene
* bacteria and their characteristics
* food poisoning and how to prevent it
* personal hygiene and the food handler
* the food environment
* cleaning and disinfection
* food pests and their control
* food safety law
A Happy Christmas to all  
from Gib & Jennifer

HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL  
Chris and Jane Evans

Christmas Greetings and Best wishes for the New Year  
Eileen Binns

BEST WISHES FOR A HEALTHY CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR  
Fionna Fergusson

A Happy Christmas to one and all - and a peaceful New Year  
Stuart Robertson

To Everyone. Wishing all a happy Christmas  
and a healthy and happy New Year  
Janine and Barbara

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS  
Elizabeth Ferguson

Wishing everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year  
Jean and John Lamb

WISHING JOY AND PEACE TO ALL  
May Kidd

Wishing you a happy and healthy  
Christmas and New Year  
Frances and Neil Robertson
Greetings

Wishing you all a blessed Christmas and prosperous New Year
Gordon and William

Seasons Greetings
Catriona x

Best wishes to all for a Happy Christmas
Joan Hutton

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and prosperous New Year
Norman

Wishing you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year
Annemauraide Hamilton

Christmas Greetings and Best Wishes
Gordon and Audrey

Best wishes to all for a very happy Christmas
Ken and Elsie

WARM GOOD WISHES TO YOU ALL
Peter and Elspeth Robertson

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas
Hilary & Freddie (Moran)

A blessed Christmas and good New Year to all
Rose Stevenson
Smalls for All update

We have collected 68 bra’s and 21 new pants these last two months. So we will be affecting 90 children and women by these donations. They are appealing for:

NEW pants for ladies (8—16) and NEW pants for boys and girls (aged 3—15yrs)

Our underwear reaches the right places [from their website]

To ensure the underwear we collect is distributed to those who need it most, we work in partnership with a number of organisations. They help us to give all the brand new pants and bras we collect directly to the women and children in Africa who need our support, donating them for free. The same goes for at least 90% of the ‘gently worn’ bras we collect too, while the remainder we sell to the family run recycling company Lawrence M Barry & Co (LMB) to help us raise the vital funds we need to support our work. LMB send the ‘gently worn’ bras to help people in developing economies like Africa to earn an income by selling bras

Toddlers

Christmas party will be held on the 11th December and we break up on the 18th December.

Hilary

Columba’s Creatives

Columba’s Creatives will break up at the end of November and resume at 5.30pm on Wednesday, 17 January 2018

DONATIONS TO CHARITY

Some of you may have noticed the letter of thanks that we have received from Alzheimer Scotland following our donation of £500 as part of our donation to charities in our previous financial year. Our second charity, Home-Start Ayrshire closed their Kilmarnock office earlier on this year, which I was not aware of. I have therefore sent a replacement cheque for £500 to Home-Start Renfrewshire & Inverclyde, which has cleared our account but I am yet to receive a letter of thanks.

Chris
Blythswood Care - Thank You

Many thanks to the members of St Columba's who donated shoeboxes to this year's appeal. The 30 boxes received have been collected by Blythswood and will be sent this year to Albania. This is a very worthwhile cause and will help to brighten the lives of all who receive them. Grateful thanks for your continued support.

Elizabeth Robertson

Carol Singing at Hutton Park

All are welcome to join in carol singing to our neighbours in Hutton Park Nursing Home at 6.30pm on Monday, 18 December

The Rector’s ‘At Home’

Everyone is most welcome to come along to the Rector’s ‘At Home’ from 7.15pm on Monday, 18 December

Christingle Service

Children of all ages are warmly invited to come along to this year’s Christingle service. Together we can hear the Christmas story as we build up the Christmas Crib, then enjoy making our very own Christingle to take away with us. The ideal way to begin celebrating Christmas! 4.00pm on Christmas Eve

Donations will go to Aberlour Children’s Charity
Note of The Vestry Away-day

held on 18 November 2017 at the Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Parish Church

Present: Rector, Ray Young, Chris Evans, Linda Young, Janine Millward, William Ferguson, Jean Smith and Andrew Reid

Apologies: Vicky Johnston, Imogen Harvey, Susan Birch and Stuart Robertson

In attendance: Jane Evans and Euan Fulton

The Awayday commenced with Morning Prayer

Duties of the Vestry and its members: The Rector gave a brief outline of the structure of the Episcopal Church and detailed the duties and responsibilities of all Vestry members as detailed in the Code of Canons (Canon 60) which was circulated along with the Deed of Constitution of St Columba’s, Largs. The Treasurer handed the new members present a copy of their Role as Charity Trustees and as Fit and Proper Persons and briefly detailed the roles and responsibilities of office bearers. The new members were asked to complete these documents and return them to Ray. It was noted that the Code of Canons is available online.

Eucharistic Assistant: The Vestry agreed unanimously to recommend that Bishop Gregor appoint Janine Millward as a Eucharistic Assistant, being satisfied that she was competent to carry out the duties as detailed in the Working Agreement.

Charity Donations: Following discussion on suggestions made by members, the Charities to receive support for 2018 were agreed as Playlist for Life (local) and Smalls for All (national).

It was further agreed that the Taize collection in December go to Mary’s Meals and for Lent 2018 to Christian Aid; Christingle collection go to Aberlour Children’s Trust; Midnight collection at Christmas 2017 go to Glasgow City Mission; Harvest collection 2018 go to Sight Savers and the Remembrance 2018 collection go to SAAFA.

Charities such as CAMHS, Young Carers and Music in Hospitals will be considered for 2019.

Calendar of Events: Submitted draft Calendar of dates for 2018. This was discussed and agreed as detailed below.

Church Budget: The Treasurer circulated the Receipts and Payments against Budget Report as at 15 November 2017 and went through the
compilation of the Report for the benefit of the new members and responded to their questions.

A Said Eucharist was celebrated before lunch when Euan Fulton, Director of Music, joined us.

**Church Music:** The Director of Music advised that he was very happy with how things were going musically since he took up the post in mid-July and paid tribute to the choir for being very co-operative and willing to try more ambitious and historic songs and anthems. He advised that the Rector chose the hymns and it was for him to determine whether and when to include more modern hymns in Services.

After hearing members of the choir who were present, new members on their experiences of other churches and following discussion, it was agreed that the Director of Music should look at

(i) including a short choir anthem in Services;
(ii) working with the Rector to included modern hymns from ‘Common Ground’ when appropriate, possibly at Eucharist Together;
(iii) working with members of the congregation who play instruments to included them when appropriate;
(iv) including a more challenging piece of music for the Patronal;
(v) inviting members of other Church choirs to supplement ours for big occasions;
(vi) utilising the library of music the Church already holds; and

**Property:** Works were required to repair the Office door which was not closing and to resolve the problem of flooding at the Rectory car parking area, for which the Property Convenor was seeking quotes. The Vestibule ceiling in the Hall has been checked for water ingress but is currently dry.

**Mission Action Plan** - The Rector reported that Revd Liz O’Ryan is our facilitator for MAP6 and gave an outline of the MAP6 goals which include :-

- Developing the labyrinth to enable users to get the maximum benefit from it by providing cards with prayers, etc.;
- Revamping the porch with improved lighting and magnetised noticeboards that double as whiteboards (Canon 35 permission required);
• Being proactive through the use of our website and social media to promote events, etc.;

• Providing a laminated prayer resource for inside the Church; and

• Introducing a “Food and Friendship” event from February 2018.

It was noted that the Food and Friendship Group had eight members and that those involved will require Food Hygiene training. An application has been made to the Council for a grant to improve the kitchen equipment including the cooker, pots, pans and large catering trays and a new lockable chest freezer to be in the garage. The Rector will visit the merging schools to see if they have any surplus items we could use.

It was agreed that the Rector should reinstate the Healing Service.

AOCB

Sound System: Neil Robertson is aware that the Church sound system requires attention and the Rector will arrange a time for him to inspect the sound equipment and to recommend and cost what is needed to bring it up to standard. Andrew Reid, who has experience in such matters, offered to meet with Neil to discuss the feasibility of moving the sound controls to the back of the Church and other sound issues.

General Data Protection Register: Andrew Reid asked if the Church has considered the implications of GDPR which come into effect on 28 May 2018. The Secretary was asked to contact our adviser on such matters, Claire Johnson, to ask if GDPR will affect us and, if so, what should we do to comply and to invite her to attend a Vestry meeting to discuss the matter.

Thanks were given to Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Parish Church for providing accommodation.

The Away-day closed at 2.20 p.m. with the Grace.

Ray Young, Vestry Secretary
St Columba’s Scottish Episcopal Church, Largs

Dates for 2018

Sunday 14 January  Congregational Lunch
Tuesday 16 January  Vestry Meeting (Meetings are at 7.00 pm in the Rectory)
Sunday 4 February  Candlemas Service 6.30 p.m.
Sunday 4 March  Taizé for Lent 4.00 p.m.
Tuesday 6 March  Vestry Meeting
Sunday 25 March  Palm Sunday
Sunday 1 April  Easter Day
Saturday 21 April  Car Boot Sale
Tuesday 24 April  Vestry Meeting
Saturday 26 May  Car Boot Sale
Sunday 10 June  Patronal Festival, Bring and Share Lunch and Gift Day
Monday 2 - 6 July  Summer Mission
Tuesday 3 July  Vestry Meeting and Social
Sunday 8 July  MAP6 Review with Bishop and Bring and Share Lunch
Saturday 14 July  Car Boot Sale
Saturday 18 August  Car Boot Sale
Tuesday 11 September  Vestry Meeting
Saturday 15 September  Congregational Away Day to Dumfries House
Sunday 23 September  Vestry Finance Meeting (after morning Service)
Sunday 7 October  Harvest Festival and Lunch
Sunday 28 October  Congregational AGM
Tuesday 6 November  Vestry Meeting
Saturday 17 November  Vestry Away-day to Cathedral of the Isles, Millport
Saturday 24 November  Yuletide Afternoon
Advent Bible Study

‘SONGS OF ADVENT’

Songs are very much at the centre of our celebrations of Advent and Christmas, and have been so for many since childhood. Luke’s Gospel has a series of songs as part of his introduction to the story of Jesus, and these have been handed down to us within our Bibles, and as part of the liturgical life of the Church. We will recite (if not sing) the Magnificat, Nunc Dimittis and Benedictus as part of our regular worship, so the words may be familiar. But maybe they haven’t been looked at as often in their actual context, leading up to and just beyond the birth of Jesus.

Come along to this Advent Bible Study in the Rectory each Wednesday at 7.30pm from 29 November - 13 December and Tuesday, 19 December.
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 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Services and Sunday readings</th>
<th>Duty at Sunday 11.00am</th>
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| Sunday, 3 Advent 1      | 8.00am Said Eucharist 11.00am Sung Eucharist 4.00pm Taizé for Advent                         | Server: William Clark-Ferguson
Reader: Joan Hutton
Intercessor: Rector                                                                         |
|                         | *Isa 64:1-9; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mk 13:24-37                                                            |                                                                                          |
| Wednesday, 7            | 10.00am Said Eucharist                                                                        |                                                                                          |
| Sunday, 10 Advent 2     | 8.00am Said Eucharist 11.00am Choral Matins 6.30pm Compline                                  | Reader: Gib Fitzgibbon
Intercessor: Frances Robertson                                                               |
|                         | *Isa 40:1-11; Mk 1:1-18                                                                         |                                                                                          |
| Wednesday, 14           | 10.00am Said Eucharist (1970)                                                                    |                                                                                          |
| Sunday, 17 Advent 3     | 8.00am Said Eucharist 11.00am Eucharist Together 3.00pm Service at Hutton Park 6.30pm Nine Lessons & Carols | Server: Alice MacDonald and
Janine Millward
Reader: Tim Johnston
Intercessor: Ray Young                                                                       |
|                         | *Isa 61:1-4, 8-11; Jn 1-6, 19-28                                                                 |                                                                                          |
| Wednesday, 21           | 10.00am Said Eucharist (1970)                                                                    |                                                                                          |
| Sunday, 24 Advent 4 Christmas Eve | 8.00am Said Eucharist 11.00am Sung Eucharist 4.00pm Christingle Service 11.00pm Christmas Midnight Mass | Server: Hilary Moran
Reader: Lorna Reid
Intercessor: Rector                                                                           |
|                         | *2 Sam 7:1-11, 16; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38                                                       |                                                                                          |
| Sunday, 25 Christmas Day| 10.00am Sung Eucharist                                                                          | Server: Chris Evans
Reader: Rector
Intercessor: Rector                                                                            |
| Wednesday, 27 St John   | 10.00am Said Eucharist (1970)                                                                    |                                                                                          |
| Sunday, 31 Christmas 1  | 8.00am Said Eucharist 11.00am Sung Eucharist                                                    | Server: Alice MacDonald
Reader: Ray Young
Intercessor: Fiona Reader                                                                       |
|                         | *Isa 61:10 - 62:3; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:22-40                                                          |                                                                                          |
## Services and Rotas for January 2018

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<td><strong>EPIPHANY</strong></td>
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| Sunday, 7                | 8.00am Said Eucharist 11.00am Sung Eucharist  
Gen 1:1-5; Acts 19:1-7; Mk 1:4-11 | Server: William Clark-Ferguson  
Reader: Janine Millward  
Intercessor: Jennifer Fitzgibbon |
| **Baptism of the Lord**  |                                                                    |                        |
| Wednesday, 10            | 10.00am Said Eucharist (1970)                                       |                        |
| Kentigern (tr)           |                                                                    |                        |
| Sunday, 14               | 8.00am Said Eucharist 11.00am Choral Matins 6.30pm Evening Prayer  
1 Sam 3:1-20; Jn 1:43-51 | Reader: Jennifer Fitzgibbon  
Intercessor: Frances Robertson |
| **Epiphany 2**           |                                                                    |                        |
| Wednesday, 17            | 10.00am Said Eucharist (1970)                                       |                        |
| Sunday, 21               | 8.00am Said Eucharist 11.00am Eucharist Together 3.00pm Service at Burnlea  
6.30pm Evening Prayer  
Jon 3:1-5, 10; Mk 1:14-20 | Servers: Chris Evans and Janine Millward  
Reader: Melissa Reid  
Intercessor: Ray Young |
| **Epiphany 3**           |                                                                    |                        |
| Wednesday, 24            | 10.00am Said Eucharist (1970)                                       |                        |
| Conversion of St Paul (tr)|                                                                    |                        |
| Sunday, 28               | 8.00am Said Eucharist 11.00am Sung Eucharist 6.30pm Evening Prayer  
Deut 18:15-20; 1 Cor 8:1-13; Mk 1:21-28 | Servers: Hilary Moran  
Reader: Elspeth Robertson  
Intercessor: William Clark-Ferguson |
| **Epiphany 4**           |                                                                    |                        |
| Wednesday, 31            | 10.00am Said Eucharist (1970)                                       |                        |

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### Readers for February 2018

- **4th:** Stuart Robertson  
- **11th:** Ray Young  
- **18th:** Tim Johnston  
- **25th:** Joan Hutton
Diocesan website: www.episcopalglasgow.org.uk

Bishop
The Rt Revd Dr Gregor D. Duncan,
Bishop’s Office, Diocesan Centre,
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The Revd David Stoter,
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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 and Alt Lay Rep Linda Young  672410
People’s Warden Vicky Johnston  329722

Members
Stuart Robertson  675681
William Clark-Ferguson 07835454534
Susan Birch   686098
Imogen Harvey  329722
Janine Millward 07508 451192
Andrew Reid   —
Jean Smith   330620

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

Scottish Charity Number SC004796

The deadline for the February magazine is Sunday 21 January.
magazine articles should be sent to gordon.fyfe@icloud.com

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Life at St Columba’s

**Director of Music**  Euan Fulton  Mob: 07814 268 205

**Property Convenor**  Stuart Robertson  01475 675681

**Fundraising Committee**  William Clark-Ferguson  07835 454534

**Protection of Vulnerable Groups**  Linda Young  672410

*Appointed by the Vestry and approved by the Bishop*

**Mothers’ Union**  Hilary Moran  686213

**Church Hall Diary**  Chris Evans  673757

*Deals with hall bookings*

**Flowers**  Joan Hutton  672927

**Sidesmen**  Vicky Johnston  329722

**Christian Aid**  Jane Evans  673757

*Representatives on inter-church Christian Aid Committee*

**Regional Council**  William Clark-Ferguson  Mob: 07835 454534

**Intercessions Rota**  Frances Robertson  686947

**Altar Servers**  Alice MacDonald  673370

**Readers Rota**  Rector  673143

*If you would like to join any of the above, please see Frances, Alice or the Rector*

**Largs Churches Together**  Linda Young  672410

Alice MacDonald  673370

**Press Officer**  Hilary Moran  686213

**Columba’s Creatives**  Rector  673143

**Health & Safety Officer**  William Clark-Ferguson  Mob: 07835 454534

Pastoral Visitors in the congregation

*Eileen Binns (Coordinator, tel: 673580)*

*Elsie Hinshalwood, Joan Hutton and May Kidd*