

St Columba's
Scottish Episcopal Church
Largs



June 2020



'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty: who was, and is, and is to come.
Revelation 4:8

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

In line with government guidelines, and in obedience with the instructions of the College of Bishops, the church building remains closed to the public and no services of public worship will resume until the current pandemic has past and all are given permission to congregate safely.

During this period prayers continue to be offered, as does the Eucharist, for the Church and for the world in all its need.

The Daily Offices may be found on the Provincial website:
<https://www.scotland.anglican.org/spiritua.../.../daily-offices/>

Our own Sunday Service of the Word takes place at 10.00am via Zoom (*see details regarding the invitation to this on page 18*) and the Provincial Sunday Eucharist is live-streamed at 11.00am each week at:

<http://www.scotland.anglican.org/broadcast-sunday-worship>

Updates are available on our website: ***largs-church.co.uk***

and via our Facebook page:

[Saint Columba's Scottish Episcopal Church Largs](#)

We welcome all regardless of age, gender, race, ability, social class, sexuality or any other defining characteristic that may otherwise be used as the basis for discrimination.

Dear Friends,

It is strange how the holy scriptures, as we read and reread them throughout the year, can always hold new insights for us. We can find previously hidden depths of resonance for us within them. As we come to read them in our current surreal circumstances I have certainly found this to be the case.

I write this pastoral letter for the June edition of the magazine slightly later than I had planned. This means I do so on 1 June - the day on which the Church this year celebrates the Feast of the Visitation. This festival recalls the time immediately following the annunciation of our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The story (found in Luke 1:39-56) tells of Mary's journey and visit to her elderly cousin, Elizabeth. Both of these women are with child - Mary carries our Lord and Elizabeth carries John the Baptist within her.

It is a meeting of great joy, but also one of challenge and of cost. Mary's song, known to us as the Magnificat, is a challenge to our complacency in caring for the poor and vulnerable. Although these women meet in joy, the path ahead of their respective offspring will be a difficult and painful one; though one that will lead to life and blessing.

As I write many people that have known a prolonged period of confinement will, at last, be able to travel a short journey to visit their loved ones. These meetings, it seems to me, will be simultaneously joyful and challenging. They are visits that come with restrictions. Social distancing and meeting only outdoors etc mean there must, for now at least, be a new way to relate and to be with one another. This is difficult and yet it is quite necessary if we are to continue to protect the most vulnerable in our families and community.

As we tentatively begin the process of venturing out and of meeting one another again, may we know the reality of God's continual presence and of that loving embrace that cannot be held from us.

Yours in the faith,

Gordon

Waiting

I am not good at waiting. I am not a patient woman. I am so often chafing at the bit, impatient for change. Hard at times to live in the present moment – and no more than now. When are the restrictions going to be lifted. What next? When can I be up and ‘doing’ again?!!!!

Many years ago, I read a book called ‘The Stature of Waiting’ by W.H.Vanstone. The author looked at the Passion of Jesus and reflected on modern day life, with its emphasis on busyness, on productivity, with its outward signs of success. Our society so often values us for what we ‘do’ and for our outward show of material possessions – for what we ‘have’. This attitude can also sometimes be reflected in church life, whatever the denomination, when busyness can take over, mission targets and statements put in place and the boxes there to be ticked in order to show mission accomplished!! Many of the outward activities of our church life are on hold at the moment, as are other aspects of our lives. Waiting. A time of seeming inactivity.

I recently learned that between Ascension and Pentecost the words ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ are prayed. I found myself wondering what do these words really mean? For me, in many ways, God’s ‘kingdom’ is paradoxically revealed in ways that are hidden and that are already here. Jesus often talks about tiny things – mustard seeds, grains of wheat, salt, yeast.....What signs of God’s presence on earth are being revealed at present?

The lives of many of the people who have been bringing life to others during the present pandemic have been those whose lives up until recently, have been fairly hidden – underpaid carers, delivery men and women, refuse collectors, shop assistants, cleaners.....For me, signs of God’s presence.

I am, like many others, not able to be on the ‘front line’ during the present pandemic. Many of us have been living lives that have been somewhat hidden during lockdown. Yet again, I have heard of hidden acts of kindness – phone calls to keep people connected, sewing talents put to the making of surgical masks..... Nothing particularly visible, although intensely life-giving.

It is interesting that D.I.Y. and gardening are to the fore for many of us. The sense of achievement when the weeding is done, the house in order! Yet, the weeds return and require constant attention and in the house once dusted, a week later the dust is back! I suspect that the secret to finding

meaning for me in these tasks is to dust and weed mindfully! I wonder though, if nature really likes too much tidiness – for bees do thrive where there is wild life!!! The passion for D.I.Y and house cleaning maybe is a way of trying to have some sense of control over life – to put order into an insecure outer world.

When I am waiting, especially in the present context, I need to acknowledge my dependency on God as well as my dependency on others for my well being.

Pentecost is a sign of the breath of God alive and active in the world. Again, an invisible, yet quietly potent presence. ‘Immortal, invisible, God only wise.....’

In the midst of all the uncertainty, I have to remind myself that the breath of God continues breathing, and that the Holy Spirit, although hidden, does indeed renew the face of the earth.

Fiona Reader

And the People Stayed Home

And the people stayed home.
And read books,
and listened,
and rested,
and exercised,
and made art,
and played games,
and learned new ways of being,
and were still.

And listened more deeply.
Some meditated, some prayed, some danced.
Some met their shadows.
And the people began to think differently.
And the people healed.

Kitty O’Meaera

(This poem was posted on the internet and used as A Thought for Today as part of the Jesuit online Easter Retreat.)

Years Mind

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

5th Margaret Cuthbertson
8th George Watson
12th Peter Nardini
13th Joan Angus, Joyce Riddett
16th Alan Estill, Edna Ramsden
18th Fiona Keith-Fraser
21st Joan Urquhart
22nd Barbara Mullins, Sheila Phillips
23rd Frank Perry
24th Lillian Maxwell, Isabella McGowan
30th John King

May they rest in peace and rise in glory



From the Registers

Funeral

Peter Robertson - 27 May 2020

Prayer Calendar for June

- 1: Mark, our Primus and Interim Bishop
- 2: Kevin, called to be out Bishop
- 3: All who suffer through Covid 19
- 4: An end to the current pandemic
- 5: All health service workers
- 6: Our local community
- 8: Those that feel alone
- 9: (*St Columba of Iona, Abbot, 597*) Our congregation
- 10: Vacant Charges in the Diocese
- 11: (*Corpus Christi*) Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Holy Communion
- 12: (*St Barnabas, Apostle tr*) H.T & St Barnabas, Paisley
- 13: Residents and staff of our local Care Homes
- 15: Those in positions of power and influence
- 16: The recently bereaved
- 17: Those living with longterm illness
- 18: The anxious
- 19: Local businesses
- 20: Our family and friends both near and far
- 22: Our neighbours
- 23: All carers
- 24 (*Birth of John the Baptist*) Children and young people
- 25: Our clergy
- 26: The depressed
- 27: Neighbouring church congregations
- 29: (*St Peter and St Paul, Apostles*) All clergy
- 30: Our Vestry

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Bishop's Lent Appeal

It is still not too late to pass on your contribution to this year's Bishop's Lent Appeal. This will go to the work of Glasgow City Mission. Please pass your offering on to our treasurer, Chris Evans, as soon as possible.

Aftertimes

The warm wind awakens my senses
Caressing the skin on my arms.
Birds chirrup and call and raise new life forms
While Nature displays all her charms.

The mist on the sea casts a watery haze:
Sun prevails high in the sky.
While I, a mere mortal am treated to wonders
And boats in the distance pass by.

On top of this hill, surrounded by green
My heart knows its place on this earth:
Giving thanks for the gifts of Gaia's great splendour
And dreams of a better re-birth.

This solitary time brought chances a-plenty
For reflection on all that is fair-
Those things that have value and not to be wasted
The people and places most dear.

So when time has passed and the threat has diminished,
I hope we will all keep in mind
That we got through it safely by pulling together.
There was time to be thoughtful and kind.

Armored Allan

Keeping yourself safe

At the recent “virtual” Vestry meeting which was conducted through a computer application called “Zoom” where all vestry members could remain in their homes but partake in the vestry meeting. it was requested I as a Hospital Consultant make a few comments about the Coronavirus Pandemic. This continues to be a very challenging time for parishioners requiring as it does social distancing and remaining at home. Absence of the opportunities to see friends at church meetings or meet families and friends in person compound our situation.

Particular additional restrictions on those over 70 and Shielding of those with severe medical conditions are additional burdens. As the Protecting Vulnerable Groups representative, the Vestry wish me to encourage you if you are in this group to continue keeping yourself safe. If you require assistance for medications or groceries then please contact the Rector or myself who can assist you.

Tim

Dr Timothy Johnston
Congregational PVG Officer



WhatsApp

If you'd like to access a further mode of communication, please contact Hilary Moran on: **07989 693410** and text her your mobile number to join our new Church WhatsApp Group. This will allow you to hear from members of the congregation regularly and catch up on what is happening and share ideas etc.

Virtual Vestry Notes

Minutes of Meeting, 5th May 2020 Held over Zoom

Matters Arising

Chris the treasurer did start going through the past accounts in the office but has stopped due to lockdown.

Sea Sunday: Gordon has arranged the next Sea Sunday service for Sunday 30th August 2020 at 11am. We will have to wait to see when lockdown is finished.

Eco congregation: Hilary will try to have a chat with the Scottish churches eco minister. We could invite him to kick start this on Harvest Sunday 1 October 2020, if things are back to relative normal by then. **Hilary**

Correspondence

Hilary received a letter from the Diocesan Office stating that Bishop Kevin would be starting his duties as Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway on 1 July 2020.

A letter was received from Faith in Older People stating there is financial support for older people at this time if needed, Hilary put a connection to this fund on Largs People Facebook Helping Hands page. They also suggested we as a church write to our local nursing homes, the suggestion was passed on to Eileen Binns, Pastoral care member.

The letter from the Diocesan Secretary was published in the magazine about the collection of funds for the Bishop's lent appeal.

Reports

Congregational matters: Gordon has been phoning around and offering help. He has held 2 funerals in April.

Treasurers report: Chris gave out budget report as of 1 May 2020. It was noted that we should have been receiving the Dean's allowance, as the Rector is working as stand-in Dean. This stopped

in December. It is £1300 per month, so quite valuable towards our cash flow. Gordon will follow this up.

Chris said our outgoing is reduced now, due to no cleaners or organist needed and switching off the heating. He had received a good response from the letters he sent out about free will offerings and has received these in cheques or standing order. He received a substantial donation also.

Health and Safety: Nothing relevant as we are not meeting. The German churches are opening. Some debate whether singing will be discouraged due to possible increased spread of virus when singing. We will await guidelines.

Mission Action Plan: Gordon arranged a mission action planning meeting with Lorna, Norma, William and Hilary prior to lockdown. They discussed our welcome, could it be improved? Could we provide prayer resources to be used during the week for visitors? Could we liven up the little welcoming cards in each pew, with colour and different welcoming words. As our Christingle Christmas Eve service is so popular with young families we had hoped to replicate and publicise something similar for around Easter. The photo gallery in the hall needs totally upgrading as soon as we are out of lockdown.

Discussion took place regarding the purchase of a few Bibles for reference in church. As there are both visual and auditory learners having the resource of a Bible would be useful to some members of the congregation as well as to visitors. The Rector suggested buying the Redemptionist pew sheets with the readings on, these are blank on the back for notices. There was general agreement that this might be good to trial. These will be sourced for when lockdown is finished. The vestry also agreed to the purchasing of some NRSV bibles for use in church.

Property: All work on the property needs to wait until after lockdown. The most pressing will be the dry rot in the vestry room. But we are glad the insurers have agreed to cover the work necessary for this repair. The grass cutting is continuing on a regular basis and weed killing has started on all the paths. Work on the memorial garden will continue and the church heating research will progress once we are through lockdown.

Protection of vulnerable: Our PVG officer will put a form of words together to express that we as a church are aware of our responsibilities and care for the safety and wellbeing of our members and the wider community. This can go in the next magazine.

Social/ Fundraising: There was a What's App group formed in Kilmarnock and members found this very enjoyable to be in contact with church friends. Hilary has set one up and would like to encourage all church members to join. Please text your mobile phone number to her mobile and she will attach you 07989693410. You need to download the What's App app to your phone and create an account first. If we could start getting some vestry members that would be great! It was pointed out that there is a way to keep numbers private, which Hilary will investigate.

Risk Register: Alice Tim and Andrew had a meeting prior to lockdown. Alice will write up the minutes and distribute. They discussed many risks that they feel we are addressing, but we do not have a system in place to record what has been done and is in place. Such as updating the First Aid box or recording and following up after accidents happening. **Alice**

AOCB

Andrew wanted to thank Gordon for the Reflections he has offered and for our Holy Week video worship. The vestry felt it has been genuinely nice and a new way of interacting given our new situation. We all felt that some continued way of worshiping online with Zoom or through video is very enjoyable and accessible to a wider community of people. Could we have a Zoom Sunday service? Gordon will investigate suitable liturgy for this.

Date of next meeting: The next meeting will be Tuesday 30 June 2020 7pm.

V.E. Day Remembered

My mother's sister Lucinda was 18 when war broke out, and she joined the ATS and was attached to AA batteries. She was 24, and an officer, stationed at Egham at the end of the war, and this is part of a letter she wrote to her parents in Ireland:

I went up to London on VE Day. It was absolutely wonderful. First we went to Westminster Abbey & took part in the thanksgiving service. My only crab at this was we never prayed for the men in the Far East, which I think was rather remiss, after all the war isn't really over

Then we went to Piccadilly Circus. You've no idea how amazing it was. Crowds & crowds of people, all dressed up & wearing colours & waving flags. Heaps of Yanks with cameras, snapping away. Poles, French, Norwegian etc. You know the statue of Eros was taken down, and the place is all boarded up? Well, one Commando bloke somehow managed to climb to the top & posed like Eros. Of course there was terrific cheering from the crowd, so then he took off his hat & bowed & waved. Someone handed him a flag & he made everyone give three cheers. Eventually lots of other people clambered up & they even dragged some women up – by their arms, they were just dangling in the air poor things! I could have stayed there all the morning, but we had so much to see that we tore ourselves away & went & had some lunch at the Overseas Club. After lunch we went to St Paul's where the band of the Coldstream Guards was playing & then to the Mansion House where we listened to Churchill's speech over the loud speakers & then the Lord Mayor came out on the balcony & gave a short speech. I wasn't very impressed with him. Then we went to Whitehall & waited outside the Ministry of Health to see & hear Churchill. He was meant to speak at 5 o'clock, but was three quarters of an hour late.

The crowd got very impatient & started yelling "we want Winnie – we want Winnie", "One two three four, what the hell are we waiting for" & all sorts of things. They also blew whistles & hooters & cheered & yelled. My legs were nearly giving way by the time he did come, but it was well worth waiting for. We had a good position just opposite the balcony, & had an excellent view of the old man.

I've never heard anything like the noise, people nearly went crazy & you could see he was very much moved. All the other cabinet ministers were with him, but we didn't notice them much. He made a very short speech, but I am glad I saw him. Trying to get out of Whitehall was killing. There were two guardsmen behind me & one of them said "I'd never dare to push an officer round like this on the parade ground, but it's one of the good things about war that I can now"! Then he said "Just you faint ma'am & I'll get you out of here quickly" He was very nice & pushed in front of us & so we got out by following him.

Having been on our feet from 7 that morning we didn't go to the Palace but instead went back to Egham & we saw the searchlight display quite well, & had a few drinks at the local, which held out till midnight, tho' we left about 10.30, as we were so dead.

Gib Fitzgibbon

Virtual Worship

During this unique period of lockdown the congregation has sought to continue it's diet of worship by sharing online resources offered by the Province. This has been supplemented by the Rector offering reflections on the gospel of the day each Sunday via YouTube, Facebook and our church website.

In the past few weeks we have been able to offer a 'Service of the Word' on Sundays at 10.00am (so as not to conflict with the weekly Provincial Eucharist online at 11.00am).

Our online services have known their share of technical glitches, but those who have participated in them have valued the opportunity to worship together in real time. They have allowed some individual members to contribute to the service offering the scripture readings and the prayers.

It seems likely that we will not be permitted to gather together in the church building for some time yet, and so this online real time facility will continue to be used (via the conferencing programme 'Zoom') each Sunday until further notice.

This has been complimented by the Rector's weekly reflections on the gospel each Sunday as mentioned above.

I am grateful to Lorna and Andrew Reid for all their assistance in helping with this new worship media and ask that you, as members and friends of St Columba's, bear with any technical idiosyncrasies that may arise - this is a big learning curve for all of us!

The Rector

Peter Robertson

The longest serving member of St Columba's, Peter Robertson, sadly died on 16 May. Peter's connection with St Columba's goes back to the 1920s and the earliest years of his long life. During that time he has served the local community and this congregation with unswerving devotion and diligence.

Due to the current circumstances Peter's funeral, on 27 May, was small and private. It is hoped that later this year it will be possible to offer a fitting church service of thanksgiving for him. Peter will be sorely missed by our congregation and our prayers continue for him and for Elspeth and all their family.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:

A healing heart practice for painful emotions

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me bring love.

Where there is offence, let me bring pardon.

Where there is discord, let me bring union.

Where there is doubt, let me bring faith.

Where there is despair, let me bring hope.

Where there is darkness, let me bring light.

Where there is sadness, let me bring joy.

The words of this prayer give a pretty accurate description of my emotional landscape over these past months.

Hatred - or if not hatred at least a pretty good measure of animosity about the way things have played out.

Offense, when people bump up against me in Morrisons, and politicians say one thing and do another.

Discord, and generally feeling out of sorts.

Doubt and uncertainty and mistrust.

Despair, and an undercurrent of fearfulness about the future.

Darkness.

Sadness.

Deep, deep sadness for all that has been lost - and not yet fully mourned.

Given the way life is unfolding in our world at the moment, these emotions are reasonable and understandable and common. They are also painful and difficult.

If not treated with care, emotions like these could lead me, and everyone else who has experienced them, to be anything but an *'instrument of peace'* in the world.

I'm grateful that words of the prayer also offer us a way to attend to and ***be with*** such afflictive feeling states.

A way that honours the reality of what is.

A way that brings healing and hope.

A way that turns toward painful feelings with care.

Maybe you could read the reworked words of this prayer slowly.

Maybe you could pause, with a breath, between each line.

Lord.

Make me an instrument of your peace.

May the pain of this hatred, the one that feels dense and full of heat, be held in a compassionate and loving presence.

May the tightness of these offended feelings, the ones with a storyline on repeat in my mind, find freedom in letting be and letting go.

May this fizzy discord, the one like static electricity buzzing about in my veins, come into alignment with my next out breath.

And the next.

And the next.

May the sinking feelings doubt and despair, the ones that are treading on thin ice, know that there is a pathway to firm and solid ground.

May this sad swampy darkness that is restless and breathless and cold, be held tenderly in the glow of awareness.

May these feelings find hope in remembering the courage and kindness of strangers - strangers who've kept shelves stocked and bins emptied and people locked down in care homes and hospitals attended to and cared for.

May they draw strength, and maybe even a moment of joy, from the blueness of sky and the redness of azaleas.

Lord.

Make me an instrument of your peace.

Lorna Reid

A few resources during Lockdown

With card shops being closed at present, I just wanted to let you know I have quite a selection of Birthday, Thinking of you, Get well soon and Bereavement cards. All quality Mothers' Union cards which I could leave at any door step in the Largs area. Please ring if your running short, 686213. It is nice to be able to send cards to friends just now to say you are thinking of them.

For those without the Internet, it must be more difficult. Just wanted to raise awareness of a Daily Hope phone line. It is run by the church of England and offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services at the end of a telephone line. It is available 24hrs a day on 0800 804 8044.

If there are any knitters out there then small knitted love hearts have been given to Intensive Care Units for those sick patients to know that they are loved. I'm sure I could find a pattern and organise delivery if there was interest.

Hilary



10.00am Sunday Service of the Word

from St Columba's Scottish Episcopal Church,
Largs on 'Zoom'

Join others in real-time worship each week via this invitation:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86167917130?
pwd=MVN5VldVUWRNd3hpdm5palR4V1VOU09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86167917130?pwd=MVN5VldVUWRNd3hpdm5palR4V1VOU09)

Meeting ID: **861 6791 7130**

Password: **287966**

This invitation is valid until Sunday, 5 July 2020

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A virtual Patronal Festival

Evening Prayer will be offered via Zoom at 7.00pm on Tuesday, 9 June, (St Columba's Day) to mark our Patronal Festival.

Please look out for the invitation by email - NB: **This will be different from the Sunday invitation mentioned above.**

Those that join might want to stay on after this brief service for some time to socialise. Bring your own bottle!

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Sunday readings for June 2020

Date / Day	Sunday Readings
7 June <i>Trinity Sunday</i>	Isa 40:12-17, 27-31; 2 Cor 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20
14 June <i>Pentecost 2</i>	Exodus 19:2-8a; Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35-10:8
21 June <i>Pentecost 3</i>	Jeremiah 20:7-13; Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39
28 June <i>Pentecost 4</i>	Jeremiah 28:5-9; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42

Diocesan website: <http://glasgow.anglican.org>

Diocesan Centre,
5 St Vincent Place, Glasgow, G1 2DH.
Tel: 0141 221 6911 email: office@glasgow.anglican.org

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

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
Secretary	Hilary Moran
Treasurer and Lay Representative	Chris Evans
Rector's Warden	Lorna Reid
People's Warden	Alice MacDonald

Members

	Mark Yeomans
	Stuart Robertson
	Tim Johnston
	Annemauraide Hamilton
Alternate Lay Representative	Janine Millward
	Andrew Reid

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

Scottish Charity Number SC004796

The deadline for the July/August magazine is Sunday 21 June.

magazine articles should be sent to gordon.fyfe@icloud.com

Life at St Columba's

Director of Music	Euan Fulton	07814 268 205
Property Convenor	Stuart Robertson	675681
Fundraising Committee	William Clark-Ferguson	07835 454534
Protection of Vulnerable Groups	Timothy Johnston	

Appointed by the Vestry and approved by the Bishop

Mothers' Union	Hilary Moran	686213
Church Hall Diary	Chris Evans	673757
	<i>Deals with hall bookings</i>	
Flowers	Joan Hutton	672927
Sidesmen	Alice MacDonald	673370
Christian Aid	Jane Evans	673757
	Alice MacDonald	673370

Representative on inter-church Christian Aid Committee

Regional Council	William Clark-Ferguson	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	Alice MacDonald Fiona Reader	673370
Press Officer	Hilary Moran	686213
Columba's Creatives	Rector	673143
Health & Safety Officer	William Clark-Ferguson	07835 454534

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