

St. Columba's Parish Church of Scotland Glenrothes

Summer 2015



Message from the minister.....

Dear members of the St Columba's church family,

Psalm 74:17 - You set the limits of the earth; you made summer and winter.

Through June, we have reflected on the Psalms on Sunday mornings and God's love for us at all times and in all situations. At this time of year, there is a change in pace in the life of the church, but there is still a lot going on in the life of the church. Last year we joined together with three other churches for shared services in July. Many people enjoyed the wonderful atmosphere of joining with so many other people to worship on Sunday mornings. Therefore, we will be repeating this for July.

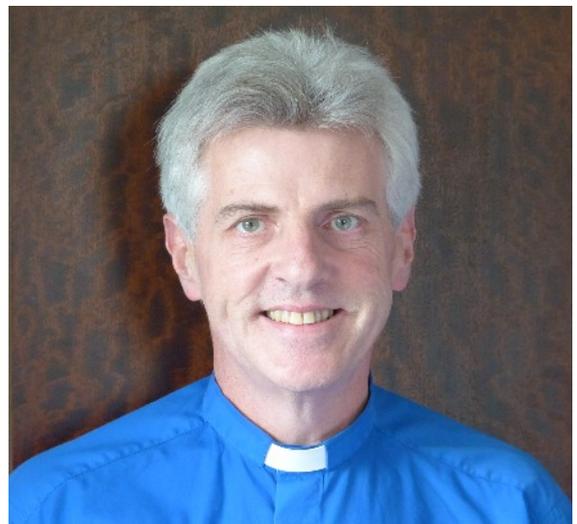
This year the services will be 5th July – Christ's Kirk, 12th July – Leslie Trinity, 19th July – St Columba's, 26th July – St Margaret's. Each service will be held at 10:30am and transport will be provided from St Columba's at 10am on the 5th, 12th and 26th.

On a different topic, some of you will know that when I was training for ministry, I did a 10 week placement working with three village churches near Zomba in Malawi. On the day I left, the Session Clerk of the church in Chuluchosema came to see me and said "Alan, when you are in a church in Scotland, we would like to be twinned with your church". I explained that twinning would only be possible if that was the right thing for the Kirk Session and congregation. The Kirk Session at St Columba's has considered whether twinning would be helpful. A steering group has been set up and we met with the World Mission twinning co-ordinator and with other churches who have twinning arrangements. The Session has now agreed that we should try to set up a twinning relationship with Chuluchosema. You will hopefully hear more about this in the coming months.

In the Kirk Session and other discussions, we have been very aware that isolation and loneliness can be big problems for people in our community, especially for those who live on their own. Already the church is providing great opportunities through the Grapevine Café, Sunshine Tours and other activities. Also, I am very aware that many people in the congregation visit neighbours and help each other. Over the next few months we will be looking at other ways the church family can support people. If you have any thoughts or ideas, please get in touch.

Meanwhile, I hope we get some good weather over the summer months and you get a chance to enjoy it.

Best wishes,
Alan



Congregational Board News

The following news is taken from our meeting in April.

Treasurer – It was confirmed that Brian Lumsden had agreed to take on the role of Treasurer for a year. A review of the processes will be carried out to see what areas could be given to others to carry out.

Speakers in Sanctuary – A visit had been carried out by Ian Robb from CARTA (Committee on Church Art and Architecture) to look at our proposals for new speakers. We await his Report.

Treasurer's Report – the following is a note of the balances at the end of March in our Funds.

General Fund Opening Balance	£32,379
Closing Balance	£32,587
Building Maintenance Fund Opening Balance	£14,014
Closing Balance	£15,440
Building Improvement Fund Opening Balance	£27,061
Closing Balance	£27,187

Gift Aid – submissions have been made including the declaration of the Small Gift Aid Scheme.

Refurbishment of the Bell Tower and Canopy – Our application for funding has been submitted to Fife Environment Trust. Tenders documents are due to be issued shortly.

Fabric – decoration to the kitchen and stairs and landing, together with a repair to the study floor and the fitting of a new carpet in the study have all been completed. A new dividing fence to the front of the manse is being put in by the neighbours and the Board agreed we would make a contribution of £200 towards this. Painting work in the large hall is programmed to start on 23 May. The floor in this hall has also been varnished. Work is also due to start on the northwest window area of the sanctuary.

Fundraising – It was reported that £329 had been raised at our recent Afternoon Tea.

Board Committees – the following appointments were approved;

Finance/Hall Letting – Brian Lumsden, Shona Lumsden, Andrew Turnbull and Mike Hay.

Property/Fabric – Jim Miller, Eric Christie, Stuart Harley, Bill Dougall and Sheila Walker.

Fundraising – June Thomson, Beth Johnston, Alice Davidson and Jean Clunie.

Household/Garden & Grounds – Jim Shand, Arlene Russell, Jean Christie and Nancy Howie.

Proposed Cycle Route – We have been approached by Fife Council regarding a proposed Cycle Route outside the Church. They have asked if the Church would allow them to adopt a 1m strip of our land to achieve the width of footpath required for the cycle route. The Board agreed in principle with this request but contact will be made with the General Trustees to obtain their comments on this.

Carol Gibson, Clerk to the Board

Some newsletters are now distributed by e-mail. If you would like to join in this method of receiving St. Columba's news, please e-mail your details to info@st-columbas.com



The Grapevine Cafe will be closed for the summer from 8th July and will re-open on Wednesday 2nd September from 2 - 4pm. All welcome.

KIRK SESSION REPORT

As we no longer have District Elders, the Session is conscious that we do not have many opportunities to chat or discuss ideas with our members. So we are trying an experiment. We have invited all our members who live in the South Parks Precinct to meet with us informally for a cup of tea and a chat. If this is successful it is hoped to extend it to the other areas in the Parish.

This year St Columba's will participate in the Fife 'Open Doors Day' on Sunday, 13 September.

Plans are continuing to establish a link with a Church in Malawi. The focus would be on a two way relationship where the benefits are felt by both parties in the arrangement, and there is a greater opportunity for personal relationships to develop.

Recently a donation of £646 was sent to Jenny Featherstone, World Mission Partner in Zambia to help with the training of some young apprentices.

Following the success of the arrangements for Glenrothes Churches to worship together during the month of July, it has been agreed to do it again this year. (Details are given in the Newsletter.) For those who need it, transport will be provided from St Columba's.

The Kirk Session sincerely thanked Jim Anderson who recently retired as our Church Treasurer. Brian Lumsden has agreed to take on this responsibility.

ROTHES TRINITY PARISH GROUPING

The Group has agreed to have three joint worship services each year. The first one was on 1 April, during Holy Week when a large congregation worshipped together in Leslie Trinity. The next one is planned for Sunday, 21 June at 7 pm in St Ninian's and the third one will take place in St Columba's on Sunday, 1 November at 3 pm. You are invited to come along and worship with our friends from the other Churches.

It is planned to issue a weekly intimation sheet, detailing events which might be of interest to the three Churches.

A Workshop on how we might minister to those with Dementia and Special Needs will be held in St Columba's on 17 September.

SUNDAY MORNING TIME FOR PRAYER

It is intended to start a prayer group which will meet on the first Sunday of each month on Sunday morning from 10 a.m. to 10.40 a.m. We aim to start this in September 2015. This will be held in the Bobby Brown Room. It will be an opportunity to pray either silently or out loud with others. We will have various themes and prayer activities through out the year.



I look forward to meeting anybody who thinks this is a meeting they may wish to join. Just pop in any time.

Arlene Russell

Extract from a letter from our Mission Partner, Jenny Featherstone in Zambia.

Thank you so much for your wonderful donation towards the training of our young carpenters and tailors. We are very grateful for you and our other friends in the Fife area who have together raised the money to sponsor 10 out of our 13 young men and women who would otherwise not have had the opportunity or the means to learn a trade. I am enclosing a couple of photos of this years classes. All 9 carpentry students need help with funding and 3 of the tailors, although some of the tailoring class may struggle to pay later on in the year if the parent or sponsor loses their job / gets sick.

I would be really happy to skype and thank you / church members personally if there is the opportunity, and, although I know it is not always possible, I will genuinely welcome guests from my "home" churches if you want to get a fuller picture of life's joys and challenges over here.

Every good wish, Jenny



Chileya is the carpentry instructor on the left and earlier this year he was teaching the students how to put up the ceilings in our new classrooms.



Glenrothes and Böblingen Ecumenical Group

The purpose of the group is to advance the Christian religion, by promoting and encouraging the quest for greater spiritual understanding among the people of the churches within the Christian religion of both Glenrothes and Böblingen, both in work and worship by promoting and fostering Church links between the Christian churches of both towns.

September 2014 saw our 15 friends from Böblingen sharing our homes, praise and worship in friendship and love. Visits were organised (and enjoyed) to the Kelpies, Blackness Castle, lunch at Stirling Campus, Culross, South Queensferry, (Nick Nairn lunch!), and a civic reception from Fife Council in the Rothes Halls. The highlight for many of us was the Songs of Praise held in St Columba's Church to celebrate our links with Böblingen Christians. The service was well supported by all churches, and the bi-lingual singing of well loved hymns was superb. 2 candles were lit to mark the anniversary of the outbreak of the 1st World War, to signify reconciliation which is ongoing, and emphasise the love and faith that bind us together in Christ's love.

This happy group has been active since 1992, and is now looking to increase membership, and to give you the opportunity to take part in this important link with our Twin Town. 2016 will see us visiting Böblingen once more, and we would love to have new members joining us to build on the links already established.

We are holding a garden party at 29 Braid Drive (Bob and Joan's) on Thursday 23rd July at 5pm, and a German Night in September. All are welcome to attend. More details are to follow shortly. We would warmly welcome new members of all ages to any of our meetings.

Find us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/GBEGchurches>

Please contact our membership secretary Mary McIndoe for more information on 01592 759108, or marymcindoe30@gmail.com