



# St. Columba's Parish Church of Scotland Glenrothes

Winter 2014

## Message from the minister.....

Dear friends in the St Columba's church family,

As I write this, we have just moved into Advent, the time of waiting. As we move towards Christmas, we focus on God's love for us embodied in Jesus. Emmanuel – God with us. For many people, this is a time of celebration and rejoicing. It's also a time that can be hard as we remember those no longer with us, or we are anxious about the year ahead.

Christmas is described as a family time, and we often talk about the 'church family'. We look forward to celebrating as a church family in our services on Sunday Mornings through Advent and Messy Church at 4pm on Sunday 14th. Then, on Christmas Eve, we have our Christingle family service at 6:30pm and Watchnight Service at 11:30pm (with mince pies from 10:45pm), followed by a short family service (bring your presents) at 10:30am in Christmas Day. Finally, we round off the year with Carols and Communion on Sunday 28th.

As a family, we also seek to support each other. I have been told by several people about how much they have felt welcomed in St Columba's. It's great when a family shows hospitality in welcoming others.

Being a family also means sharing. This starts with our Gift Day and carries on through Advent and into next year. On Saturday 13th at 12 noon, we will gather with friends from other churches on the steps in front of the library in the Kingdom Centre for an hour of Carol Singing. We will share Jesus, Emmanuel – God with us, with the Christmas shoppers. Then throughout the year the church will again be actively involved in supporting the Foodbank, Christian Aid, the 'Y' and many other groups. Through our actions, we will share the Good News of Jesus, Emmanuel – God with us, in Glenrothes and beyond.

Wishing you a happy, peaceful and sharing Christmas,

Alan (01592) 742233



From Chile:

I shall attend to all my little errands of love early this year  
So that the days before Christmas may be unhampered and clear  
Of the fever of hurry. The breathless rushing that I have known in the past  
Shall not possess me. I shall be calm in my soul and ready at last  
For Christmas. 'The birth of Christ'. I shall kneel and call out his name  
I shall take time to watch the beautiful light of a candle's flame  
I shall have leisure. I shall go out alone from my door

I shall not miss the silver silence of the stars as I have done before  
And so, perhaps, if I stand very still and very long,  
I shall hear what the clamour of living has kept from me - the angel's song.



## Congregational Board News

**Gift Aid Convenor** – Brian Lumsden was appointed as our new Gift aid Convenor

**Ministries & Mission Allocation** – The Board was happy to note that in response to our application for a reduction in our M & M Allocation, we have received a reduction of £6,100 to go towards the work of GROW and £2,000 to go towards our Professional Fees in connection with the Report produced by our Architect, Stephen Newsom.

**Removal of Pew** – some of you may have noticed that we have removed another pew, this is to accommodate our worshippers who are in wheelchairs.

**Finances** –the following information was supplied to the Board;

<b>General Fund</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
1 January opening balance	£33,530	£30,772
Income to 31 October	£55,557	£53,582
Expenditure to 31 October	<u>£59,496</u>	<u>£59,717</u>
31 October closing balance	£29,591	£24,637

The sponsored cycle run on behalf of GROW raised £490. The DEC Appeal for Iraq raised £264 and the Harvest Appeal raised £158 which was used to buy further supplies for the Foodbank. Our Autumn Fayre excelled and raised £1,385.20.

### **Income comparison from the principal funding areas**

	<b><u>2014</u></b>	<b><u>2013</u></b>
FWO	£36,151	£36,955
Open Plate	£ 4,252	£ 3,683
Hall Hire (50%)	£ 7,293	£ 6.527



**Property – Bell Tower and Canopy Refurbishment** – The Board was informed that a meeting had taken place with our Architect, Stephen Newsom on 30 October. In addition to refurbishing the Bell Tower and Canopy we also want to improve the disabled access and also added in the repair of the Bell mechanism. With these two additional items it is estimated that our project will cost in the region of £75,000. At present Stephen is working on producing a draft programme for discussion and we are identifying various sources of funding. We still have to seek Presbytery's and the General Trustees permission for this work to go ahead and this will be done once we have all the necessary documentation in place.

**Fabric** – It was noted that our annual PAT Testing and Fire equipment Inspection had been carried out. We have had some issues with water coming in at the southeast corner in the sanctuary and we have had a builder and roofer up to inspect this. The outcome of this is that we may need to clean the high level outlets four times a year. We are waiting on a price for this work from the roofer. The Church and Manse were subject to a Quinquennial Inspection which was carried out on behalf of Presbytery by Hardies. We have received their Reports and at present we are using this as a basis for our future Maintenance Plans.

**Stated Annual Meeting** – The Stated Annual Meeting of the congregation will take place on Sunday, 22 March 2015 after Worship.

Carol Gibson  
Clerk to the Board

## KIRK SESSION REPORT

St Columba's is planning to design and produce a Christmas Card this year which will be distributed to about 200 organisations and businesses in our parish. To save money it is hoped to deliver them by hand.

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At our Harvest Thanksgiving Service £264 was donated to the DEC Appeal and £158 to the local Foodbank. In November £272 was also donated to the DEC Ebola Appeal. Thank you all for your continued generosity.

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After the service at the War Memorial on 9 November, we were pleased to welcome so many people who joined us for worship in St Columba's.

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Ally Stark spoke to the Kirk Session about the success of Illumin8, the Youth Group which he has set up at St Ninian's. It was agreed in principle that he should explore the feasibility of establishing a similar group at St Columba's.

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It has been agreed that the Guild will go into abeyance for a year.



### PASTORAL CARE

A short informal Communion Service was held on the afternoon of Sunday, 16 November, and afterwards we enjoyed tea and a chat together. As you know, these services are arranged mainly for people who have difficulty coming to Sunday morning worship, but anyone is welcome to join us.

We are aware also that some members are finding it difficult to get to Church because of mobility problems or lack of transport. If anyone has a spare seat in their car and is willing to help, please speak to one of us.

Thank you to everyone who tells us about people who are in hospital or who are ill at home. Your help is much appreciated.

Margaret Dougall & Cathie Gilchrist



### ROTHES TRINITY PARISH GROUPING

It has been agreed that our Grouping would organise three united services each year, perhaps in an afternoon or evening. It is hoped that many of you will come along as we try to get to know one another better.

The Steering Group has suggested that all the Glenrothes Churches should set up a Tent for worship/information, etc. at community events in the town and that our Grouping has a Worship Tent at Leslie Gala and Tanshall Community Fete.

### HOUSE GROUP

A group of our members has been meeting regularly in the evening for bible study and fellowship. Some people have expressed an interest in this, but do not want to attend an evening meeting. If you are interested in coming to a daytime group, please speak to Alan or to one of the Session Clerks.



## Prayer Time

You are the God of every moment through the ages. You have done everything at the right time in your own time. You created our world in six days, not in one, allowing the darkness to be in place before the sky was formed, or the seas. When plants arrived, you had already provided the light, water, heat and soil to fulfil their needs.

Then in your own time, you filled the earth with all manner of living creatures.

Finally, in your own time, you filled the earth with all manner of living creatures.

Finally, in your own time, you created men and women in your own image.

Lord, when the waiting becomes too long and the temptation to do things in our time comes, grant us the patience to trust in your timing and remember the order of your creation.



**For the latest news and information - visit the new web site [www.st-columbas.com](http://www.st-columbas.com)**

## St Columba's Parish Church of Scotland, Glenrothes

Home Christmas Services Find St Columba's

Welcome to St Columba's  
News

### Worship

Sunday Services  
Communion  
Special Services  
Messy Church  
Junior Church  
Music and Choir  
Flowers  
Baptism  
Weddings  
Funerals

### Church Family

Kirk Session  
Communication/Other Churches

Welcome to St Columba's



## Christmas Worship

All are welcome at these services of worship.

**Sunday 21st** 11am Nativity Service

**Christmas Eve** 6.30pm Christingle Family Service followed by refreshments  
10.45pm Mince pies followed by Watchnight Service at 11.30pm

**Christmas Day** Short Informal worship at 10.30am

**Sunday 28th** at 11am Carols and Communion

