

St. Columba's Hillhead Church Magazine



Welcome to Kirkintilloch St Columba's Hillhead Church



Christmas 2025

St Columba's Hillhead Parish Church is situated on two sites - the St Columba's site and the Hillhead site. The addresses of these are below: -

**St Columba's
Old Aisle Road
Kirkintilloch
G66 3HQ**

**Hillhead Halls
2 Rosebank Avenue
Kirkintilloch
G66 2PR**

Minister: Rev. Philip Wright

Telephone: 07427 623393
E-mail: PWright@churchofscotland.org.uk

Charity No. SC008735

From the Manse

At this time of year, it seems hardly possible to go anywhere without some reminder that Christmas is on the way. Supermarkets shelves are stacked with Christmas food. TV ads are full of gift ideas. Lights are shining. Tinsel is sparkling. And the sound of Christmas carols is all around.

There are all kinds of songs we hear only at this time of year. Many have no Christian message at all. But, carols celebrating the news of Jesus' birth still take their place in the seasonal playlist of radio stations, superstores, and buskers alike.

One of my favourite carols is 'O little town of Bethlehem'. Like many traditional carols, it was written in the nineteenth century. In 1868, to be precise. One couplet of that carol reads as follows:

*the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.*

I've sung these lines often. When I think about the prophecies of Old Testament Scripture about the coming Messiah, I find it easy to understand how the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem 'meets' the hopes of all the years. But what does it mean for Jesus to 'meet' the fears of all the years?

Philip Brooks, who wrote that carol, was born in Boston. He went on to be ordained as an Episcopal priest. He wrote the carol three years after visiting Bethlehem himself and that no doubt inspired his writing. He also wrote it three years after the American civil war, and three years after the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. It was a time of new beginnings. It was a time of political turmoil. It was a time of 'hopes and fears'.

Much has changed since 1868. But we still have 'hopes and fears'. This carol reminds us that whatever we hope for this Christmas time, our best hope of all is in Jesus. The Good News of Christmas is that God in love has reached down to us! The carol also reminds us, though I think we often miss this, that Jesus is the answer to all our fears. He is 'Immanuel', 'God with us', in what a favourite author of mine calls 'the muck and mess of life'. With Jesus, we can face anything at all. He is more than equal to all our fears.

May you know God's blessing this Christmas and in the New Year.

**Your minister and friend,
Philip**

The Church Family



Deaths

It is with great sadness that we record the deaths of John Semple, Molly Wilmoth, Norman Millington, and John Spencer. We give thanks to God for them. We extend our sympathy, love and prayers to all those who are bereaved.

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His faithful servants. Psalm 116:15.

Thank You

Isabel and I would like to thank everyone for the beautiful flowers we received, for the expressions of good wishes and prayers from so many folks within the Congregation while I have been in Hospital and recuperating. Your kindness and support has been greatly appreciated. Many thanks one again.

Keith Saunders

Membership

If you are considering membership or baptism at St Columba's Hillhead, please speak with the Minister.

The Upper Room - from a new reader

After I was fairly suddenly bereaved last year, a friend, Ian Gibb introduced me to The Upper Room and offered to send me a copy in the New Year. A further challenge has faced me this year as in January I was diagnosed with breast cancer which would require an operation, followed by both chemotherapy and radiotherapy. My chemo sessions started towards the end of May so, as you can imagine, I had and still will have quite challenging times to deal with.

I accepted Ian's offer of The Upper Room and would find it hard to be without it now. I have a little Border Terrier called Rannoch and first thing in the morning I come downstairs to let him into the garden, make myself a cup of tea and take it back upstairs to read each day's entry.

The subtitle on the first page is so apt – 'Where the world meets to pray'. I have been a church goer most of my life and yes I know how universal Christianity is, but the daily offerings from ordinary Christians far away has been an amazing revelation, making that universality not just factual but a very real sense of wonder and I often find myself checking the atlas to see where these places are in detail.

I enjoy the personal stories in each article and frequently relate strongly to the experiences the writer is expressing and find their responses to those experiences wonderfully encouraging and frequently challenging. I often highlight and sometimes copy out a phrase or part of a prayer.

For me, another side to the concept of The Upper Room is the variety of the books of the Bible from which the daily readings are taking. There's a surprise every day and I find myself wanting to read beyond the given verses, particularly the books that I am less familiar with.

So, even as a very new reader of The Upper Room, it has already had an enormous impact on my life. It's a huge comfort, it's challenging, it's widening my knowledge and understanding of my Bible and mustn't forget- it's improving my Geography.

Prayer at St Columba's Hillhead

The monthly church prayer diary continues to be available every month at the Sunday and Midweek Services. It is encouraging to see so many copies taken away to be used each month. The church prayer diary is an excellent way of joining in daily prayer for the life and witness of the local church, for our mission partners, and for other matters nationally and worldwide. If you don't already make use of the church prayer diary, please do give serious consideration to joining in this ministry.

On Thursday evenings at the manse, all are welcome to join in a time of prayer at 7pm. We start with tea and coffee before moving to prayer. We are usually done by around 8:15pm. Do join us then if you are able. You will be made very welcome. We use the monthly prayer diary as a guide and prompt for our prayers. There is no pressure at all to pray out loud if you don't feel comfortable doing so. However, now that the daily items in the prayer diary are written as standalone prayer, it is possible to simply read one of the daily prayers aloud if you wish to do so. All our prayers, spoken and unspoken, as well as our 'amens' to the prayers of others, are heard alike by our Heavenly Father.

Christmas Stamps

Our collection of used stamps, which can then be sent away for charity, is ongoing throughout the year. Even with the ever increasing cost of postage, meaning that less cards are now being sent at Christmas, this is still the main opportunity of the year to boost our collection. Collection boxes are in the vestibules at both our sites. Please remember, as always, to leave a 1cm. paper border around each stamp.

Thank you.

Mary and Marilyn

Sunday Club

We continue to appreciate having Sunday Club join with us as part of the regular Sunday morning service at St Columba's Hillhead. It has been great to have the 'Little Lights' class for P1-3 start up this term!

The last day of Sunday Club for this year will be Sunday 14 December and it will restart on Sunday 11 January.

We will be having an All Age Nativity at St Columba's on Sunday 21 December. The Sunday morning services on 28 December and 4 January will also be All Age services.

Operation Christmas Child

Once again, we have appreciated the opportunity to support Operation Christmas Child by sending shoeboxes filled with Christmas gifts as an expression of Jesus' love to children in need across the world. This year, a total of 65 boxes, extra bags of 'shoebox fillers' and also several envelopes with donations were given by St Columba's Hillhead Church to Operation Christmas Child. This is a great response and thank you to everyone who donated.



Special Christmas Services at St Columba's Hillhead

We're so glad to be putting on some extra Christmas services once again this year. We've put some dates for your diary below. Do invite friends and family as we celebrate Christmas together and worship and share Jesus, who is the reason for the season.

Sun 21 Dec 10:30am All Age Nativity (St Columba's)

Tue 24 Dec 4:00pm Family Christmas Eve Service (St Columba's)

Wed 25 Dec 10:30am Christmas Day Service (St Columba's)

We are also looking forward to sharing a 'Carol Time' on Tues 16 Dec at Hillhead Halls. This will be at 6:00pm for sandwiches/sausage rolls and 6:45pm for carols – do just come when you are able. We expect this event to finish around 7:30pm and we aim for it to have quite an informal atmosphere. We are hoping that it may be of interest to some who come to other events/groups at Hillhead Halls, but that may not necessarily have a church background. All are very welcome.

Please do note, the Family Christmas Eve Service at 4:00pm will be particularly suitable for pre-school and primary school age children, but we also hope it will be accessible for all age groups.

The Christmas Day Service is an opportunity to give thanks to God for the gift of his Son, Jesus at this most significant moment in the Christian Calendar.

We do hope you will be able to support these services/events.

Gift Aid

We are very grateful for all those who give financially to support the work of the church. Many who do so and who are UK taxpayers have already signed up for the 'gift aid' scheme. This allows the church to reclaim tax on these donations and makes them 'go further'. If you are a UK taxpayer and have not already signed up for 'gift aid' please consider doing so. It is quite straightforward to do. Just ask Willie Stewart for details.

‘New Creations’

As the first copies of this Christmas magazine are delivered, we will be 3 months into our ‘New Creations’ project. ‘New Creations’ is a project that centres on our reaching out as a church through our Toddler Groups ministry. One practical example of ‘New Creations’ in action is in the encouraging attendance from Noah’s Ark for the first part of the Sunday morning service most weeks. However, it is also our intention that ‘New Creations’ will impact more widely on our church and help nurture a ‘missional mindset’ in us all.

We are really grateful to have been given funding for 1 year of ‘New Creations’ by the Church of Scotland’s ‘Seeds for Growth’ scheme. There is a possibility of further funding from ‘Seeds for Growth’ for an additional 2 years. A significant proportion of this grant helps fund our Children and Families Worker, and we are delighted that this has enabled us to extend Cassie’s contract.

Even with Seeds for Growth funding, we continue to depend on the generosity of those who give to the ‘Children and Families Worker’ fund through regular standing order or ‘one-off’ gifts. To those who already give in this way, we want to say, *‘thank you so much, and please continue if you can!’* If you don’t already give to the ‘Children and Families Worker’ fund but would consider doing so, please speak with Neil Bathie, our Treasurer. A small amount each month can make a big difference.

‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.’
Matthew 9:37-38

New Screen in Church Building

We’d like to express our gratitude to the Church Hymnary Trust for generously funding a new display screen for the sanctuary. This replaces our 15-year old data projector which has served us well. Already, we’ve found the words for our songs are much clearer to read. We can also display images and videos much more clearly on the new screen. Thank you, Church Hymnary Trust!

‘Hurting Hearts’ Service at St Columba’s Hillhead

This year, as in previous years, we are having a special service for ‘Hurting Hearts’. This will be at 3pm on Sunday 7 December at St Columba’s. This service will last around 30 minutes and there will be a time for fellowship over tea and coffee afterwards.

Whilst the ‘Hurting Hearts’ service has been helpful for some who have experienced bereavement in previous years, it is also intended for those who carry burdens of different kinds. Anyone who would like to come to the ‘Hurting Hearts’ service is most welcome. There is no need to let anyone know in advance that you are coming.

‘Warm Welcome’ and ‘Connect’

‘Warm Welcome’ continues to run week by week on Wednesday afternoons at Hillhead Halls. Everyone is welcome – come when you can and leave when you must!

Warm Welcome is open from 1pm till 2:45pm. We serve soup and rolls (which have been much appreciated in the colder weather!) as well as tea, coffee and biscuits. Around 1:45pm most Wednesdays we have a short ‘food for thought’ slot, where an informal 3 or 4 minute talk is given from a Christian perspective.

From 3 till 4pm on Wednesday afternoons, we have an after-school group ‘Connect’ for local children. We have a regular group of children who enjoy coming each week for games, activities, Bible stories and snacks. We are glad to be working in partnership with Kirkintilloch Baptist Church to serve the local community through Warm Welcome and ‘Connect’.

Please continue to pray for ‘Warm Welcome’ and ‘Connect’ week by week as we seek to develop and publicise these ministries.

The Mens' Group

Ever the optimist, John Keats posed the question “If winter comes can spring be far behind?”

Well, Mr Keats had obviously never lived in the west of Scotland where our weather has been characterised as long grey winters followed by short grey summers! In the middle of the winter it's often difficult to see as far as the welcoming spring, grey though it may be.

However, members of the Mens' Club are taking steps to mitigate the dreichness by meeting every Monday evening in the Church halls.

So. How is the Mens Club doing?

Well, it would be tempting fate to say that it's doing well.

But Och! Who cares about fate?

So Yes! The Mens' Club is doing well.

This session we have 5 new members and the Club has seen a bit of revitalisation. One example of this is that the table tennis table has gone from being an interesting example of post modernist design stuck in a corner to an active participant in the life of the club. A sign of this increase in activity is the number of men seen hirpling painfully around Kirkintilloch on Tuesday mornings.

We are also aiming to improve our Cantonese since our latest member has come all the way from Hong Kong to join us.

We are entering our competition season, starting in November with the Billy Paterson Night, named after a former and well loved Club member.

The main competitions start just into the new year, so over the Christmas period, expect to see Club members running half marathons, climbing Munros and swimming the length of the Forth and Clyde Canal. All this will be in preparation for the Dominoes contest.

Men's Group (cont'd)

Other games such as pool, snooker, darts, carpet bowls and table tennis will obviously require a much more rigorous training regime. Ultra marathons, iron man contests and swimming the English Channel both ways come to mind.

But maybe the best part of the Club evenings is the chat, the cut and thrust of friendly banter around tea time, particularly aimed at the appalling tea making skills of certain members.

So Yes! Fair to say the Club is in good heart (at the time of writing) and we are always looking to welcome new members. Anyone interested will be assured of a warm “Hello” and a lukewarm cup of tea or coffee. The only requirement for membership is to be born with a Y chromosome.

Jim Kennedy (Chair)

The Guild

Hi everyone, we are now just about halfway through the session for the Guild, and I think everyone is enjoying it. We are a warm and friendly group, well attended, but there is still more room for new members, gentlemen as well as ladies, so if you would like to join us, you would get a warm welcome. We meet on a Tuesday once a fortnight, and there are interesting speakers.

There is a St Andrews night on the 25th of November and a Christmas Lunch to look forward to on the 16th of December.

A date for your diary - The Guild will hold its annual Burns' Supper on Tuesday evening, 20 January at 6.30 pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

Wishing you all best wishes.

Carol Johnston

Blood Bikes Scotland

Recently the Guild welcomed 2 representatives from the Blood Bikes Scotland Registered Charity who gave us a fascinating insight into the workings of this very important charitable organisation, which is entirely self funded by voluntary donations and which is fully staffed by volunteers. When time is of the essence, the charity provides a free, rapid, medical courier service, transporting blood, replacement body parts, samples, essential medication and equipment, to hospitals and patients across the country. The volunteers provide this service every day of the year, irrespective of the weather, thereby providing a significant cost saving for the NHS.

BBS has 22 motorbikes at present, all having female names, and 5 cars, all of which have male names. The bike brought to the car park was “Amy” and Guild members had the opportunity to ask questions and actually sit on her.

BBS’ 2024/2025 annual report indicates that almost 10,000 delivery task requests were completed, that over 300,000 miles were ridden or driven, and that nearly £400,000 expenditure was saved by the NHS. BBS also won the Volunteers’ Award as part of the 2025 Scottish Health Awards.

Although not well known by many of the general public, BBS clearly provides a vitally important service and the charity is well deserving of any support which people might be able to give.

Ian Gibb

Blood Bikes Scotland (cont'd)



Christian Aid Report Winter 2025

The Christian Aid Coffee Morning was held on Saturday, 8th November 2025 in St. Mary's Church Hall and £1,467.00 was raised for the Christmas Appeal. This year the funds are going to support people affected by conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Many are women who were forced to flee from their homes with their children as the bombing started. They are now living in camps for displaced people and in dire need of basics such as food, blankets, clothes and cooking utensils.

Many thanks to all of you who supported this fund raising event by baking, coming along to the Café, helping on the day. A special 'thank you' to Ewan and Andrew who came along on the Friday evening to put out the tables and chairs for us which enabled us to set up everything for the Saturday morning.

This was the final fund raising event to be held by the Kirkintilloch & Lenzie churches for 2025 which is also the 80th year since the formation of Christian Aid. The funds raised really do make a difference to some of the poorest and most disadvantaged communities in the world.

Mary and I would like to wish you all a Very Happy Christmas as we all prepare to celebrate the birth of our Saviour.

Geraldine Fox.

1st Kirkintilloch Company

Thanks to Philip for conducting the Annual Dedication Service on Sunday 12th October, due to a clash with the school holiday week the attendance was low but a big thank you to all who did turn out.

The Company were honoured to be selling poppies on behalf of Poppyscotland in Tesco, Kirkintilloch on Friday 7th and Saturday 8th November. Thanks to the members of staff from all sections and to Connor and Nathan for giving so freely of their time to support this very worthy cause. The total raised, £735, was almost £100 more than 2024's total and we are grateful for the support and encouragement of Tesco's customers who gave so generously.

On Friday 7th November, Philip delivered a short Remembrance Service, including two minutes silence, for boys from the Juniors and Company and leaders from all sections. The service was appreciated by all who attended and hopefully it can become an annual event.

On Remembrance Sunday all sections were represented at the services in the church. Thanks to Connor for laying the Company's wreath during the service. The wreath was subsequently transferred to join the many other wreaths at the Memorial Gates in Peel Park.

We are once again offering a Christmas Card Delivery Service for addresses in Kirkintilloch and Lenzie only. The post-box will be in the vestibule of the halls from Friday 28th November to Sunday 14th December. This year we are suggesting a donation of 50p per card with all proceeds going to Kirkintilloch Food Bank.

Allan Geekie and all the Team.

Anchor Section

Our session is now well under way with a regular Friday Night turn out of around 19 boys. It is very heartening to see enough new members joining us to replace the boys we lost to Junior Section in June.

So far, we have been busy working on the elements of badge work, and most boys are well on target for completion by the end of the session. We have covered some Bible based themes such as showing how impossible it is for us to measure Gods Love for us and a Harvest themed night.

The boys have honed their cooking skills by making empire biscuits and keeping most of the icing on the biscuit and not on the table. 7th November saw us remembering the significance of the Poppy and the sacrifices given to enable us to live in peace.

As you can imagine with 19 boys in attendance there is no problem getting them to achieve their 'Get Active' element of their badges and a selection of team and individual games has seen most of them complete this element.

We do sometimes wish that Boys' Brigade would introduce a low decibel element to the badge structure, and I think our link elder would back us up on that. Our link elder Jo has visited and as always is very supportive of the section and we know we can call on her at short notice to lend a hand, thanks Jo.

We are planning to attend the community pantomime in St Marys Church Hall on 12th December along with the other sections and I am confident the boys will make their presence known.

Lorna, Margaret and I wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a healthy and blessed New Year.

Fraser

Company Section

We are delighted to report that numbers have increased this session with the arrival of several boys transferred from the Junior Section and one new recruit.

Our programme has been varied and diverse. As well as sessions on several Bible passages, we have covered topics including Black History Month, Knife Crime, Mental Health, Survival Skills, Voting at 16, and Digital Video Production. Games including football, basketball, pool and table tennis are as popular as ever, as is our tuck shop.

The tuck shop serves a dual purpose, as well as providing sweets and drinks, it allows us the opportunity to ensure that the boys are aware of the need to recycle all cans and cardboard.

Seven of our boys, Archie, Connor, Dylan, Jonathan, Luke, Ruben and Taylor joined 35 members of other Companies in the Battalion for a fun 10 Pin Bowling evening at ProBowl. There were plenty of interesting bowling techniques on display with the bumpers down each side of the lanes making a significant contribution to the scoring. However, the burgers, hot-dogs and chips went down very well and it was great to see so many BB boys having fun together.

Strathkelvin Battalion are hoping to have a weekend camp at Lockerbie Mannor in June 2026. So far four boys from the Company have expressed an interest in attending but this may grow when more details are available..

Wishing everyone a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

George and team



5th Kirkintilloch Brownies

Hello everyone

Autumn turns to winter and, if you are a Brownie, that means a trip to the cinema with 65 other Rainbows, Brownies and Guides as Kirkintilloch East District heads off to see Zootropolis 2 at the beginning of December.

Before that we have enjoyed a Hallowe'en party with messy games, making an edible sparkler for Bonfire night and commemorated Remembrance Day by making poppy wreaths to display in the Hall.

The badge work and activities we completed in the autumn meant 3 Brownies gained their Silver Award and 5 got their Bronze Award.

The five new girls who joined us in September made their Brownie Promise at a special ceremony when their families came to watch too.

We were also delighted to welcome two new young leaders
Later this month Silly Science scientists are coming to visit, therefore we will be able to take part in some fantastic experiments.

Our 2025 session will end with our Christmas Party, more fun and games before a few weeks off to let the Owls recharge their batteries ready for more fun in 2026.

All the Brownies and Owls at 5th Kirkintilloch Brownies wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Best wishes from The Brownies

Lynne Semple



Brownies (Cont'd)

We are always happy to welcome new members.

For new girls please go to www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents

If you are interested in joining us as a volunteer go to www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved

We'd love to meet you and find a place for you in Girlguiding Kirkintilloch.

Small Group Bible Study

Hope Explored is a three-session series about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus that examines his extraordinary claims. Through teaching from Rico Tice and studies from Luke's Gospel, Hope Explored shows how Jesus offers us a hope worth having, a hope that won't disappoint us.

We recently ran a 'Hope Explored' series on Wednesday evenings at Hillhead Halls in a 'small group' format. We were encouraged that the feedback from those who attended was very positive. We are looking forward to running another Hope Explored course in the New Year. This time, we'll run the course 10:00 – 11:30am over three Thursday mornings at St Columba's on 16, 23 and 30 January 2026.

Hope Explored is especially helpful for anyone considering church membership or who is exploring the Christian faith, but anyone at all is welcome. Please speak with the Minister if you're interested in coming, or inviting someone to come with you, or if you'd like more information.

Following Jesus Group and Friendship Club

The Autumn session has been busy, lively and as noisy as usual with both groups being well attended. Our theme in both groups has been "The Fruits of the Spirit" so our range of study has been very varied.

On the topic of "kindness" we gathered items for the Shoe Box Appeal and managed to fill 15 boxes.

Prospects Across Scotland Annual Celebration was held in Dumfermline this year and was attended by eight of our group who had a lovely day of praise with friends from other groups in Scotland.

Upcoming Events -

The next really exciting event is the Prospects Across Scotland Annual Carol Service which we are delighted to be hosting in St. Columba's Hillhead on Saturday 6th December at 2.30 - 3.30.

This is such a wonderful opportunity for our congregation and the wider Prospects family to meet each other and to share our faith as we act out the birth of Jesus together. We do hope you will come along and support us - indeed some help has already been recruited. (As refreshments are served afterwards any baking would be very much appreciated)

The last important event will be our trip to Pro-Bowl in January.

Have a blessed Christmas and once again thank you so much for your prayers.

Pat Muir

Following Jesus Group and Friendship Club (cont'd)



Christmas Carol Service

(Following Jesus Group and Friendship Club)

St Columba's Hillhead Church

(Old Aisle Road Kirkintilloch

G66 3HQ)

At 2:30 pm on

Saturday 6 December 2025

Tea, Coffee and Cakes will be available in the
hall after the Service

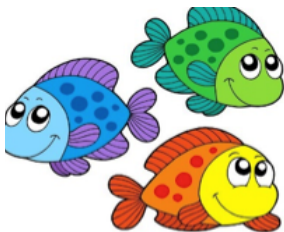


All Welcome

For more information email

PWright@churchofscotland.org.uk

Church Toddler Groups



Little Fishes and **Busy bees** have had a lovely term. We have made pumpkin pictures, poppies for remembrance and looking forward to Christmas crafts too. Hillhead toddler group **Busy Bees** is a welcoming group on Wednesdays between 10 and 11:30am. **Little Fishes** is at St Columba's 10 till 11:30am on Fridays. We do so appreciate our teams of helpers.

Little Fishes is for all those who want to drop-in during school term-time but do speak to Cassie if you would like to be on the waiting list for Busy bees as the space is more limited.

We are looking forward to our Christmas parties! We do ask for your prayers for a supportive and kind environment for the families who come each week, safety especially at coffee time, and for the team each week.

Our toddler group on Sunday mornings during the church service is called '**Noah's Ark** toddler group' for children under 5 and their Carers. It meets each week in the lower hall starting at 1030am through to 1130am. It has been lovely to have Noah's Ark families at the start of the service each week this term. Noah's Ark has lots of toys and playing but also Bible stories, crafts and songs. We have been learning about Jonah and the whale and how the Bible tells us how much God loves us.

Details of all the groups can be found on the Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/littlefishestoddlergroup/>

If you would like to come or know anyone who would like to come, then please do contact Cassie (families' worker) or Liz for Little Fishes (Fridays), Gill for Noah's Ark (Sundays) or June for Busy Bees (Wednesdays).

Gill, Cassie, Liz and June

The Churches Walk and Talk Group

The Walk and Talk group has combined friendly conversation with gentle walks around Kirkintilloch, Lenzie and Waterside since 2022. The pace is suitable for all ages, most fitness levels and all are welcome. There is no membership involved in Walk and Talk and all are welcome for occasional or regular walks. If you would like to join us for a walk, then please turn up at any of these locations on these dates and we will be delighted to see you. Unless stated otherwise the walks start at 1:30pm on Thursday afternoons, last approximately one hour and the start points and routes vary, as shown below.

Walk and Talk use a WhatsApp group to link many of our walkers both past and current. If you would like to know what the group are doing, then please use Trevor's contact details below to introduce yourself. The walks are prompted each week on Thursday mornings and a summary of the walk is usually produced on Thursday evenings. There is also the usual group chat and banter as all are encouraged to keep in touch. If you don't like using WhatsApp then please give Trevor a call and he'll keep you informed by other means.

In 2025 both Christmas Day and 1 January occur on a Thursday. No walks have been planned for these days, but an additional walk has been scheduled for Tues 30 December, please note the change from our regular meeting day. These details are shown in the list of walks given below.

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 4 Dec | St Columba's Hillhead Church. |
| 11 Dec | Kirkintilloch Leisure Centre. Walk to Woodilee. |
| 18 Dec | The Redbrae (followed by Christmas lunch) |
| <i>Tues 30 Dec</i> | <i>Kilsyth Road, Strathkelvin Railway Path</i> |

The Churches Walk and Talk Group (cont'd)

| | |
|--------|--|
| 8 Jan | Merkland Nature Park. |
| 15 Jan | Donaldson Street, walk along Christine's Way. |
| 22 Jan | St Columba's Hillhead Church. Walk includes coffee stop. |
| 29 Jan | Lenzie Co-op. |
| 5 Feb | Waterside. |

Trevor Patterson (St Mary's Church, Kirkintilloch)

07939 677523

trevor_patterson@outlook.com

Children and Family Worker

Hi Church! So much has been happening in the children's ministry for the past few months! Here's a quick recap:

It is wild how fast this year has gone by, especially this autumn term! I have enjoyed being a part of many different groups across the church and local schools.

Scripture Union groups in both Oxbang Primary School and Kirkintilloch High School have been doing very well, and we see a steady number of pupils participating each week. I've been delighted by some newer, older pupils attending the High School group who come each week with fantastic questions and deep thoughts for discussion. Please continue to pray for these pupils who attend and for God to work through us as we interact with the students.

I also enjoy being a part of Little Fishes and Busy Bees Toddlers' Groups during the week. A few of us were able to attend a conference this autumn specifically about ministry in toddler groups, funded through our Seeds for Growth grant. This conference was incredibly encouraging and chock full of amazing ideas and information on how to grow our groups and how to share our faith with those we see each week. Do continue to pray for the children and families we see. Please keep our wonderful and hardworking volunteers in your prayers too. If it weren't for them, we could not keep these groups running as well as we do!

Children and Family Worker (cont'd)

At the beginning of the school year, we re-launched a group for children in the Hillhead area under a new name, 'Connect'. This group is run in partnership with Kirkintilloch Baptist Church. Connect is now being run every Wednesday from 2-4pm at Hillhead Halls during term time. We have loved seeing old and new faces and would encourage you all to pray for this group and the children who are being reached through it.

Please do also continue to pray for Sunday Club, Noah's Ark and Little Lights as the leaders prepare and minister to the children every week.

I always seem to be asking for lots of prayer, but I do believe that having our congregation actively pray for each group is an indispensable part of our ministry. Please do join me in praying for every group and every volunteer across St Columba's Hillhead.

Finally, I am grateful to be offered another year working and serving alongside you all at St. Columba's Hillhead Church. Thank you all for your kindness and support towards me in the last few years. I really do look forward to another year here at our church. Thank you all for your continued support not only of me but of the work that is being done through St. Columba's Hillhead Church!

Cassie

MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship)

It's been a year since MAF's amphibious aircraft began operating in Lake Murray – Papua New Guinea's largest lake. From enabling healthcare to delivering school supplies, hundreds of lives have been transformed for the better.

PNG's largest lake spans some 250 square miles but has no access to any major roads, leaving it cut off from the rest of the country. Over 14,400 people live on Lake Murray's many islands and around its shoreline

Before P2-WET arrived, it would take up to five days by boat to access a hospital and essential supplies, but thanks to its water landing capabilities and speed, the floatplane can reach hospital in as little as ten minutes by air!

Esthel Babare is the head of Usukof Primary School and lives in the remote lakeside village of Usukof. She was the first passenger from her community to board the floatplane and fly to the nearest town of Kiunga:

'Growing up, it was a struggle for us to get transport. People struggled to travel on the lake in the rain, wind and sun. When I needed stationery, it took me days to get these materials from Kiunga.

'Now it's very easy for us because the water plane comes right to our doorstep. School materials are now flown directly to the village and school matters are dealt with in Boboa or Kiunga as quickly as possible.

'I can't express my gratitude to MAF. It's a brilliant idea to provide this service for us and I thank you for this golden opportunity.'

Graham Inglis

MAF (cont'd)



MAF's amphibious aircraft (P2-WET) on Lake Murray – Papua New Guinea's largest lake.

Flower Rota 2025/2026

Donation

Delivery

December 2025

7 The Swann Family
14
21
28

Joan Beattie
Moira French
Glenys Swann
June Larwood

January 2026

4
11 Mrs J Reid
18 Mr & Mrs F McCallum
25 Mr G Smith

Julie Reid
Gilbert French
Mr & Mrs I Muir
Joan Beattie

February 2026

1 Mrs Louise Huggan
8 Mrs Lydia Ramsay
15 Mr & Mrs J Clayton
22 Mrs C Trail

Moira French
Glenys Swann
June Larwood
Julie Reid

March 2026

1 Mrs Joan Beattie
8 Mr & Mrs T Sinclair
15 Rev Jim Ferguson
22 Mrs Margaret Boyle
29 Mrs Anne Inglis

Gilbert French
Mr & Mrs I Muir
Joan Beattie
Moira French
Glenys Swann

SERVICES

Sunday Morning Service 10.30am

**Now livestreamed on
(www.kirkintillochstcolumbas.org.uk)**

OR

A recording is available on YouTube (St Columba's Church Kirkintilloch) from 3pm.

Midweek Service

Wednesdays at 10am in the Small Hall

Tea and Coffee are served after the Sunday Morning Service and the Midweek Service at St Columba's.

**Kirkintilloch: St Columba's Hillhead Parish Church
"To know Him and make Him known"**