

WELCOME



ST COLUMBA'S
PARISH CHURCH
LARGS



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Welcome



CONTENTS

Minister's Introduction	4
What's On	6
Contacts	7
Brownies & Guides	9
Choir & Friday Club	.....	10
Games Club & Guild	.....	11
Monday's Alternative Club	.....	12
Tiny Tots	.....	12
Peregrines & Prayer Chain	.....	13
Scouts & Young Church	.....	14
A Brief History	.....	15

MINISTER'S INTRODUCTION

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Kirk Session and Congregation of St Columba's Parish Church, may I introduce you to our church which is situated on the sea front at the bottom of Nelson Street. We are part of the national Church of Scotland. If you already have a Church connection within the town, we greet you in the fellowship of our common Lord Jesus. If however you are new to Largs, we welcome you to our town and hope that you have many happy years staying here.



St Columba's Parish Church has a wide variety of activities and organisations which serve young and old alike. They are listed in this booklet for your interest. There are also contact details should you wish a further visit or want to consider becoming more involved in our church family. If I, as minister, can be of service to you at any time, please do not hesitate to contact me. I can be phoned at the Manse office most weekday mornings.

Personal Notes

Like all wise men, I come from the East – well, from the fair country of Angus to be exact! I was educated at St Andrew's and Aberdeen Universities, specialising in history of doctrine and mental health studies respectively. But soon I came to the West. First to Bellshill where I served my assistantship with Rev James McLeod, and then I was minister for nearly twelve years in Clydebank. It was during my time there that we commemorated the sixtieth anniversary of the Blitz in 1941.

Since 2002 I have been minister here in sunny Largs in St Columba's. Outwith the church I have many interests including swimming, gardening and travel. I am a member of both the Largs Historical Society and the Family History Society. And

though I have no family, I have two lovely black Labradors: Butey (the girl) and Mossie (the boy) so you might see us walking along the prom!

A Vision For The Church

Someone said to me recently that the modern western church is in crisis. So it is, and isn't it wonderful! For the Greek word *Krisis* means *opportunity* as well as *challenge*. So yes, there is much that needs to be addressed with today's church. But I am very hopeful as to the church's future, because that is determined by God's desire not only our efforts. Greater cooperation between congregations, a sharing of common resources, new patterns of ministry, a much greater involvement of the people in the church's ministry, new patterns of worship and of "doing church" these are just a *few* of the proposals currently before the Kirk. For in 2001, the Church produced a report called *Church without walls*, a report that called on us not to man the barricades but to come out and meet the people again in the market place. That is where Jesus exercised His ministry; in the midst of ordinary life. So yes, the Church is in crisis but, in my view, it has a crucial, pivotal role to play. Not just yesterday, or even today, but well into the future!

With every blessing
and once again, a warm Welcome,
Minister



Rodent G. Grahame

WHAT'S ON

SUNDAYS

11am: Morning Service with Young Church and Crèche facilities.

Coffee is served in the session room after the service. Please do come along and join us.

Short celebration of Communion after worship on the last Sunday of most months.

6.30pm: Largs Churches Together Services. (Held in various churches around the town on the second Sunday of each month.)

MONDAYS

2pm: Guild (men and women). Contact Jean Puckrin on 674320.

7pm - 9 pm: Guides. Contact Margaret Kennedy on 686377.

8pm: Monday's Alternative Club for Younger Women. Contact Christine Maxwell on 689195.

TUESDAYS

2pm: Games Club. Contact Alan Cairns on 687297.

WEDNESDAYS

10am: Tiny Tots Toddlers Group. Contact Jean King on 673406.

6.30pm - 8pm: Brownies. Contact Margaret McKellar on 687064.

THURSDAYS

7.30pm: Church Choir 7.30pm. Contact Andrew McGarva, Organist on 670699.

FRIDAYS

10am: The Friday Club meets first Friday of each month in Session Room. Contact Lily O'Brien on 686958.

CONTACTS 1

MAIN CONTACTS

Rev. Roderick J. Grahame, Minister: The Manse, 17 Beachway.
Tel: 673107

Mr. J. Fulton Murdoch, Session Clerk: Tel: 673997

Mrs. Gillian McEleny, Welcome Co-ordinator: Tel: 673505

Mr. Brian Jackson, Church Manager: Tel: Church Office 686212.
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday from 10am – 12 noon.

CHURCH HALLS

These are available for hire by outside agencies or for children's birthday parties at a modest fee. Contact the Church Manager, Brian Jackson for further details on 686212.

LANDMARK

It's the Church Magazine that's full of news and matters of interest. It's available the first Sunday of each month (except Jan, July & August).

MERGE

The Largs Inter-Church Youth Group for all secondary age young people in Largs. Contact Fulton Murdoch on 673997.

PASTORAL CARE GROUP

This is a committed group of volunteers who visit our elderly and housebound members. Please contact John Lewis on 686631 or the Minister for further details.

PEREGRINES

A fellowship group that enjoys walks in and around Largs. Contact Kim Foster on 675697.

CONTACTS 2

PRAYER CHAIN

Contact Shena Jamieson on 67314 or the minister on 673107 for further details.

SCOUTS

53rd Ayrshire Scout Group is affiliated to the Church and meets in the Scout Hall, Lade Street. Further details from: Mike Maxwell-Cox on 673398.

EMAIL ADDRESSES

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kids@largscolumba.com

manager@largscolumba.com

office@largscolumba.com

organist@largscolumba.com

sessionclerk@largscolumba.com

treasurer@largscolumba.com

welcome@largscolumba.com

WEBSITE

www.largscolumba.com

BROWNIES

The 5th Largs Brownies are for girls aged between 7 and 11 years old, meeting between August and the end of May, Wednesdays at 6.30pm. The girls make new friends, learn different skills and engage in badge work which is very rewarding. There is also plenty of opportunity for outdoor activities including rambling, pack holidays and meeting up with Brownies from other parts of North Ayrshire. In other words, "Brownies are fun!".

All leaders are trained and have Child Protection and First Aid certificates.

GUIDES

Catering for an age group between 10 and 16 years old on Mondays at 7pm, the Guides provide a stimulating and welcoming environment for girls. In patrols they work on themed targets or *Go For Its* which lead to various badges. With more than twenty different subjects there are plenty to choose from, including parties, computing and cooking with chocolate!



As well as patrol time they also do handicrafts and outdoor activities including camping. All in all it's a great opportunity for learning and enjoyment!

CHOIR

Voices old and new blend every Thursday evening at 7.30pm between September and April for practices and then on Sunday mornings to lead the worship and contribute an introit and anthem.

Membership is between 12 and 15 depending on the occasion. On the Sunday nearest St. Cecilia's day augmented forces join in the performance of an extended work befitting the occasion. In 2004 the work was Haydn's Te Deum and the year before it was Handel's Ode for St. Cecilia's Day.



The Choir is a member of the Royal School of Church Music and much use is made of the various resources which that organisation provides. The atmosphere is friendly and supportive so if you like singing good music, ancient and modern, please do join!

FRIDAY CLUB

Originally established many years ago when it was known as the Young Wives Group, the young wives became slightly older and the name was changed! They meet at 10am on the first Friday of the month for friendship, coffee and chat.

GAMES CLUB

If you enjoy the pursuit of indoor games in a friendly if competitive spirit, why not join the Games Club to see the wide range of activities on offer on Tuesdays at 2pm!

GUILD

The Guild is a National organisation run by the Church of Scotland and is open to all ages, both men and women. Our Guild meets most Monday afternoons between October and the end of March, at 2pm.



Each year the theme is set by the Guild association and we keep this in mind when planning our programme which is varied. We have speakers, discussions, slide shows, musical afternoons and many social occasions.

Our membership of sixty attend regularly, rain or shine and a warm welcome awaits you from us all.

MONDAY'S ALTERNATIVE CLUB

Monday's Alternative Club is a group for the younger women of Largs. We meet every fortnight from September until June, in the Session room at 8pm on (you guessed it) Mondays.

Various activities are organised for each meeting: speakers, badminton, videos, games, bowling and beauty nights are just a few of the delights on offer!

TINY TOTS

We meet on a Wednesday mornings between 10am and 1130am and have fun. The first fifteen minutes we sing action songs and the children just love this. We then go upstairs to the big hall and have juice and biscuits and coffee for us tired mums, dads, grandparents or carers.

The children then play on a large range of toys and do a craft activity. We are a very friendly bunch and if you would like to come please just turn up and you will be made very welcome.



PEREGRINES

This group was initiated by some very sociable people in the Church and includes a wide variety of walkers. Programmes of walks have included Cumbrae, Greeto Falls, and Portencross and many different routes have been suggested for the future. We welcome new ideas and new members, so do come along and join us. Walkers may come to all outings or simply to those of particular interest to them.

Our numbers vary from 5 to 17. Arrangements include meeting at Vikingar and sharing transport, coffee stops and walks which are pleasant but not too demanding.



PRAYER CHAIN

St Columba's Prayer Chain is made up of caring members who individually join together to pray on behalf of those who have requested prayer either for themselves or others.

Requests are always treated confidentially and new "links" are always warmly welcomed.

SCOUTS

Scouting is for boys between the ages of 6 to 18 with Beavers, Cub Scouts, Scouts and Explorer Scouts. Activities and badge work combine indoor and outdoor activities such as games, computing, hill walking and exploring. The approach is to make the person independent and a better citizen through learning and fun.

YOUNG CHURCH

Young Church meets every Sunday in the Stewart Memorial Hall at 10.40am. There is a crèche for the under 3's and various groups for 3 to 16 year olds.

The younger groups enjoy stories, games, crafts and fun, while the older groups take part in discussions, drama and computer work. Apart from our Sunday activities, many other events are organised throughout the year. Outings to the swimming pool, Millport, the theatre, ten pin bowling and numerous parties take place.



Our aim is to create a fun and friendly atmosphere for all children in which they worship God, widen their knowledge of the Bible and set off on the road to leading a Christian life in the modern world. All children will be made very welcome any Sunday morning.

A BRIEF HISTORY

For over 1300 years the Church of St Columba has had a presence in the town, though it has only borne his name for the last 700 or so. Tradition has it that St Columba himself founded our church – a tradition which may well have some truth in it since, as far back as 711 AD, only 114 years after his death in 597 AD, mention is made of a church here in Largs.

By the year 1253 there is evidence to confirm that the first recorded incumbent of the church was William de Kilkenni, Bishop of Ely. In 1318 the Church of Largs was given to the monks of Paisley Abbey and served the Abbey thereafter till the Reformation in the mid 16th Century - complete in Scotland by 1560. Roderick, our present minister is, as far as we know, the 47th incumbent of St Columba's Church.

The original church was in the centre of the town and nowadays the only visible part remaining is the Skelmorlie Aisle.



Adjacent to the church, on a site which is now Manse Court, was the manse, occupied by ministers of St Columba's from 1560 to 1762. This

was for a time the home of one of St Columba's most famous ministers, the Reverend William Smith.

During a terrible outbreak of Plague in the 1640s the people fled from the town to the district of Outerwards in Brisbane Glen, to the north-east of the town. Their minister, William Smith, went with them and supported them till he too fell victim to the disease. He died at Middleton Farm in September 1647, aged just 28. Tradition affirms that, when Smith lay dying, he

prophesied that if two holly trees were planted at his grave, one at his head, the other at his feet, and never allowed to meet, the Plague would never again return to Largs. Needless to say, the local council keep the trees well pruned!

The old church was demolished in 1811 and a new building was erected in 1812 on the present site on the sea front. As the photo shows, it was a simple building and soon proved to be too small. It, too, was demolished and replaced by the present building in 1892.



Built of Ballochmyle sandstone and with a 150 feet high clock tower, the new church pictured

here is a prominent local landmark. The interior of the church is spectacular, boasting a magnificent and renowned organ, beautiful carved wood and glorious stained glass windows.



As in the past, so into the new millennium, St Columba's will change and evolve to meet the needs of the community. However, much more important than all its beauty and history, we hope that here in St Columba's you will find fellowship with us and experience the living presence of the Holy Spirit and the peace and joy that only God can give.



A close-up photograph of a pond. In the foreground, a large, vibrant green lily pad floats on the water. Below it, another lily pad is visible, slightly out of focus. In the background, a dragonfly nymph is perched on a thin, reddish-brown stem that extends from the water. The water is dark and reflects the surrounding greenery. The overall scene is serene and natural.

Cover illustration

Still Waters

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