

St Columba's

Scottish Episcopal Church,

Largs



October 2020



'The land has yielded its harvest: God, our God has blessed us.'

Psalm 85:12

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

The church building has reopened for public worship with restrictions in place and will continue to remain open for a Sunday service unless the government and Church request a cessation of services again. For the time being only one service will be offered each week as follows:

Sunday Eucharist 11.00am

This service will be complimented by a broadcast of the gospel of the day and sermon on our YouTube channel.

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 difficult to believe I am writing this letter for the October magazine. October! Where has this year gone? And what a year it has been and continues to be; a unique year in which the usual patterns of life and work, of leisure and social interaction, have been severely hampered due to the ongoing Covid19 pandemic.

The uncertainty of it is quite overwhelming as, even now, numbers of new infections are beginning to climb in an alarming manner. This second spike, of course, brings with it the looming threat of further restrictions in our movement and even of what we had only just begun to accept as the 'new normal'.

In the midst of all of this time, it would appear, time and nature roll on. The effects of seasons simply carry on regardless of our current human plight. The days get shorter, the dew falls heavy in the morning and the trees begin to turn from their celebration of vivid greens to their various shades of yellow and browns.

It is, I suppose, a mark of the continuity of God's loving purposes toward us that this is the case. With the changing of the seasons come the reaping of the benefits of the natural cycle of things with the celebration of harvest.

Hand in hand with this celebration is the remembrance of those whose need is greatest in the world; those that live without the many blessings we take for granted. Some living in our own community that continue to find they must make use of the Largs FoodBank.

As we offer our thanksgiving to the Lord of the Harvest, let us praise with more than our lips; but also by the practical offering of help to all in need.

Yours in the faith,

Gordon

Years Mind

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

1st Marjorie Smith

2nd Billy Kay, Ann Hay

9th Keith Malcolm Reader

11th Angus Shaw

14th Elsie Cook, John Ferguson

20th Bob Lees, Frank Chappell, Betty McNae

21st Jack Sergeant

23rd Brenda Watt

24th Frederick Goldie (*Bishop*)

26th Marion Davis, Elizabeth Griffiths

29th Geoffery McQueen-Farlane

30th Maurice Logue (*Priest*), Thomas Battle

31st Maggie Veriod, Agnes (Nan) Archibald Reader

May they rest in peace and rise in glory.



The Mary Sumner Prayer

(written by Mary Sumner, the founder of the Mothers' Union, in 1876)

*All this day, O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for thee;
and every life I touch, do thou by thy spirit quicken, whether through
the word I speak, the prayer I breathe, or the life I live. Amen.*

Congregational AGM

Our Congregational Annual General Meeting will take place via **zoom** at 1.00pm on Sunday, 25th October.

Meeting ID: **839 9184 4825**

Passcode: **980921**

Please inform me of any amendments/updates to your name, address or contact details for the Congregational Roll prior to the AGM.

If you have a specific item you would like raised please pass your request in writing to me no later than 2 weeks before the meeting i.e. on or by 11th October.

Copies of the activity and financial reports will be made available in advance and I trust you will read in preparation for the AGM.

Two Vestry members need to be replaced this year. There will also be a vacancy for a MAP Group member. Please speak to me in advance of the AGM if you are interested in any of these positions. None of them are particularly onerous, the Vestry for example normally meets four or five times a year and has an Awayday in November.

In addition, this year we seek a new Property Convenor and a Lay Representative. Do let me know if you would be interested in fulfilling any of these vacant roles and, by doing so, serve your local congregation.

Rector

Blythswood Care Shoe Box Appeal

As in previous years, you are invited to be part of the Blythswood Shoebox appeal. Boxes wrapped in Christmas paper will be made available from the back of church. Simply follow the instructions on the leaflet you'll find in the box, buy some gifts for the age group and gender you have chosen and return the gift to church no later than the last Sunday of the month (**25 October**).



Harvest Festival 2020

Please note that this year's Harvest Festival will take place at **11.00am on Sunday, 4 October**. Our speaker that day will be The Revd David Coleman. David is a URC minister and is Chaplain at Eco Congregations, Scotland.

As usual, you are invited to bring in-date non perishable produce that will be sent on to the Largs Food Bank. This should be left on the table, set up for this purpose, at the back of church as you arrive.

Sadly, due to current restriction, there can be no congregational Harvest Lunch this year.

Largs Food Bank



Please remember to continue to support the work of Largs Food Bank by leaving donations in the box at the back of church when you attend the Sunday service.

October Prayer Calendar

- 1: Bishop Kevin
- 2: Thanksgiving for the goodness of creation
- 3: For the protection of vulnerable species
- 5: For those whose habitat is endangered
- 6: For a sustainable stewardship of the earth's resources
- 7: The work of Christian Aid
- 8: Justice and Peace
- 9: An end to the Covid19 Pandemic
- 10: The anxious
- 12: The lonely
- 13: The bereaved
- 14: Those that fear for their livelihood
- 15: The NHS
- 16: Vacant Charges in the Diocese
- 17: Local businesses
- 19: *St Luke the Evangelist (tr)* All Doctors
- 20: Those that must maintain social isolation
- 21: A revival of Christian faith
- 22: Our friends and family
- 23: Members of the Vestry
- 24: All office bearers
- 26: Our neighbours
- 27: All in positions of power and influence
- 28: *St Simon and St Jude, Apostles* The College of Bishops
- 29: Those that feel powerless
- 30: All children and young people
- 31: *All Hallows Eve* Those that live in fear



Gift

I don't think I have ever felt so nervous about going to church as I did on August 23rd. How odd to be having to sanitise one's hands before and after receiving the host. What a strange Eucharist to be experiencing. And yet, God is present. How odd to be distancing from each other in a place which is meant to give witness to community. For myself at present, it is the meeting with folk after the service which manages to bring into life that sense of community, rather than within the church building. I write as one who did not often venture into the church hall for coffee after the service! So maybe the period away from church has made me value even more than before the people of the church community!

R.S. Thomas was a Welsh poet and priest. I have recently been re-reading some of his poetry. One poem in particular resonates with me during this time of social isolation.

The Word

*A pen appeared, and the god said:
'Write what it is to be
man.' And my hand hovered
long over the bare page,

until there, like footprints
of the lost traveller, letters
took shape on the page's
blankness, and I spelled out

the word 'lonely.' And my hand moved
to erase it; but the voices
of all those waiting at life's
window cried out loud: 'It is true.'*

R.S. Thomas

That phrase 'the voices of all those waiting at life's window' can maybe speak to people like myself who might be feeling like onlookers rather than participants in life at the moment. Previous voluntary activities have disappeared owing to social distancing. The usual spontaneity of visiting friends, of taking part in communal activities such as choirs and hillwalking have gone. The very nature of the Covid precautions is causing us to live in a somewhat non-relational and non-tactile manner. The way we are existing at present is contrary to all I believe about the nature of humanity and of God, in the sense that I believe God to be relational - a God who embraces us and holds us in his/her love. And yet the precautions to prevent the spread of Covid are necessary in order to preserve and protect life.

God is, I know, present in all of this. It is not always easy to sense God's presence, but that does not make God's presence any less real. R.S. Thomas wrote another poem called 'Gift' in which he refers to being given the gift of a 'small pool'. I imagine this pool to be green, dappled with translucent golden light. In my imagination I sit beside this pool and breathe in God's love.

Gift

*Some ask the world
and are diminished
in the receiving
of it. You gave me*

*only this small pool
that the more I drink
from, the more overflows
me with sourceless light.*

R.S. Thomas

Fiona Reader

A study of St Mark's Gospel

Meeting ID: **892 0089 3527**

Passcode: **189651**

From the end of November the main Sunday Gospel readings will be from the recollections of St Peter as record for him in the earliest, and shortest, of all four Gospels; the Gospel of St Mark.

You are invited to join a new group Bible Study on the Gospel of St Mark. This will take place, via zoom, usually at **7.30pm** on Wednesdays beginning on **7 October**.

Let me know if you'd like to join and use the zoom invitation code and password above to be part of the first session.

The Rector

News from the Diocesan (Virtual) Office

In the three months since our last quarterly update from the Diocesan Office, all office-based staff have continued to work from home (details at the end of this newsletter), with postal deliveries being redirected to Christine Hughes or myself for subsequent dissemination by opening, scanning and emailing, or for physical redirection, with anything labelled ‘Confidential’ being posted on to the addressee. Christine has made occasional visits to the office in the meantime, and we are pondering whether it *might* be possible to reopen the office in a very limited capacity (with no visitors, and subject to full risk assessments and social distancing) once Bishop Kevin is at last able to be based in Glasgow. All being well, it’s hoped that Bishop Kevin’s move will take place in October, when he and Elspeth return from holiday, and can at last end their long wait to join us. On which subject...

Message from Bishop Kevin

Dear Friends



As I write, parts of the Diocese are entering partial lockdown – again. There is a lot of confusion as to what ‘partial’ means and why certain things are allowed, and others are not...

The scriptural text we need, more than any other at this time, is from Luke’s Gospel –

‘Fear not Little Flock’. That is the text that Bishop Richard Holloway chose to ‘preach me in with’ on 4th July, and the text of his sermon is attached to this letter so that you can all read what he would have said to us. It was also the text that I chose for the Provincial Eucharist from our cathedral on the Feast of St Aidan.

‘Fear not little flock’ is what we all need to remember at this time, and it was a coincidence that Bishop Richard independently chose the same text. As the saintly William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury once said: ‘When I pray, coincidences just happen. When I fail to pray, no such thing happens.’ **There** is the scripture from Luke’s Gospel and **there** is the plan of action. Fear not little flock – Prayer and love, the very essence of God and of life with God: Love will find a way of conquering fear.

Remember in the 1982 Liturgy of the Eucharist we say, at every celebration: “There is no room for fear in love.”

When we closed our churches at the beginning of the pandemic, we did so in Love, not Fear. Life with God has meaning and purpose; **love** has meaning and purpose. We closed our churches to prevent Covid 19 being transmitted. That was a loving

response to the crisis, because in love we have the best interests of the other at heart. Purpose, to prevent transmitting the disease. There is no room for fear in love, that is the love that Our Lord Jesus Christ lived and died, but rose again to prove. The Holy Spirit is with us and in us, and so I remind you - 'Fear not, little flock.'

And the gossip –

Elsbeth and I hope to finally move physically to Glasgow in the second week of October. Sadly, as you know, our move was delayed because for 4 months no work could be done on the house due to the pandemic. Then the rules meant that some tradesmen were not allowed to work together – so a plumber cannot work while the joiner is trying to encourage the decorator to paint... The text – 'Carpenter from Nazareth – joiners wanted.'

Many thanks to Elliot Glenesk, Diocesan Surveyor, for organising all these works and to all in the Diocese who have helped with this project – you are doing a great job!

The calendar for the autumn is beginning to be put together but everything remains provisional and of course, subject to restrictions and change. This includes the virtual General Synod at the beginning of December. There is no such thing as 'normality' and remember, it will almost certainly be Advent and Christmas with no carols, no singing etc.

The Scottish Episcopal Church is not above or beyond the law of the land. The meaning and purpose of that law is to safeguard all our people. As disciples of Jesus we comply, not in fear but in love.

September is the month when Elspeth and I have a holiday and this year, with sadness, we have cancelled our trip to our beloved Italy. We will spend part of the holiday packing up the house and office in Oban so we are ready to move house. There seems to be an awful lot of stuff ... We will also spend some time in York and will tour the abbeys of Yorkshire. It is fascinating that Cistercians were great plumbers, so I am looking forward to picking up many hints and tips!

Elsbeth and I would like to say a huge thank you to you all for your warm welcome, and we look forward to meeting you all in person and to visiting all the charges of the Diocese. Many thanks also to all of the Diocesan staff and officials who have been so helpful and patient since I became your Bishop in July.

Thank you and God Bless you all

+ Kevin

Text of sermon originally prepared by Bishop Richard Holloway for the enthronement of Bishop Kevin in St Mary's Cathedral on 4th July 2020

Luke 12.32

**Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's
good pleasure to give you the kingdom**



60 years ago, though not quite to the day, on another sunny, summer Saturday, I was ordained to the priesthood in this cathedral, along with 10 others. Many women were present in the congregation of 500 that day, but none of them knelt before Bishop Francis Moncrieff, to have him lay his hands on their heads and say to them, in the words of the Scottish Prayer Book, 'Receive the Holy Ghost for the Office and work of a Priest in the Church of God'.

Given what we now know about the demographics of human sexuality, there were probably about 25 gay people in the congregation that day, but none of them would have been 'out'; nor would any of them have thought that it would ever be possible for them to be married to a same-sex partner here in the cathedral of which they were such faithful members.

Neither of these examples of structural inequality would have troubled anyone present that day, in what was then an institution, like all the others in society, that was unselfconsciously dominated by straight men – or allegedly straight men. On the contrary, most Churches in Scotland at the time would have offered theological justification for that ancient inequality. It was how God had ordered it.

No, it wasn't inequality that was troubling the Scottish Episcopal Church that year; it was something else entirely. 1960 was the 400-hundredth anniversary of the Scottish Reformation, and we weren't sure how to respond. For the Kirk, it was obviously a year of celebration. For the Catholic Church, which had been ejected from Scotland after 1000 years, it was a year of mourning. But what was it for us, the Scottish Episcopal Church? We were miserable because we believed that we were the true Church of Scotland, but we had been robbed of our supremacy because of our Jacobite history and loyalty to the Stuarts. Like the Prince over the water, we were waiting for the call to come back and resume our ascendancy. It was sad, pathetic almost, but for lovers of lost causes and failed dreams, it was not lacking in romance, and it appealed to my ardent young heart.

So we didn't do very much to celebrate the Reformation, but Francis Moncrieff invited Michael Ramsey, then Archbishop of Canterbury, to preach to us at a special service here in the cathedral. I can't remember anything from his sermon, but I can remember every word of his text. Large, craggy and kindly, he filled this pulpit as he leant towards us and quoted Luke, chapter 12:32: 'Fear not little flock, for it is your father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom' – and a sigh of comforted unreality went round the cathedral. Might not the little flock of Scottish Episcopalians one day be given back the kingdom that had been

stolen from them? The problem was that while we might have understood Ramsey correctly, when he seemed to promise us a recovery of status and significance in Scotland, we certainly misunderstood Jesus, because that was the opposite of what Jesus meant by the kingdom of God. What did Jesus mean?

A theological term that might help us understand what Jesus was up to is the Greek word *prolepsis*, meaning to throw ahead or anticipate. Political reformers often urge their followers *to be the future they long for and act as if it were already here*. One way of thinking about the work of Jesus is to see it as the creation of an eschatological community that would live God's end time *now*. He taught his disciples not only to pray that God's kingdom would come on earth as it was in heaven, but to live *as if it were already here!* They were to be a proleptic community, marked by two characteristics rare in the power structures of the world. The first was radical forgiveness at both the personal and political level, the kind of forgiveness that deflects the harm we constantly do each other by refusing to let it break us apart. The second was to see the world from the bottom up not the top down. God's kingdom was downside up. It was identified with the rejected, the despised and ignored. With those at the bottom, the victims of power; not those at the top, the wielders of power. During the Covid Emergency we have glimpsed that radical vision in action. We have realised that it is the ignored and unappreciated who make it possible for society to function at all. We have been given a glimpse of what it might mean to actualise the downside-up vision of the kingdom of God, to make it come on earth as it is in heaven, where the last are first and the first are last.

The Church, in most of its manifestations in history, has never been what Jesus meant by the kingdom of God, though sometimes it has allowed itself to become the instrument of that kingdom, one of its enabling agencies. And that is its great opportunity today. In its increasing weakness and marginality, it can, maybe for the first time, become an instrument of the kingdom, a broken community working with other broken communities to heal the world.

Beloved Kevin, I know that beneath your confident and competent exterior you are feeling daunted today, called as you are to this new ministry in difficult circumstances and in uncertain times. My plea to you, as one who has known and admired you since I lured you to St Salvador's in Edinburgh in 1987 - where Francis Moncrieff also served - is to make friends here in this friendliest of cities and work with them, not to increase the prestige of the Church but to bring in the kingdom. You and Elspeth have a genius for hospitality and a gift for friendship. Use them; use them prodigally. You will find many allies here in this big-hearted, friendly city, in both its secular and faith communities. Join them in working for a better world. Be a servant of the kingdom.

And have fun!

A note from the Diocesan Treasurer, Bob Burgon, mainly for Church Clergy, Treasurers and Vestry Secretaries, but of potential interest to all...

I am writing to highlight a couple of issues that have raised their heads over recent weeks and to which vestries might want to give some consideration.

Rathbones (formerly Spiers & Jeffrey).

I am aware that some congregations use the investment services of Rathbones, as does the Diocese. Clients of Rathbones will have been informed of an increase in investment management fees with all portfolios being subject to a minimum annual fee of £2500 + VAT per annum, as from 1 October 2020. In many cases this fee will be greater than the income earned from investment portfolios and congregations may wish to evaluate the ongoing benefit of continuing to use Rathbones.

While I am not authorised to offer investment advice, I have been asked to prepare an “information sheet” on possibilities on alternative fund management provision. If this is of interest, then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Insurance

The cost of insurance premiums for church properties has long been a bone of contention for many congregations. The market seems to be dominated by Ecclesiastical Insurance and its sister company, Ansvar; some congregations may use Congregational and General, another church insurance provider.

I have been made aware that Trinitas Church Insurance is emerging as a viable competitor to Ecclesiastical and a copy of a guide to ‘Buying Church Insurance’ is available should any congregation wish to have some of the complications of comparing providers explained. Please remember that you may have entered into a long-term agreement with your existing insurance provider and accordingly it may be that no change can be made until that current agreement comes to an end. Again, should you wish a copy of the Guide, please contact me.

Church Accounts

We are entering the period of annual account preparation and I would urge all congregational treasurers to look to providing a copy of their 2020 accounts to the Diocese by 30 November. I appreciate that with COVID-19 some comparative figures may look strange but the more time that is available to the Diocese to consider the financial impact of the pandemic on congregations then the more time I will have to assess the implications for ongoing quota. It would also be gratefully appreciated if ‘electronic’ copies could be sent in addition to the ultimate signed paper copies.

Should you have questions on any of the above please do not hesitate to contact me.

Bob Burgon treasurer@glasgow.anglican.org 07929 603391

Bishop Kevin: Meeting People Across the Diocese

Whilst there have been many frustrations for Bishop Kevin in having to start his Episcopate at a time when meeting people in person has been impossible, one positive to emerge has been the fact that – through Zoom video conferences – he and Elspeth have been able to meet far more of us in July than would otherwise have been the case. Although they are clearly eager to visit as many of our churches in person as soon as possible, they embarked upon a marathon of 8 lengthy Zoom meetings over a fortnight to meet the Diocesan Council and each of the 7 Regional Councils, thereby introducing themselves to over 150 people (and a great many charges) much more quickly than if they'd been driving to every church in the Diocese every week! I've had many comments and emails from participants in these events who have been hugely encouraged and motivated by the humour, the love, and the warmth generated across the meetings, and by the sense of hope for the future that Bishop Kevin's arrival has heralded. It has been lovely to hear such enthusiasm.

Bishop's Lent Appeal 2020

Many thanks to those charges and individuals who've been contributing to the Appeal for **Glasgow City Mission**. The collection has now (just) exceeded **£10,000**, a highly encouraging total in a very difficult year, but further donations have recently been arriving due to the reopening of churches, so please continue to send these as they make their way to your charges. Instructions on how to do this were in the previous office update, but please contact me at diocesansecretary@glasgow.anglican.org if you need a reminder.

Reopening of Churches

At the time of writing, approximately 75% of our churches had reopened for worship in varying patterns throughout the Diocese, and more may have done so by the time you read this. Please also note that St Mary's Cathedral is now open again for in-person services and will be continuing to provide online worship at www.thecathedral.org.uk/worship. Our thanks go to all clergy and laity who have helped prepare our buildings for our new, socially distant, forms of worship in accordance with government guidelines to ensure the safety of all.

New Diocesan Centre

Building warrants were approved and issued in the summer, and five competitive tenders were received just before the last Diocesan Council meeting on 29th August, during which gathering our Diocesan Architect Rebecca Cadie briefed Council Members (our Trustees) on the issues and costs surrounding the tender process. The Diocesan Property Committee will be discussing the tenders in further detail with the Project Consultants and Architect during their September meeting, with a view to reconvening the Trustees for an eventual decision on the most appropriate tender to accept. It is hoped that building works might therefore begin later in the autumn, but it will clearly be some way into 2021 before our long-anticipated move might be able to take place.

Clergy and Charge News

Rev Heller Gonzalez will be instituted by Bishop Kevin as Rector of **St Augustine's Dumbarton** on 22nd October, and – although he has already taken up his post – an equivalent ceremony will take place at **St Mary's Hamilton** on 28th October for **Rev Matthew Little**, who is now Rector at this joint charge with **St Andrew's, Uddingston**. Both events are obviously subject to government guidelines on attendance and social distancing.

Meanwhile, we say thank-you and a fond farewell to the (always colourfully clothed!) **Rev PJ O'Maoil Mheana**, Rector of **St Paul and St John's, Airdrie** since 2017, who departs for Canada in November, having been appointed the Rector of Holy Trinity White Rock, British Columbia, in the Diocese of New Westminster. He tells us that: "My last service in Airdrie will be on 15th November, after which I board a plane to Heathrow and fly to Vancouver on 16th November. Then after two weeks of isolation I will be installed on St Andrew's day by Archbishop Melissa. It has been a joy to serve here in Glasgow and Galloway and I look forward to the next great adventure." We wish 'PJ' every blessing and offer thanks for his time with us.

Also departing the Diocese, this time for a well-earned retirement (in Herefordshire) is **Rev David Gifford**, Rector of the **Heartland Group Team Ministry (St Mary's Port Glasgow, St Fillan's Kilmacolm and St Mary's Bridge of Weir)**. David, a member of Diocesan Council since 2017, has been Rector there since 2014, after joining the SEC from the Diocese of Oxford, and has delayed his retirement date slightly (to 31st October) to ensure that the ongoing restoration of St Mary's roof is completed before he leaves. We wish David and Francine the happiest of retirements and thank them for their service in Glasgow and Galloway.

Another imminent retiree from the Diocese (on 22nd November) is the **Rev Canon Sandy Montgomerie** who has served as Interim Priest for the **North Ayrshire** group of churches since 2017 (**St Andrew's, Ardrossan, St Andrew's, Irvine and St Peter's, Dalry**). Sandy was baptised, confirmed and priested in **St Andrew's Ardrossan**, where he served in Non-Stipendiary Ministry after his ordination in 1996. He was our Ecumenical Relations Co-ordinator from 2005-12, and was heavily involved in the very successful Porvoo link with the Swedish Lutheran church from 2007-16. He was also recently proud, as part of his Diocesan CMD programme, to be awarded an Open University BA (Hons) Degree in History at the age of 72! As well as offering 'holiday cover' for the Diocese of Europe in Tenerife over a four year period, he has served two 4-year terms as a Trustee on the Diocesan Council, and, although retiring soon, he intends – after a period of rest and reflection – to continue offering his services as a member of Rev Sally Gorton's team of 'covering clergy' across the Diocese. So he's not stopping altogether!

Finally, we offer warmest congratulations to **Rev Lee Johnstone** (Curate at **Christ Church, Lanark**) and **Rev Harriet Oxley** (Curate at **St James the Less, Bishopbriggs**), who are

now Mr & Mrs Johnson, having been married in the garden of St John's Rectory, Dumfries, on Saturday 4th July. The very obvious limitation on guest numbers at least had the advantage of saving Lee from entertaining a large gathering with his groom's speech, but this will be, apparently, a pleasure deferred until a larger celebration is allowed in the future. May Lee and Harriet share much love, happiness and many joyous ministries between them.

Diocesan Synod 2021

We are considering options (including dates) for either a virtual or physical Diocesan Synod in 2021, but it's clearly difficult to make decisions at present. The plans for the virtual General Synod on 5th December will give us some pointers if that is the route we decide to follow.

Microsoft Licences for Non-Profit organisations

I'm pleased to draw the attention of all charges to the fact that Microsoft offer significantly reduced (and, in some cases free) software licence costs on their Office 365 subscriptions to non-profit organisations. The Diocesan Office already benefits from this, as do several charges. Further details are available at:

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/microsoft-365/nonprofit/office-365-nonprofit-plans-and-pricing?activetab=tab:primaryr1>

Lay Ministry: a note from Rev Les Ireland

Licensed Lay Ministry "Reflection Time": each year the diocesan "Prayer and Spirituality" group organises a day of reflection on ministry for all those in licensed lay ministry – Lay Readers, Pastoral Assistants and Eucharistic Assistants. This year we have no choice – we are going online!

Date: Saturday 10th October, 10am – 12.30pm

The programme includes: Welcome and worship; Reflections on Ministry (and lack of) during a pandemic; An Introduction to the voice of Scripture; Pause for reflection, or tea or coffee or eating biscuits...; Reflective Bible Study; Conclusion and final worship.

All in Licensed in Lay ministry are welcome. We will send out the "Zoom" access nearer the time to all people on the mailing list. We know there are people who do not use the internet, or whose connection may not be that strong. When we send the access details we will also send details of how to phone in to the meeting for those who would like to – if nothing else they will be able to hear what is happening. Please pass on details to those you may know who can't do the streaming or internet thing!

This year, anyone is welcome to simply join in. However you are welcome to let us know you'll be joining us by emailing: Les949@btinternet.com

Notes from the Vestry meeting of Tuesday, 8 September 2020

Eco congregation: Hilary has invited the Scottish churches Eco Minister to preach on Harvest Sunday 1 October 2020. He is the Rev David Coleman and is a United Reformed Church Minister (formerly at Greenock). Hilary will give Gordon his email address to confirm

Hilary

Matters Arising minutes 16th July 2020

We have followed Covid 19 guidelines for setting up. There were just some changes made following our meeting. Just starting in church seemed better as work was completed in time. The sermon and the Gospel are recorded and put on You Tube each Sunday, which is comparatively easily done, whereas live service recordings seemed a bit ambitious for our small church.

Correspondence

Hilary and Gordon receive emails on latest advice from the Provincial church committee concerned with Covid 19 guidance. Chris phoned John Stuart, SEC secretary, on advice re opening the hall for phase 4. Gordon explained the latest guidance on group hall use is that it is permissible if the vestry approves the group. The group should be doing something that is necessary and should show that they can open it safely. One might have the case that other hall users could say their group is necessary. We have decided to keep the hall closed until further guidance.

Gordon had received a card from Sheila Ferguson for thanking the congregation for the card received whilst she had a period in hospital. He also received written thanks from Revd Alec Griffiths' daughter thanking him for the funeral service.

Reports

Congregational matters

Gordon reported we had the church open now on 3 Sundays. There was a little congregating at the back of the church initially, but everyone now knows to go straight out. We have been advised to hold shorter than normal services, so we only have one Old Testament/Epistle reading and the Gospel, and no hymns. The readers do not use facemasks whilst reading. We can take up to 28 people approx., depending on family groups. Tim asked as a sidesman, what he should do if we are full and get more people coming. Gordon explained we are not doing ticketing until we find we must turn people away. If so, we take their name and make sure

they are first on the list for the following Sunday. People would have to phone to reserve their seat. We wait to have this problem then will work on what to do.

Treasurers report:

Over the whole year we have a deficit of £10.33. We are incredibly grateful for Gordon's duties as temporary Dean giving us a Diocesan grant of £14.095.5. The work on the vestry is nearly completed and most bills paid, once the final bills are paid then Chris can claim back through the Insurers. The cost has been in the region of £7,000 to £8,000, our excess is £250. Chris will send the vestry the draft budget for next year for our comments prior to the AGM. The accounts are with Neil Robertson for auditing at present.

Chris

We require a vestry finance meeting to approve the accounts, prior to the AGM. This will be arranged by Gordon for Tuesday 29th September via zoom.

Gordon

Health and Safety: We are following Covid 19 guidelines and have done everything necessary to prevent spread.

Mission Action Plan Possibly take this off the agenda as the MAP process is no longer followed. It is good, though, to have mission as a topic We could have a study group held on Zoom if there was interest for this, what would interest the vestry? Andrew intimated he would be interested and so did Hilary. Gordon would consider what he could do.

Gordon

Property: Stuart's wife asked if we as a church would like to continue doing the shoe boxes for Christmas? We said we would. Can Gordon have some information about these for the magazine?

Stuart

In July, some slates came off the roof which then affected the drains, all of which have been repaired. The boiler in the rectory has had its maintenance check. The result of the dry rot in the vestry caused by a burst pipe required excavation under this room area, which is now completely refurbished. The carpet and vinyl will be coming the week of the 21st September Thanks to Neil Robertson for reinstating the sound system. The electrician is required back as the heating is not working. The sound system has been installed too low in the sacristy, so everyone is in danger of hitting their head. Gordon has put a set of drawers there just

now. Stuart will look to see if a panel could be fitted. The skip needs collecting. The grass and hedge were cut today. The steps at the back door area under the rubbish bins need finishing off, the builders said they would do this according to Chris. Stuart would like to stand down as property convenor at the AGM as he is working at Clark Memorial and finds some conflict with this. He is happy to advise and help. Jean Lamb asked if we could have new taps in the toilets as they are hard to use. We need to assess these ourselves before we can decide.

Stuart

Protection of vulnerable Tim advised that care homes are not opening in the foreseeable future and those vulnerable people who were shielding before might have to do this again.

Social/ Fundraising: Hilary and Armored emptied the toddler's toys out of the cupboard and back shed and put it on Largs Free Buy and Sell Facebook page. Open only 2 mornings. We asked for donations. There was an amazing response. We have cleared out nearly everything and have been given approximately £200. Chris felt that the church cupboard should be looked at with all the Girl Guides things, so we can then have better storage for hall users and the church.

Risk Register: Alice sent the notes after the vestry meeting of their last meeting. She will resend and invite comments.

Alice

AOCB

AGM

Hilary should write to request reports from people who gave reports last year. We have decided to hold the AGM over Zoom this year on 25th October at 1pm, the normal time we have it. We are not allowed to have physical meetings until phase 4. Gordon is now back with his 4pm services in Gourrock and needs to spend time setting things up there prior to it.

Gordon & Hilary

Vestry members stand for 4 years and with William off after 3 years and Stuart coming off, then Mark was recruited after the AGM, so we have just one position on the vestry to be filled. We need to put Mark on officially at the AGM. We will be looking for a property convenor. Also, a Lay Rep as Chris is standing down from this. Alice is happy to continue as Peoples Warden. Gordon will check with Lorna if she is happy to continue as Rectors Warden.

Chris

Hilary requires the Rector's Report from last years AGM as she did not get that on file. She will send last year's minutes to Chris for printing once received.
Gordon

The Congregational Role (addresses and telephone numbers) needs bringing up to date. If there are any change of addresses or telephone numbers this last year, please inform Gordon of this. We need to make people aware of this in the magazine.

Gordon

Largs Churches together

Gordon reported they held a Zoom meeting. St John's is not yet opened. The church of the Nazarene is closed as their building is small, they do Zoom worship. They are doing a lot with feeding people with the FoodBank. The LCH Service of Light has been deferred until next year. They are not sure what will happen for Remembrance Day.

Date of next meeting:

All meetings over Zoom to be arranged by Gordon

Vestry Finance meeting on Tuesday 29th September 2020 7pm Gordon

AGM Sunday 25th October 1pm
2020

Gordon

Vestry Tuesday 3rd November 2020 Some thought how we could make it like an away day vestry meeting for new members

Blythswood Care Shoe Box Appeal

As in previous years, you are invited to be part of the Blythswood Shoebox appeal. Boxes wrapped in Christmas paper will be made available from the back of church. Simply follow the instructions on the leaflet you'll find in the box, buy some gifts for the age group and gender you have chosen and return the gift to church no later than the last Sunday of the month (**25 October**).



Please check these rotas and note if you are included.

Please feel free to swap with others to ensure duties are covered for all services.

Services and Rotas for October 2020

Day	Services and Sunday readings	Duty at Sunday 11.00am
Sunday, 4 <i>Harvest</i>	11.00am Eucharist <i>Deut 8:7-18; Lk 12:16-30</i>	Reader: Janine Millward Intercessor: William Ferguson
Sunday, 11 <i>Pentecost 19</i>	11.00am Eucharist <i>Isa 25:1-9; Matt 22:1-14</i>	Reader: William Ferguson Intercessor: Frances Robertson
Sunday, 18 <i>Pentecost 20</i>	11.00am Eucharist <i>Isa 45:1-7; Matt 22:15-22</i>	Reader: Gib Fitzgibbon Intercessor: Alice MacDonald
Sunday, 25 <i>Pentecost 21</i> <i>Clocks go back</i>	11.00am Eucharist <i>Lev 19:1-2, 15-18; Matt 22:34-46</i>	Reader: Elspeth Robertson Intercessor: The Rector

Readers for October

1st: Joan Hutton

8th: Alice MacDonald

15th: Stuart Robertson

22nd: Tim Johnston



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

Bishop **The Rt Revd Kevin Pearson.** email: bishop@glasgow.anglican.org

Everyone remains working from home at present and can be reached as below:

Christine Hughes (most general enquiries, usual days Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri)

- 07754 167468 christine@glasgow.anglican.org and also
office@glasgow.anglican.org

Marion Noble (for enquiries regarding property matters, usual days Mon-Wed)

– 07544 834021 marion@glasgow.anglican.org

Iolanthe Stack (for enquiries regarding finance, usual days Wed -Fri)

- 07544 833643 iolanthe@glasgow.anglican.org

Mr John Mitchell, Diocesan Secretary, Tel: 07798 662711,

or at diocesansecretary@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 November magazine is Sunday 18 October.

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	336329
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	336329
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	336329
Press Officer	Hilary Moran	686213
Columba's Creatives	Rector	673143
Health & Safety Officer	William Clark-Ferguson	07835 454534

Pastoral Visitors in the congregation
Joan Hutton, May Kidd and Alice MacDonald