



**THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND  
ST COLMON (Arnshean Barrhill and Colmonell) PARISH CHURCH**

**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT  
&  
CONGREGATIONAL ACCOUNTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2018**

**CONGREGATION REFERENCE NUMBER: 100591  
SCOTTISH CHARITY NUMBER: SC014381**

**[www.stcolmonparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.stcolmonparishchurch.org.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/stcolmon.church](https://www.facebook.com/stcolmon.church)**

**Trustees' Annual Report  
Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018**

The trustees present the annual report and accounts for St Colmon (Arnshean Barrhill and Colmonell) Parish Church for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018.

**Reference and Administrative Information**

**Charity Name:** St Colmon (Arnshean Barrhill and Colmonell)  
Parish Church of Scotland

**Charity Registration Number:** SC014381

**Congregation Reference No:** 100591

**Contact Address:** Mrs Claire Pirrie  
Rose Cottage  
Poundland  
Pinwherry  
Girvan  
KA26 0RU

**Trustees**

**Minister:** Vacancy since 16<sup>th</sup> August 2017

**Interim Moderator:**

Rev Ian McLachlan from 16<sup>th</sup> August 2017 to 12<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Dr James Anderson from 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018

**Elders:** Harriet Ellis  
David McCutcheon  
Lynne McIlwraith  
Brian McIlwraith  
Andy Muir  
Claire Pirrie  
Anne Shankland  
Irene Wilson

Mrs Lynne McIlwraith was paid £1,880 as St Colmon Church Organist in 2018, as recommended by the Scottish Federation of Organists.

**Principal Office-bearers**

**Interim Moderator:** Dr James Anderson

**Session Clerk:** Mrs Claire Pirrie

**Church Treasurer:** Mrs Claire Pirrie

**Independent Examiner:** Mr Mark Wickens  
Equity Bookkeeping & Accounting  
Lendal Lodge  
Lendalfoot  
Girvan  
KA26 0JB

**Bankers:** Bank of Scotland, Girvan Branch  
17 Dalrymple Street  
Girvan KA26 9EU

**Trustees' Annual Report (cont.)**  
**Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018**

**Obituary**            **James Laird McLachlan, Elder Emeritus**  
**4<sup>th</sup> November 1933 – 27<sup>th</sup> December 2018**

James Laird McLachlan (Jimmy) spent his life in Colmonell latterly working as Head Gardener at Knockdolian. Known for his extensive knowledge of horticulture, angling, local history and serving his community in the fire service and community council, Jimmy also enjoyed bowls, badminton, clay pigeon shooting, speaking at Burns Suppers and photography.

As a Serving Elder in St Colmon Church from 1973 and Session Clerk from 1979 Jimmy lived his Christian faith, welcoming and including everyone in the life of the Church, where he served diligently and conscientiously until his retirement due to ill health in 2009. Jimmy McLachlan will be lovingly remembered as a gentle, warm hearted, generous and sincere man.

**Structure, Governance and Management**

**Governing Document**

The Church is administered in accordance with the terms of the Deed of Constitution (Unitary Form).

**Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees**

Members of the Kirk Session are the charity trustees. The Kirk Session members are the elders of the church and are chosen by the Kirk Session from those church members who are considered to have the appropriate gifts and skills. During the current ministerial vacancy, the interim moderator is a Church of Scotland Reader appointed by the Presbytery of Ayr to be a member of the Kirk Session.

**Organisational Structure**

The interim moderator is the moderator of the Kirk Session which met five times in the year and is responsible for the spiritual and financial affairs within the Church, supported by a fabric and a finance committee.

**Objectives and Activities**

The Church of Scotland is Trinitarian in doctrine, Reformed in tradition and Presbyterian in polity. It exists to glorify God and to work for the advancement of Christ's Kingdom throughout the world. As a national Church, it acknowledges a distinctive call and duty to bring the ordinances of religion to the people in every parish of Scotland through a territorial ministry. It co-operates with other Churches in various ecumenical bodies in Scotland and beyond.

St Colmon Church is linked with Ballantrae Parish Church with a manse in Ballantrae.

St Colmon Kirk Session administers the Campbell Trust and the Templeton Bequest which were established in the 1800s to distribute benefits from the interest on investments to residents in need in St Colmon Parish.

## **Trustees' Annual Report (cont.)**

### **Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018**

Worship is conducted every Sunday at 10am in the church at Colmonell with refreshments in the kirk hall after each service.

As the church currently has no disabled access, a monthly service is held in St Colmon kirk hall to enable those with mobility problems to share in worship.

Each month a service is held in Barrhill Memorial Hall to maintain a Church presence in the village, particularly for those who find it difficult to travel to Colmonell.

The Sacrament of Communion is celebrated four times a year in St Colmon Church and twice a year in Barrhill Memorial Hall. Non-alcoholic wine is served at Communion to ensure no one is excluded.

Children remain in church during services, and a “children’s corner” has been created with appropriate toys, books and colouring materials.

### **Achievements and Performance**

Six members of St Colmon Church and seven members of Ballantrae Church were elected by members of their congregations to form the Nomination Committee, tasked with seeking a minister to be nominated for election and appointment by the congregations. They continue to visit and listen to ministers and advertise in appropriate publications, social media and websites.

In the time of vacancy, the kirk session and congregation are providing pastoral care where possible for members and residents within the parish and visiting those in hospitals and care homes. The pioneer farming minister, Rev Chris Blackshaw, has been very helpful in providing support for the farming community in our rural parish.

The interim moderator or pulpit supply minister officiated at weddings, baptisms and funerals. The Session Clerk underwent training to enable her to conduct funerals in the absence of a minister, which she did on one occasion, assisting a visiting minister on another occasion. Two baptisms, five funerals and one wedding were held in St Colmon church in 2018.

St Colmon is a member of South Carrick Churches Together, which was led this year by Milestone Christian Fellowship. Joint services and events were held throughout the year and in Easter week daily ecumenical evening services were held in different churches in Girvan. On Good Friday an outdoor service was held in the centre of Girvan.

On Maundy Thursday, 22 people attended an Agape Supper held for St Colmon and Ballantrae Churches in St Colmon Kirk Hall.

At 7am on Easter Sunday St Colmon and Ballantrae Churches held an outdoor service at Ballantrae harbour, led by Rev Margaret Whyte with music provided by Lynne McIlwraith. Breakfast was then served in the manse prior to the usual Sunday services.

The interim moderator and session clerk have worked to maintain the link with Colmonell and Barrhill primary schools, facilitating a Christmas service in church, offering help with the Easter service, guiding a tour of the church for the Armistice Memory Box exhibition, and participating in fundraising activities for the schools.

Colmonell primary school held an Easter service in the school and then organized a fundraising “daffodil coffee morning” in the kirk hall in aid of Marie Curie Cancer Care.

## **Trustees' Annual Report (cont.)**

### **Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018**

To commemorate the Centenary of Armistice St Colmon Church worked with community organizations to hold an open weekend in Colmonell village with exhibitions, re-enactments, music, sales table and refreshments.

Memory boxes were created by local families and organizations and displayed in church all weekend attracting many visitors to view them. Residents spent weeks creating thousands of handmade poppies which decorated villages throughout the parish and £2,148 was raised for Poppy Scotland.

Colmonell Primary School took part in an Act of Remembrance at Pinwherry War Memorial and on Remembrance Sunday St Colmon Church participated in the "Nation's Tribute" with piper, bell ringing, beacon and bugle playing. The church service and the Act of Remembrance at Colmonell War Memorial were led by Ayr Presbytery's Farming Minister, Rev Chris Blackshaw. Rev Jim Guthrie led the Act of Remembrance at Barrhill War Memorial with a special service held in Barrhill Memorial Hall.

The Christmas Eve Watch Night service held in St Colmon Church was led by the session clerk and members of the congregation. On Christmas Day the session clerks of the linked charges led a joint service in Ballantrae Church.

Fresh Expressions of Church continued, including Café Church, until July when a new series of weekly evening events began alternating Bible Study, Food and Fellowship and Coffee, Cake and Chat. Messy Church was held twice and attended by around 14 children and their families.

Knowing our lives are founded on the Bible and prayer, a time of prayer and praise is held in the kirk hall at 10am on the last Saturday of each month and is open to everyone. Alternatively, people can complete one of the prayer request slips which are available in the church and kirk hall.

St Colmon Church has no locum minister, so the joint Churches' worship team has led services in the linked charges when no pulpit supply minister is available. While providing the opportunity for members to actively participate in worship, strengthening their Bible knowledge and faith, this is also a financial saving in not paying the pulpit supply fee of £60 plus travel expenses.

In the last year St Colmon's congregation has increased, with people from a variety of denominations regularly attending, and 25 to 30 people at Sunday services.

Volunteers from the congregation are increasingly involved in activities such as Bible reading for services; uplifting the offering; meeting and greeting at the door; serving refreshments after each service and not forgetting the important role of ringing the bell.

However, more volunteers are needed to help with events and activities, and especially to assist with basic maintenance of the church buildings and grounds.

The Church has joined a scheme organised by Street Pastors working in Ayr and Prestwick, who meet people that may express an interest in Church. The person is given a card to bring to Church so that those who greet them give them extra support as they take what can be a daunting first step into Church life.

## **Trustees' Annual Report (cont.)**

### **Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018**

St Colmon had a stall at Colmonell gala day with activities, sales items and Church information. Members assisted with the community's Christmas carol singing evening around Colmonell village and have established a community choir which meets in the village community centre.

The annual Christmas Concert was held in St Colmon Church with the local choir, musicians, singers and children from the local primary schools, followed by refreshments in the kirk hall.

A Christmas carol service was held in Barrhill Memorial Hall.

Local monthly Filling Station meetings bring people of all denominations together to hear excellent speakers, share in contemporary worship, enjoy fellowship and refreshments and have the opportunity for healing prayer.

Following a "Topple Testing" project by South Ayrshire Council Bereavement Services some headstones in the Grade B listed churchyard have had to have their top section removed and embedded separately in the ground, and a particularly tall stone has had to be fenced off to await specialist machinery to lift it. Volunteers are needed for a project to produce a photographic record and consider some restoration of the historic headstones.

St Colmon Church works with the Scottish Pilgrim Routes Forum, which is working to re-establish and use pilgrim routes, one of which passes through our area. The Church is represented on the Whithorn Way Steering Group and regularly hosts groups from St Mirin's and Whithorn Way pilgrims' groups who use the kirk hall as a base and somewhere to have their walking passport stamped.

Throughout the year there have been visitors interested in the renowned stained glass and woodwork of St Colmon Church and the grade 1 listed pipe organ.

### **Fundraising and Fellowship**

St Colmon Church communicates with members and the wider community through a bi-monthly joint churches newsletter; website; Facebook; community magazine; local press; posters and fliers in schools and on public noticeboards.

The Church continued to support others through retiral collections;

- Harvest Service for Royal Scottish Agricultural Benevolent Institution
- Church of Scotland Stamp Appeal
- Remembrance Service for Poppy Scotland
- Selling alternative gift cards for seeds and fertilizer in Malawi
- Easter for Marie Curie Cancer Care
- Annual Blytheswood Shoe Box Appeal
- Provisions are also collected for the local Food Bank.

Colmonell Circle is an organisation affiliated to St Colmon Church which meets monthly from September to March with speakers and entertainment evenings raising funds for the charities supplying the speakers and for St Colmon Church.

## **Trustees' Annual Report (cont.)**

### **Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018**

The kirk hall has a collection of Christian and general books to be purchased or borrowed.

- The Annual Kirk Fair is held on the glebe and in the kirk hall
- An Annual Auction is held in the kirk hall
- Colmonell Baby and Toddler Group meets every Friday in the kirk hall
- Each Wednesday morning all are welcome to “Coffee @ Kirk” in the hall
- Two podiatrists hold a clinic in the kirk hall every seven weeks
- Fishing rights for the glebe water were rented by Colmonell Angling Club
- The local Beaver troop enjoyed a sleep over and film night in the kirk hall
- The kirk hall has been hired for meetings and social events e.g. family parties, club meetings, Church “away days” etc. Regular users include Ballantrae & Colmonell Agricultural Show, The Stinchar Valley Garden Club and The Stinchar Valley Magazine Committee.

St Colmon and Ballantrae Churches continue to strengthen links through joint services and events, particularly at Easter and Christmas. Some members of St Colmon Church are members of Ballantrae Church of Scotland Guild.

In this time of vacancy St Colmon kirk session and congregation are working hard to ensure that all aspects of the work of the Church continue and that we remain strong in our faith, fellowship and commitment.

The kirk session continues to look for ways to reach out to those who either have no connection, or have lost their connection, with the Church and to remind them of the Good News of Jesus.

### **Thank You.**

Every person who is part of our Church family has a role in the life of our Church and sincere thanks go to all who attend services and events, giving of their time, talents and money. We are blessed by the contributions of those involved in music, flowers, refreshments, cleaning, events, activities, donations etc.

### **Financial Review**

The treasurer is assisted by elders who are the gift aid convenor and weekly freewill offering convenor. We are grateful to Mark Wickens, a certified bookkeeper, who voluntarily compiles the annual accounts to be presented to Church of Scotland finance committee and the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR).

St Colmon Church pays for an organist with supply organists to cover holidays etc. Part time cleaners are paid, and volunteers undertake all other duties, maintenance, and care of the church and hall that do not require specialist skills.

Due to a bank error, the 2018 payment of £7653 as St Colmon’s ministries and mission allocation was not paid until January 2019. Pulpit supply fees were £60 per service and £15 for each additional service in the linked charge. The recommended mileage rate is 45p per mile.

## **Trustees' Annual Report (cont.)**

### **Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018**

The Church of Scotland finance department have been asked to recalculate the glebe rent allowance against the ministries and ministry charges.

The Gift Aid Scheme continues to make a significant contribution to fundraising for the work of the Church. Those who sign up for gift aid should ensure that they are paying enough tax to cover the amount they are gift aiding. More information can be gathered from St Colmon's gift aid convenor, Mrs Anne Shankland.

St Colmon Church is also grateful to those who shop online and raise funds through [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk).

Details of fundraising can be found in the annual accounts and St Colmon's General Fund account is also credited annually with donations from other sources.

Rental of the kirk hall and donations received at events held there bring in a small but regular income which covers overheads such as power and costs of supplies and basic maintenance.

Items such as illustrated booklets about the stained-glass windows and mugs and bags with images of the church are also sold to raise funds and publicize the church.

The Church flower fund consists of donations made by those who wish to commemorate a date in the year. Thanks go to the volunteers who ensure the church is always graced by flowers if people don't want to arrange their own.

The "B" listed church, like any historic stone building, suffers recurrent water ingress and stone deterioration which are an ongoing financial challenge.

Ongoing projects include the repair, maintenance and restoration of stained glass, the pipe organ, woodwork and churchyard stones. Issues related to heating, lighting and the lack of disabled access to the church are also to be addressed and the church is on a waiting list to be registered by the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies as a National Treasure.

### **Reserves Policy**

The trustees consider it prudent to hold reserves (including designated funds) to cover twelve months of normal expenditure. In addition, as the place of worship is a listed building, the trustees seek to hold additional funds in the consolidated fabric fund for unexpected expenditure thereon.

### **Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities**

Members of the kirk session have prepared financial statements which give sufficient detail to enable an appreciation of the transactions of the Church during the financial year. The members of the kirk session are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which reflect the financial position of the Church at that time. This has been done to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and the Regulations Anent Congregational Finance approved by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in 2007. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Church and must take reasonable steps for the prevention and/or detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf,

Mrs Claire Pirrie  
Session Clerk

Date: