



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

**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
&
CONGREGATIONAL ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020**

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

Trustees' Annual Report
Year ended 31st December 2020

The trustees present the annual report and accounts for the St Colmon (Arnshean Barrhill and Colmonell) Parish Church for the year ended 31st December 2020.

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 Lynne McIlwraith
11 Main Street
Ballantrae
Girvan
KA26 0NA

Trustees

Minister: Rev Theodore L. Corney

Elders: Mr David McCutcheon
Mrs Lynne McIlwraith
Mr Brian McIlwraith
Mrs Claire Pirrie
Mrs Anne Shankland
Mrs Irene Wilson

Mr Andy Muir resigned as an Elder and Trustee on 28th June 2020.
Having resigned as an elder in 2019, Harriet Ellis resigned as a trustee in 2020.

Payments to Trustees

Mrs Lynne McIlwraith was paid £1,880 as St Colmon Church Organist in 2020, as recommended by the Scottish Federation of Organists.

Mrs Claire Pirrie was reimbursed £436.97 expenses related to the kirk hall and church buildings' maintenance and cleaning, kirk hall catering, mission, and administration.

Principal Office-bearers

Minister: Rev Theodore L. Corney

Session Clerk: Mrs Claire Pirrie resigned 31st October 2020
Mrs Lynne McIlwraith appointed by Rev Corney on 1st Nov. 2020

Church Treasurer: Mrs Claire Pirrie

Independent Examiner: Mr Mark Wickens
Member, Institute of Certified Bookkeepers
Lendal Lodge
Lendalfoot
Girvan
KA26 0JB

Trustees' Annual Report continued
Year ended 31st December 2020

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

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.

The minister, who is a member of the Kirk Session, is called and elected by the congregation and inducted by the Presbytery of Ayr.

To ensure they comply with their responsibilities, St Colmon Church's charitable Trustees are recommended to subscribe to The Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator's regular bulletins.

Organisational Structure

St Colmon Church is linked with Ballantrae Parish Church and the minister resides in the manse in Ballantrae.

The minister is the moderator of the Kirk Session which met once on 26th June 2020. The Kirk Session is responsible for the spiritual and financial affairs within St Colmon Church, supported by fabric and finance committees. No presbytery elder has been appointed for 2020 but discussions are ongoing about the reorganization of local parishes and presbyteries of the Church of Scotland.

On 31st July 2020 Claire Pirrie gave notice of her resignation as session clerk with effect from 31st October 2020, and as treasurer and property convenor from 31st December 2020. Since no one had volunteered for these roles by 31st December 2020 Claire Pirrie volunteered to continue temporarily.

St Colmon Church is reliant on volunteers and is grateful to all who gave of their time, talents and money contributing to worship, music, flowers, refreshments, events, activities, fundraising etc. In the days when Covid restrictions have brought additional requirements we also thank those who have volunteered as cleaners and stewards.

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.

Trustees' Annual Report continued
Year ended 31st December 2020

From January to March, weekly Sunday worship continued in church, with Sunday Club for children, followed by refreshments in the Kirk Hall. Monthly services were held in Barrhill Memorial Hall and a monthly service in St Colmon Kirk Hall facilitated worship for those with restricted mobility.

In 2020 the Sacrament of Communion was celebrated by Rev Theo Corney in St Colmon Church on 16th February and by Rev Jim Guthrie in Barrhill Memorial Hall on 15th March.

There were no Messy Church or Primary School services or events in 2020 and due to Covid 19 restrictions normal services of worship and all mission and social events stopped from 15th March. On June 28th, following risk assessments and with the approval of Ayr Presbytery and Church of Scotland General Trustees, St Colmon Church was permitted to reopen for times of prayer and meditation. Worship could not recommence in Barrhill as the Community Memorial Hall was not reopened.

All the necessary precautions were implemented in the church and kirk hall and attendance was restricted to twenty-five people due to two metres distancing. Attendees were guided by volunteer stewards who were given appropriate first aid instructions and resources to ensure their own safety and that of any attendees. Contact details were collected under the NHS Test & Protect system. When the church cleaner resigned a rota of volunteers took over cleaning. However, as volunteer numbers decreased another cleaner was employed.

From July 19th Sunday services recommenced with the same restrictions and guidelines, no singing, and no Bible readers. During 2020 two baptisms and five funerals took place in church. In Easter Week none of the normal daily ecumenical services were held. On Remembrance Sunday a service was held in St Colmon Church, but not at the three local War Memorials. Colmonell Primary School created a Remembrance wall hanging for the Church but were unable to participate in the service. At Christmas, the linked parishes held a Watch Night service in St Colmon Church and a Christmas Day service in Ballantrae Church.

St Colmon Kirk Session administers the Campbell Trust and Templeton Bequest which were established in the 1800s to distribute benefits to residents in St Colmon Parish. Thanks go to Irene Wilson who acts as clerk to administer the fund assisted by Harriet Ellis.

Achievements and Performance

Events providing opportunities for fellowship and worship continued in the Kirk Hall from January to March:

- Potluck Supper monthly
- Bible Study monthly
- Coffee @ Kirk weekly
- Praise & Prayer monthly
- Colmonell Circle monthly
- Christianity Explored weekly course was started
- Ladies' Lunch & Bible Study weekly

Trustees' Annual Report continued
Year ended 31st December 2020

In 2020 St Colmon Church continued to support others through special collections;

- Malawi Initiative by Ayr Presbytery £96
- Remembrance Sunday £75 for Poppy Scotland
- Crossreach £140
- Blythswood Appeal collected 12 shoeboxes and eight donation envelopes
- Provisions collected for the local Food Bank
- Stamp collections for Crossreach and Church of Scotland World Mission.

In response to the Covid 19 pandemic some members of the congregation worked with the villages' resilience teams ensuring every household received contact details to arrange deliveries of prescriptions, shopping etc. or just to have a voice on the end of the phone. Food bank items were collected and delivered, and some people collected bedding to turn into hospital "scrubs" or face coverings. When the Kirk Hall closed the remaining items of food, drink and paper hand towels were donated to the local food bank.

As an essential health care provision, when Covid restrictions permitted, a podiatry clinic was held twice in the Kirk Hall with all the necessary precautions.

St Colmon Church's family came together to try and ensure everyone received a regular phone call. For those without email, family or friends were contacted to pass on the Church newsletter.

Rebekah Donn volunteered to take over as editor of the joint Ballantrae and St Colmon Churches' bi-monthly newsletter and the minister sends a weekly reflection to the Church websites. As the current website manager plans to stand down a volunteer is needed to take over. St Colmon Church's Facebook page was closed in June 2020.

The number of those subscribing to the Church of Scotland's Life and Work magazine through St Colmon Church dropped to three in 2020, so the Church no longer subscribes, and people are asked to order individually if they wish.

Although unable to visit, people continue to make enquiries about their genealogy and seek information about the gravestones and Church registers.

Fundraising and Fellowship

The Kirk Hall was rented for the following in 2020 prior to Covid 19 restrictions:

- Colmonell Baby & Toddler Group weekly
- Biosphere PLACE project meeting
- Beaver Scouts' "sleep over"
- Stinchar Valley Garden Club monthly meetings
- Podiatry clinic every 7 weeks
- Stinchar Valley Photographic Club two days exhibition.

No auction was held but donated items were displayed and sold prior to "lock down".

Colmonell Circle's social gatherings raised £160 in donations for Church funds.

Trustees' Annual Report continued
Year ended 31st December 2020

The minister's right to salmon fishing on the River Stinchar glebe water is rented to Colmonell Angling Club on a three-year lease with a reduction to make allowance for the months when the season was curtailed due to Covid 19 restrictions.

The Church flower fund comprises donations made by those who wish to remember someone or a particular date in the year. Harriet Ellis kindly ensures the church is always graced with flowers and people are encouraged to provide an arrangement themselves.

A Pulpit Fall with Bible ribbons has been created in memory of Mr James McLachlan. The final invoice is awaited, and ideas will be sought for the remaining funds. £77 was collected as a gift to welcome Simeon Corney home from hospital. Funds donated at a funeral in 2019 were used as the donor suggested to assist with running costs and expenses related to the Kirk Hall.

Financial Review

St Colmon Church's Ministries and Mission net contribution to the Church of Scotland in 2020 was £13,847 with an allowance for rental income from Colmonell Glebe land which is rented to a local farmer.

The treasurer is assisted by Gift Aid Convenor, Anne Shankland, and Weekly Freewill Offering Convenor, Harriet Ellis. A volunteer certified bookkeeper, Mark Wickens, compiles the annual accounts to be presented to Church of Scotland Stewardship & Finance department and the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR). Mark Wickens plans to give up this role, so St Colmon Church is seeking an independent examiner for the 2021 accounts.

The HMRC Gift Aid Scheme makes a significant contribution to fundraising for the work of the Church. To enable the Church to claim Gift Aid of 25p on every £1 donation, donors must be paying income tax in each tax year that is at least equal to the amount of tax that the Church will reclaim on their donations for that tax year.

The other aspect of Gift Aid is the Gift Aid Small Donation Scheme which enables St Colmon Church to reclaim Gift Aid on anonymous cash donations e.g. offerings at services or donations in the Kirk Hall or at events. The change from cash donations to direct payments or cheques being paid into the Church bank account may result in a drop in the amount of Gift Aid reclaimed unless the donor has signed a Gift Aid permission form.

Ironically, Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs overpaid Gift Aid to St Colmon Church in 2020 necessitating a refund to HMRC of £1369.48 as recorded in the accounts.

In May, with no Communion service when special half yearly offerings would have been made, the treasurer wrote to the congregation with a budget outlining the potential problems due to the loss of income from Church services, events, and fundraising. The resulting generous donations enabled St Colmon Church to meet its obligations for 2020.

St Colmon Church is grateful to those who use [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) to shop online which means online stores give a donation to the Church at no cost to the shopper.

Trustees' Annual Report continued
Year ended 31st December 2020

A keyboard has been purchased to provide music at worship and events other than in the church building.

The Church of Scotland scheme for energy contracts has changed supplier to Opus Energy from 2020 and a Smart Meter has now been installed in the Kirk Hall.

The treasurer's error in writing a cheque for Crossreach leaves 95p owing which will be added to the 2021 collection.

The Boyd Trust is a legacy fund administered in New Zealand to provide residential care for the remaining family member. After death, the remaining funds will be shared between a New Zealand Church and St Colmon Church. The current value of the investment fund is £66,061.93.

The annual appeal to Scottish Water has been approved meaning St Colmon Church and Kirk Hall remain exempt from paying water rates.

In December 2019 payment was made to hire Barrhill Memorial Hall for Sunday services in 2020 and since no services were held after 15th March 2020 a refund of £180 has been requested.

Donations made for the organ fund have reduced the annual maintenance costs.

Property Review

According to OSCR's charitable land ownership rules the names of St Colmon Church Trustees (Kirk Session) are now displayed on the Church notice board.

Covid 19 restrictions have brought several challenges in managing everything from water and electricity meter readings to maintenance, safety, and insurance. The pipe organ technicians have been unable to visit resulting in some deterioration in the organ.

Following a report from the General Trustees about life changing injuries incurred by someone working in a church building, we are reminded that any work to be undertaken must be risk assessed, insured, and appropriately supervised. Particular care must be taken when volunteers undertake maintenance tasks.

The "B" listed church, like any historic stone building, suffers recurrent water ingress and stone deterioration which are an ongoing financial challenge. Maintenance and repair are required to the roof, internal and external walls, heating and lighting and the need for disabled access must be addressed. The surface and lighting of Manse Road also need to be considered and in 2020 a new problem has arisen with dog fouling and litter in the churchyard and Manse Road.

The latest condition report for the stained-glass estimates repair and maintenance costs at £24,000.

Some monumental stones in the churchyard remain cordoned off until South Ayrshire Council Bereavement Services make them safe.

A team of volunteers plan to undertake the recording of St Colmon church and churchyard as recommended by the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies.

Reserves Policy

The trustees consider it prudent to hold reserves of £8,500 (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

The 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.

Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts are available from the treasurer, Claire Pirrie.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf,

C. Pirrie

Mrs Claire Pirrie
Treasurer

Date: 4th April 2021