



Good bye to St Columba Choir

After steadily falling numbers, the choir at St Columba felt they could no longer carry on. It was a poignant moment on Sunday 13th August when the congregation reflected on 52 years of the choir leading us in worship, under Allen Coles' directorship.

We are hugely grateful to Betty S., Bridget, Betty G., Angela, Helen, Fay and Allen. Fay was sadly unwell so we sent her posy home with Allen.

The many members of St Columba congregations over many years have been very thankful to not only choir members pictured below, but also the previous choristers over more than half a century. Worship of course continues at St Columba and we shall have to see where God leads us and our musicians, in the time to come.



THE HUB

The Hub (on Highlands Rd) is a community café and meeting place, led by St Columba Church, run by a team of local volunteers.



It is an important outreach project for the parish of Holy Trinity with St Columba and is there for everyone.

The lease has recently been extended for another 5 years. With a good amount of fundraising, we are just about breaking even on costs, but can always use help and donations, from our congregation and friends.

- **How about doing something to raise funds for the Hub?** Our local councillor, Fred Birkett, recently completed the London Marathon and gave half his sponsorship money to the Highlands Hub.
- On the first Saturday of each month, (10am to 12 noon) there is a Jumble Sale. Donations for the sale are accepted during the week leading up to the sale (sorry, we can't take electrical goods). Clothing, books and CDs/DVDs are on sale at The Hub all month. **Have you got any good quality items that we can sell to raise money for the Hub?**
- During the monthly jumble sales, we have a food and toiletry hamper which is raffled. The tickets cost 50p each. **Would you buy a ticket or do you have something to donate for the hamper?**
- There are craft activities held for the children during the school holidays. **Do you have any craft materials that you could donate material, paints, glue, glitter, card, paper etc?**
Do you have any skills that you could share with the children or adults?



- The “Nutty Knitters” meet at the Hub twice a week. They raise lots of money for the Hub, from the items they knit and sell. **Do you have any spare wool you could donate? Could you find some when browsing in charity shops? Why not join the Nutty Knitters?**
- The ‘Healthy Eating on a Budget’ sessions started this summer. **Have you got any recipes or tips that you can recommend for sharing at the Hub?**
- The Hub is hoping to produce a 2018 calendar to sell to raise money. **Are you a keen photographer who could help with taking the photos for the calendar?**

These are just a few ideas of how you can help and support the Highlands Hub. As you can see, there are many ways for everyone to feel part of this amazing project.

Why not come in and have a coffee and spend some time with the customers and friends that gather there. You can be sure of a welcome!

If you haven't got transport, we could find a lift for you. Just ask - contact the Hub on 01329 609299.



Not everyone is able to volunteer or give money, but there is something that we can all do – **PRAY** for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in this important work within the heart of our community. Thank you.

New Appointment for our Assistant Curate

Revd Garry has been offered and accepted the invitation from the Bishop of Southampton to take up the post of Associate Minister in the Chandlers Ford Benefice (Diocese of Winchester). Garry will not be leaving straight away and will remain here through Sally's Sabbatical. We will be saying farewell to Garry, Nicky, Caitlin, Joshua & Meghan in December:

3rd December – *Garry's final service at St Columba followed by a farewell lunch at the Parish Centre, to which everyone is invited.*

10th December – *Joint service at Holy Trinity , followed by coffee & cake.*

Garry will then take some time off over Christmas as he and the family prepare to move and settle into their new home.

The Licensing in Chandlers Ford will take place on Monday

8th January to which everyone will be invited (*details to follow*).

We will miss Garry and his special way of offering a relaxed welcome, personal pray and spiritual insights. He has energised and encouraged us across our Parish and the Chandlers Ford congregation should count themselves very lucky! Nicky too will be really missed - her sense of fun (& competitiveness when playing rounders), her ready smile and willingness to pitch-in whenever help is needed.



At present, there are no school places in Chandlers Ford, so please do pray for a smooth transition for the children's education. We have had much pleasure from getting to know these three young people over the years, as they have grown up within our church family.

MESSY CHURCH



The first Messy Church began in 2004, when St Wilfred's church in Cowplain were frustrated because as a church, they were hardly reaching any children with God's story. This local church's initiative has now spread worldwide!

So what is it? Well it's not a craft club. It's a way of being church for families, involving creative fun, hospitality and celebration. It is Christ-centred, helping people encounter Jesus as Lord and Saviour.

We have an enthusiastic team of volunteers who put together an imaginative Messy Church programme at Holy Trinity one Thursday a month (4-6pm) with a shared hot meal too. It's all led by Debbie LeFevre and here's something to celebrate- in the first half of 2017, Messy Church and Little fishes had the following regular attendees:- **230 children, with 155 carers, thanks to 24 helpers.**

And if that wasn't enough, the team run "Little Fishes Go Big" on the Wednesday morning of every half-term too.

Up-coming themes for 2017 are:-

Thurs 28th Sept –

Messy Church: "Zacchaeus" A little man with a big problem.

Wed 25th October –

Little Fishes Go Big: "Daniel in the Lion's den" Expect some roaring fun as we hear this story!

Thurs 30th November –

Messy Church: "Angels are calling!" - Christmas is coming again.

www.facebook.com/MessyChurchHolyTrinityFareham

PCC BUSINESS

July 2017



£ It was reported that a deficit in the General Fund of about £15K to £16K is forecast for 2017. The main reason for this is the long-delayed maintenance and repair work which has been necessary, particularly at St Columba. This could not be delayed any longer. The PCC acknowledged that we need a fundraising strategy to tackle this unacceptable financial situation. The Treasurer, the Finance Committee & the Stewardship Committee are to propose how to communicate and tackle this.

St Columba development was discussed, including following views:

- There is frustration among some church members that we are still discussing the future.
- Since our parish vicar allocation was reduced to 0.5, we are in a worse position than at the outset of the project, when it was a full post
- We could give serious consideration to alternatives such as an evangelist, a community worker, someone good with older people, or a person with gifts to work in our schools.
- If we repeat the 0.5 Team Vicar pattern of ministry, it is likely we will remain in 'maintenance' mode and the congregation at St Columba in particular will continue to dwindle



AOB

A lone-working policy for the Parish is being drawn-up by Sheila Holliday
The Safeguarding Policy Statement 2017 was agreed and adopted.
The flat roof of the St Columba Vestry leaks and needs replacing. The PCC agreed to seek approval to replace the roof.



PARISH LIGHT LUNCHES

You are invited to St Columba on the 3rd Tuesday of every month, for a parish light lunch. There you will find a warm welcome, as well as some warming home-made soup and bread.

We will start our shared time together with Meditation /Readings and prayers at Noon, with lunch following from about 12.30 to 1.30pm.

Anyone who can offer help will be most welcome.

The cost is £3.50 - any extra donations will be given to a worthy cause.

Please speak to Margaret Handley (St Columba) or Sarah Bournier (Holy Trinity) for more information.

Our first lunch will be on [19th September 2017](#)

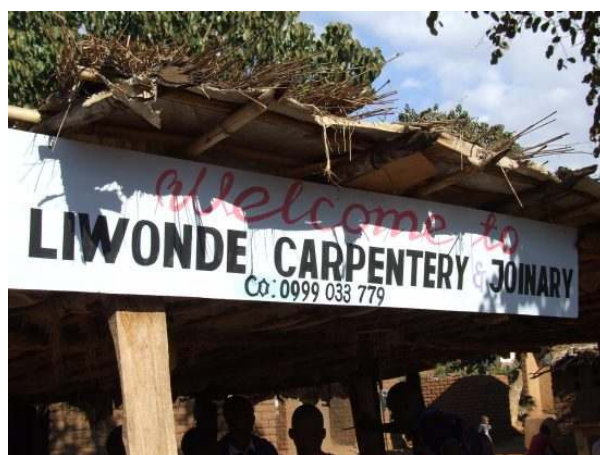
Tools For Self Reliance

(<http://www.tfsr.org>) This is a small UK based charity, working to help relieve poverty in Africa. Their approach to development is to focus on the artisan sector in rural African communities.

They have a small number of staff and hundreds of volunteers, who help to collect and refurbish tools that are boxed-up in sets that match the needs identified by organizations in those countries. Sewing machines and haberdashery are included in those possible needs.

Maurice Shergold is always willing to collect good quality tools from people wanting to give to TFSR, but during August and September, bins are available at the back of both Churches to encourage you to sort out that shed's redundant tools! Lists of suitable tools needed by TFSR are available at the back of both Churches.

Call Maurice with any queries or if tools need collecting – 01329 288916



An Update from Sally Dewberry

“Hi Everyone,
Just updating you on my latest news.

With Garry we had the **Leavers Service** for the children of St Columba Academy at the end of the Summer Term. It was a moving service with the Year 6 children sharing their memories of school, whilst at the same time giving thanks to all the staff who had taught and looked after them.



On the following Friday morning, we had the **Big Breakfast Bonanza**. This was themed around the seaside and the children and adults enjoyed the challenge of making boats from plasticine or paper - the former being the most difficult!

During the summer holidays I was at the Highlands Hub offering games, art and craft activities and flower arranging. It's been great seeing everyone having a go at these activities and achieving much more than they thought they would.

After the summer holidays I will be at the Hub on the last Saturday of the month, offering a different activity each time.

I am also going to do another Breakfast Bonanza in the October half-term holiday and something similar during the Autumn Term.

At Saint Columba Academy, Garry and I will be starting our **“Prayer, Read, Bake”**, along with our normal **Open The Book** assemblies and collective worship. We are hoping parents will come along to these assemblies this coming term.”



[<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/open-the-book/>]