



St Columba Church
changing lives

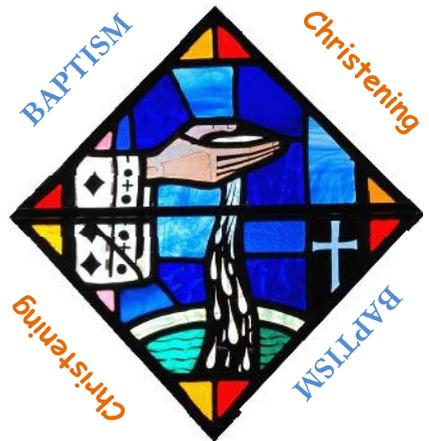
ST. COLUMBA INFORMER

July 2014

Re-thinking

It was so lovely to celebrate with Dylan's family last Sunday as they brought him to Church for baptism. The more observant among you might have noticed that I introduced the service by welcoming them for his christening. Those of us in Church circles have steadfastly avoided using the word christening in recent decades but the world, largely ignoring our synods and committees, has continued to enjoy it! Of course baptism is the word we find in the Bible, referring to being washed in water and in the name of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We still baptise both adults and children, but if we need to talk about the baptism of children as their christening so that families know what we are talking about, it seems appropriate to do that.



The Church of England has undertaken quite a significant amount of research in the last few years, into the services we provide for baptism, weddings and funerals. One of the outcomes is that Dylan's parents and godparents made different promises, in language that is more suited to the 21st century. Our ministry to wedding

couples has seen quite a change too, with more resources to help them plan a service which is both individual and meaningful.

Some of this research has shown us how important these services are to the mission of the church as a whole, and to us as a local part of the Church of England. Some age groups are almost completely absent from our congregations, especially perhaps the 18 to 30s. But if you look at the guests at a wedding or baptism, that missing generation is often well represented. And if we include those who attend funerals in the numbers, there are about 200,000 people attending so-called occasional offices in the UK every week. And each of these people will be on their own faith journey. They may not consider themselves churchgoers, but in a given year, may come into contact with the message of God's love several times in different places: at a friend's wedding, the baptism of a nephew or niece, and perhaps the funeral of a grandparent.



It's so important that we see each person with whom we come into contact as part of God's story. As a parish, we are taking part in a pilot programme to use some new Church of England resources in our ministry to the bereaved. As churches, we will continue to hold grieving families in our prayers, both personally and in our Sunday intercessions. There will also be new ways in which we can share God's love with our visitors for baptisms, weddings and funerals. If you have any suggestions to make, and particularly if you hear any comments from visitors (bad or good, as long as it's genuine!) please let me know. *Ruth*

Services at St Columba during July

Prayer during the week – Tues & Thurs at the Hub – 9.15am

6th July – Trinity 3

- 8am - Said Communion;
- 10am - All Age Morning Worship – *with Parade Service and music led by the band from Holy Rood Stubbington*
- 6.30pm - Iona service

13th July – Trinity 4 – Sea Sunday

- 8am - Said Communion
- 10am - Family Communion *with Columba Kids*

20th July – Trinity 5

- 8am - Said Communion
- 10am – Morning Worship – *with Columba Kids*
- 6.30pm – Summer Evensong



27th July – Trinity 6

- 8am - Said Communion
- 10am – Family Communion

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Year's Mind for July

1 st	Sophie Butcher, Evelyne Fowler, Kenneth Hunt, Rachel Westmacott
2 nd	John Davies, Maurice Feldon Jack May, Maurice Seldon
3 rd	Reginald Knight, Leslie Morgan, Tom Saunders, Colin Mary Spooner, Leslie Wrixon
4 th	Kate Edwards, Ian Lord
5 th	George Stone, John Taylor

6 th	Joseph Hyde, Dennis Leach, Mabel Martin, Peter Pennell, Percy Ramell, Phyllis Warner
7 th	Patricia Cleak, Hilton Heaseman, Bernard Kemp
8 th	Megan Coomes, Rosemary Tighe, Wyn Williams
9 th	Geoff Burr, Gordon Hester
10 th	
11 th	Ada Jacobs, John Lait, Walter Wellman
12 th	Norman Anderson, Minni Barlow
13 th	Roland Crumpton-Pratt, Tom Pidsley
14 th	Grace Ford, John Golding
15 th	
16 th	Michael Allen
17 th	Toby Tighe
18 th	Madge Chapman, Marion Cheater, Linda Cole, Florence Ladd, Audrey Purden, Reg Sims
19 th	
20 th	Arthur Smith
21 st	James Balgarnie, Eric Bishop, Marjorie Blanchard, Lauren Peachey, Elizabeth Trapp, Marilyn West
22 nd	Nan Menzies, Hipek Tymoszuk
23 rd	Kathleen Godwin, Mary Smith
24 th	
25 th	Arthur Bicker, William Collins, Frederick Gilbert
26 th	Roy Hicks
27 th	Mary White
28 th	
29 th	Tom Hair
30 th	Irene Rogers
31 st	Charles Etheridge, Hilda Truine
August	
1 st	William Field, Fred Fielder, Doris Gard, Ethel Helliwell, Eileen Hillier, Peter King, Dorothy Webb
2 nd	Doris Dimmer, Eddie Wrixon
3 rd	Albert Roberts



World Concern Committee:

Tools for Self Reliance, a broad-based voluntary movement, was started in 1979 by a handful of dedicated activists. Disillusioned by their experiences of development projects in Africa and the failure of overseas development assistance to trickle down to the grassroots, the founders took it upon themselves to work with small-scale community based groups and at the same time lobby major institutional donors and governments to adopt a more people-centered approach to development assistance.



For people in Africa with skills and drive, a good set of tools can help them earn a living for themselves and their family. Tools for Self



Reliance (TFSR) gives practical people in Uganda, Tanzania, Ghana, Zambia, Malawi and elsewhere in Africa the chance to take control of their lives and build their communities by giving them the tools and training they need.

TFSR seek to do this by collecting and refurbishing unwanted tradesmen's tools. They are then packed and sent as sets to where they are needed in Africa. If you are able to support them in their valuable work there will be a collection bin in the foyer, along with a list of the tools and haberdashery needed /not wanted.

For further information or help with transport speak to Maurice at St Columba (01329 288916) or Nigel at Holy Trinity (07818 237960). Financial contributions are also very welcome!!

Around the Diocese

Archdeaconry Consultations on Ministry and Mission:

An evening event for our Archdeaconry is being held on Thurs 11th Sept at St. John's, Shedfield from 7-9pm, at which The Bishop, Archdeacon and Diocesan Secretary will be present to discuss our ministry and mission in future years, how it is being planned for and how it will be funded. All are very welcome to attend.

Surprise Spirituality Day!

Ruth Tuschling, our diocesan spirituality advisor, will be leading a day on Saturday 19th July 2014 from 10am-3.30pm at Portsmouth Cathedral. The theme isto be a surprise!!

Storytelling Workshop - If you're looking for inspiration for sharing



stories with small or large groups, then this workshop might be just what you need! The use of puppetry, props and drama will be explored, together with a short taster of 'Godly Play'. This session takes place on Tuesday 15th July, from 7.30-9pm at Holy Trinity Church Hall. Booking is via 02392 899678

or e-mail clare.jones@portsmouth.anglican.org.

Exploring Christian Healing – foundations and practice

Saturday 18th October. 9.30-3.30pm at Portsmouth Cathedral. This day is open to all who are interested in exploring the principles and practice of Christian healing. No previous experience necessary. Poster and booking forms are in the foyer.



Oasis Tea and Chat - Our friendly and informal bereavement team work to support those who have suffered from the effects of losing a loved one. 'The Oasis' Tea and Chat Club has been formed to help with this support and next meets on Monday 7th July between 2-4pm at the Highlands Hub, Highlands Road Shopping Precinct. Come and join us for a cup of tea, homemade cake and a chat, we would love to see you, with or without a friend. Contact June Hays on 01329 231449 if you would like to know more.

General Synod – Final vote on women bishops

The final vote on legislation that would enable women to become bishops will be taken at General Synod meeting from 11th – 15th July. The diocese have published a prayer specifically for the synod, and asks us to join other Christians praying it as the synod meets:



*Almighty God,
you have given your Holy Spirit to the Church
to lead us into all truth:
bless with the Spirit's grace and presence
the members of the General Synod;
keep them steadfast in faith and united in love,
that they may manifest your glory
and prepare the way of your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

St. Columba Leadership Team

Area of Oversight	Member's Name	Contact Tel. Number
Worship & Prayer	} Revd Ruth Schofield {	01329 842300 / 07738 858909
Discipleship		
Pastoral Care	Mike King	01329 238194
Fabric & Finance	Jane Whiteley	01329 668388
Fellowship	Margaret Handley	01329 608817
Outreach	Jim Palmer	01329 289568
Administration	Rachel Abbey	01329 318690

Thank you to our contributors this month. We would love to hear from you – want to reply? Want to share something that's struck you, or tell us about something you're involved in? Articles for the next edition of the Informer (available 3rd August) are very welcome – 500 words or less. Please forward them to Rachel Abbey - hard copy deadline Mon 28th July, electronic copy deadline Tuesday 29th July to rachel.abbey@ntlworld.com
- Thank you.