



St Columba Church
changing lives

ST. COLUMBA INFORMER

June 2014

The Challenge of Beautiful Feet...

Do you like a challenge? Perhaps you have a fitness challenge that you're working towards, or a DIY project. Perhaps it's something quite long term like studying for a qualification, or to exhibit a painting with an art group. These challenges can be on our hearts/minds for a while, & whether they are personal or something that you do with a group, they can focus the attention & channel more energy than you thought you had!

There's nothing quite like a challenge set by someone else... On Monday evening, I was challenged when I received a phone call from two young women, walking from Exeter to Liverpool via London, and sharing the gospel with people they meet along the way. They had arrived at Holy Trinity Church, and were ringing the phone numbers they



found there to try to get somewhere to stay for the night. That itself was a challenge, as I was on call to the hospital, and unwilling to take in people we didn't know when I might have to leave suddenly in the night! However, they had a tent, and were very grateful for a place to pitch it, so the Columba Vicarage garden was the answer to the first challenge.

A much bigger challenge came over coffee that evening. Milla and Sophie were full of enthusiasm, and quite undaunted by the journey ahead of them, and the difficulties they were facing. It seemed to me to be very

risky and perhaps even irresponsible to set out on a journey with no idea of where you might sleep. In a way though, it was this desire to risk for the sake of the gospel that challenged me. As they walked, they had found people asking them what they were doing, and why, and in answering, were able to share how knowing Jesus had changed their lives.

The question that rose in my mind, is how do we do the same thing - as individuals & as a Church? We might not be carrying large rucksacks & literally stepping out in faith, but we can still make ourselves stand out, & create opportunities for others to ask – why are you doing this? There were some suggestions at the leadership conferences last year: doing random, or uncalled for acts of kindness wherever we happen to be can be the starting point for conversation. Picking up litter perhaps, or doing the shopping for an elderly neighbour might be things we do anyway (just because of the people we are), but if we can make opportunities for people to ask why, so that we can share something of God’s love with them, that seems to me to be where the walking boots hit the road. There’s definitely an element of meeting people where they are - going out to meet them - rather than waiting for them to come to us.



Of course, there are many ways in which we are already doing this as a Church, including the Hub, our work at St Columba Academy, and our tea parties (next one on July 12th). But if there are any ideas you have for a fresh challenge to us as a Church, please come & share them.

And please also pray for Sophie and Milla. They have called their challenge Beautiful Feet, a reference to the passage from Isaiah “How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of a messenger who bring good news” (*Isa 52.7*). I pray that we too might have beautiful feet, bringing the good news to those around us through what we do and through opening up the possibility of real conversations.

Ruth



Aspects of Faith Explored

**A short course taking place
7.30 – 9pm on Thursday evenings
at the Highlands Hub, Highlands Road, Fareham.**

Thursday 19th June - *Seeing the Image of God through the Lens of Evolution* – led by *Rachel Abbey*

In our first evening of this series, the discussion will explore our understanding of the image of God in people against the backdrop of evolutionary theory.



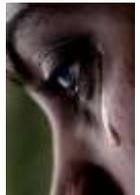
Thursday 26th June – *Where do we go from here?* – led by *Ruth Schofield*



Our understanding of heaven has changed over time, and teaching / discussion in this session will examine concepts of heaven for the 21st Century.

Thursday 3rd July – *In the Footsteps of Job* – led by *Rev Ruth Schofield*.

‘Why do good people suffer?’ is a question asked afresh by each generation. This third session is a chance to think through the difficulties that suffering poses in the light of Biblical insights.



Thursday 10th July – *Are we Guilty of Neutering the Gospel?*



– led by *James Blott*

This final evening explores Jesus’ radical teaching on social justice, and the ways in which we might regain a fresh perspective on being Christ’s ‘good news’ to a broken world

Refreshments available.

All welcome. Please contact Rachel Abbey for more details (01329 318690; rachel.abbey@ntlworld.com) or just turn up on the night.



Come prepared to give your brain a work-out!

Church Flowers.



Reading 'Easter Reflections' in the May Informer prompted us to write a few words about the flowers you see in church every week. Helper numbers have fallen recently and we now have a fairly small group of 'regulars' who provide and arrange flowers on a rota system. We have a Flower Fund which is mainly used for special occasions, such as Easter, Christmas or St. Columba Day when everyone available helps.

If you would like to join us, you will receive a very warm welcome. Alternatively, if you feel unable to arrange flowers, you might

like to consider making a donation from time to time or giving something to mark a special date, when a member of the team will be happy to arrange flowers on your behalf. If you would like to help in any way or to know anything more please have a chat with Beryl Sweetland or Shirley Payne.

Friends of Fareham Community Hospital AGM

This year's Annual General Meeting of 'The Friends' will be held on **Thursday, 26th June at 7pm**, in the Tom Smith Room at Fareham Community Hospital, Brook Lane, Sarisbury, SO31 7DQ. At this meeting Dr Alan McFarlane, of the Fareham and Gosport Clinical Commissioning Group, will talk to us about the Group's plans for future community health services in our area, and the impact they could have on the work of the Hospital. Members of the public are very welcome to come to this event.

Communicating the Gospel through Classical music

"...this I call to mind and therefore I have hope..."

The arts have an amazing power to communicate eternal truths. The chamber ensemble Speranza, based at St John's Church, Locks Heath, performs a wide variety of classical music concerts featuring a mixture of high quality chamber music with visual art and poetry. It is our aim that both musicians and audience will encounter God in whom our hope is found.

Speranza was formed in Moscow by Kath Sugden as part of an outreach to professional classical musicians. Since relocating to the UK, they have performed many times in Locks Heath, where they are based, and in other venues round Hampshire and West Sussex, as well as further afield. Charles and Kath Sugden are once again joined by an array of talented people during the 2014 season, and are performing 'Music of Paris' at St Columba on **Friday 27th June 2014**, including: *Moszkowski Suite, Saint Saens Priere, Faure Morceau de Concours, Chaminade Concertino, Ganne Andante et Scherzo, Debussy Petite Suite*

Tickets are: £3 (£2 concessions), with a retiring collection for 'Young Life' in Bulgaria, a charity working with disadvantaged Roma children. Tickets can be obtained from Margaret Handley, The Highlands Hub, or Holy Trinity church office.

Details of Speranza's concerts during the 2014 season are available on their website: www.musicofhope.wix.com/speranza



Services at St Columba during June

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

1st June – 7th Sunday of Easter

- 8am - Said Communion;
- 10am - All Age Morning Worship
- 6.30pm - Iona service



8th June – Pentecost / St Columba Day

- 8am - Said Communion
- 10am - Family Communion *with Columba Kids*
- 3.30pm – Songs of Praise for St Columba Day

15th June – Trinity Sunday

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

22nd June – 1st Sunday of Trinity

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

29th June – St. Peter and St. Paul

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

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Find us on facebook!
StColumbaChurchFareham.facebook

Year's Mind for June

1 st	
2 nd	Doreen Little, Nigel Messenger, Ralph Tucker
3 rd	May Hartfall, Olive Hunt, Peter Sampson
4 th	Doris Cox, Harold Hills, John Neighbour
5 th	Cyril Knight, Edwin Rawlins
6 th	Marie Curtiss, Rose Dimmer, John Dimmer, John McIntear, Joan Neal, Albert White, Ronald Tullett
7 th	
8 th	
9 th	Ann Davis
10 th	
11 th	Lucy Whitehead
12 th	Daisy Edney, Mary Knowles, Frederick Matthews
13 th	Doreen Lee
14 th	
15 th	John Kinsman
16 th	Edith Latty
17 th	
18 th	Charlie Stratton
19 th	Bob Inman, Charles Warner, Irene Kirkbride
20 th	Grace Tee
21 st	Nina Rollo, Michael Woolley, Frank Bewster
22 nd	
23 rd	Ethel Hillier, Harry Kemp
24 th	Ronald Eagle
25 th	Joe Butcher, Jim Murray
26 th	Dot Burgess
27 th	Alice Williams, Jane Wood
28 th	Francis Allen
29 th	Janet Farrow, Tricia Waterman
30 th	





Fairtrade, a flawed organisation?



You may well have seen some worrying headlines in recent days questioning the effectiveness of Fairtrade in tackling rural poverty. The Fairtrade movement is making a very tangible difference to 1.4 million poor farmers and workers in 70 countries across the world, their families and communities. Fairtrade feel it's important to share

the other side of the story that has been lost in the sensational headlines.

Where has the story come from?

The media stories follow the release of a research study entitled "Fairtrade, Employment and Poverty Reduction in Ethiopia and Uganda" The study focuses on wage workers (those who don't own land but use wage labour in agricultural farms to earn a living) - their wages and working conditions, and asks if Fairtrade makes a difference for them. The scope of the research was **only in two countries** – Ethiopia and Uganda and the study only looked at **four Fairtrade** certified organisations (one large flower plantation that was decertified during the study itself, one tea smallholder group and two coffee small farmer cooperatives) **out of over 1,000 worldwide.**

What is the Fairtrade Foundation's response?

Fairtrade has an open policy to academic research and learning, and over the last five years they have commissioned several studies that highlight both benefits and limitations of Fairtrade. Such research helps them improve their work, their focus and to make sure Fairtrade delivers for marginalised rural communities where they work. They welcomed the focus of the study on wage workers and the difficult

questions it has asked. However, **they strongly disagree with the generalised, sweeping conclusions criticising Fairtrade as a whole - in fact many statements that have made media headlines are not evidenced in the report.**

Fairtrade is a work in progress, committed to tackling injustice & poverty brought about by a deeply unfair international trading system. It is making a real difference towards this aim, as numerous academic studies have shown – including one from the University of Göttingen which found that in Uganda itself farmer incomes on Fairtrade certified farms had risen 30%, & another from the Natural Resources Institute in Africa, Asia & Latin America which highlights the particular benefits felt by women and children from Fairtrade premium investments.

Fairtrade is a work in progress, committed to tackling injustice and poverty brought about by a deeply unfair international trading system.

Whilst the focus of this research is useful, and its findings sobering for all concerned with fighting poverty, Fairtrade believe the critical headlines the report has received in the media are inaccurate and flawed: because the limited scope of the study doesn't allow for such broad brush and sweeping criticisms of Fairtrade as a whole; and also because the study looks at four producer organisations out of a possible 1000+ worldwide, in two countries out of a possible 70, and compares small family farms with large scale commercial plantations.

Once again the media has gone for the sensational story rather than an objective assessment of a report!

Christian Aid Week Thank you:



St Columba's efforts during Christian Aid Week raised £473 + gift aid out of a total of £6,000 + gift aid by the Churches in Fareham. **A big thank you** to all who supported these efforts with their time or talents.

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 meets on the first Monday in the month from 2pm to 4pm at the Highlands Hub, Highlands Road Shopping Precinct and on the Third Wednesday in the month from 2pm to 4pm in Holy Trinity Church Lounge, West Street, Fareham. If you are free and feeling alone do 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. **We next meet at the Hub on Monday, 2nd June from 2pm to 4pm.**

Please ring June Hays on 01329 231449 if you would like to know more.



Around the Diocese

Masculine Spirituality - Saturday 21st June

St Peter's Church, The Square, Petersfield. GU32 3HS 10am to 3.30 pm
Why not set aside a day to explore the theme of 'masculine spirituality'? It's being led by Will Hughes and is open to men and women. It'll involve some discussion of what the title means, followed by an opportunity to explore a range of activities which may be both spiritual and masculine, based around the Benedictine monastic day. Book with Clare Jones at the Diocesan Offices/ application form on foyer notice board.

Thank you to all 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 29th June) are very welcome – 500 words or less. Please forward them to Rachel Abbey - hard copy deadline Mon 23rd June, electronic copy deadline Tuesday 24th June to

View from the Pew - Win or Lose



In my day (as they say), we were taught how to be competitive – in contrast to this non-competitive environment children experience now. It always had a way of evening itself out - some children were academic, some like myself were good at sports. We were all encouraged to compete,

with spelling tests every Friday morning, sports days, swimming galas, poetry competitions - the importance of doing well was drilled into us, with pressure to get your 11+ and go to the grammar school, rather than the secondary modern (referred to locally as St Trinians!).

My 11+ came at a time when competition was fierce, and my parents were paying the ex-headmistress for private tuition to help me pass the exam. My Dad was a humble, but very skilled tradesman, and not to be out-done he scraped together enough money for my extra tuition. After my first session, I was given a note to take home to my father. Miss Hayes, the ex-headmistress, felt it would be waste of his hard earned money for me to continue, she felt I was a lost cause. Now I am older and wiser when I think back, I am convinced it was a class thing.... the doctor's son, the dentist's daughter etc. were all deemed suitable for extra tuition, but not me (it couldn't possibly have been because that I was a bit dim, could it?). Ha! Well snooks to you Madam, I passed my 11+ without the extra tuition, and some of the children that had it didn't.

As I was growing up, our seaside village was furiously and speedily developing into an area for holiday makers. Anyone who could took in paying guests, and all the farmers discovered their land was worth more as a caravan site, and easier to run than being out in all weathers tending to arable crops or livestock.



The result of having all these caravan sites proved very profitable for me for a short while. Every Friday each caravan park held sports days. Running, jumping, throwing - all the things I was good at. So off I set, running from one event to the other scooping all the prizes, often money, or vouchers for local shops, toys and sweets. I got so good I won everything I entered! My new 'career' was cut short however after about the fifth week. When I got home from my 'victories' Dad was waiting for me. "Sorry Darling, but I have had several phone calls, you have been BANNED from all the caravan sports days" They deemed it wasn't fair on the holiday makers' children if I won all the races. I couldn't understand it, I wasn't cheating, or tripping anyone up, I was just the best there. Anyone was welcome to throw further than I could, or run faster. Banned from caravan sports days or not, I continued running & represented my County.

The 'politically correct' environment that prevails today hardly prepares children for the 'big wide world'.

Like it or not, everything is a competition: getting a star on the school chart, passing an exam, getting a job, a partner, a promotion, playing board games, musical chairs, pass the parcel, being accepted into a choir or club, it's all one big competition. So I say let them compete...! *ET*



Ed's note – are you in agreement? Let us have your perspective

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

