



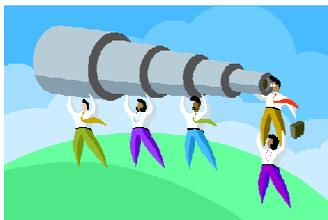
ST. COLUMBA INFORMER

March 2014

Parish Vision

At the beginning of 2013, we set ourselves some fairly challenging targets to meet as part of our parish vision. Over the last months some of those challenges have been met, and others remain before us. The big things however, have moved on significantly, and we are starting to see results.

Revd Kate Macfarlane joined us in April as our Families and Community worker. She has been leading Early Birds, the Breakfast Club at the Academy, and supporting the OTB team, as well as building links with the Guiding and Scouting groups that meet in North-West Fareham. Nicola Samuel was appointed as Manager of the Hub in August,



taking charge of training of all our volunteers and encouraging more people to come in by starting various craft groups. She has recently started opening the Hub every Saturday morning, and we have seen an increase in visitors and takings in the cafe.

The LLT has looked again at all that we do as a Church, not just the areas that we covered in the vision, and it's

a really full picture! Heartfelt thanks to everyone who has contributed their time and effort. Please continue to pray for all of this mission work. *Ruth*
A copy of the targets, first introduced to you last June, is shown overleaf so that you can see the progress made in each area.

	6 Months	1 Year plan	Progress to date
Development of the church and hall	Appoint an architect <i>Initial consultations with DAC / architect.</i> Initial sketches from architect <i>Present ideas to both SC and HT congregations</i>	Continuation of 6 month plans Begin fundraising	Architect appointed. Initial consultation with DAC. Initial sketches ordered. Fundraising begun.
Communication	New exterior notice board / banner at end of church Street sign saying 'St Columba church'?	New banners for Vicarage fence to publicise main events.	New exterior notice board ordered. New banners obtained for Vicarage fence.
Worship	Explore updating the audio-visual systems in church	New audio-visual system in place. Review of worship pattern	Audio-visual systems explored. Encounter stopped and summer evensongs initiated. Iona to be reviewed.
Community	Employ a Community Worker Make a decision about the Hub lease	Have regular 'tea and cake' sessions established.	Hub lease continued and Hub manager employed. Family and children's worker employed. Bereavement team started tea and chat. Two community tea parties held.
School	Continue to build links with St Columba Academy	Cross-parish collaboration on Open the Book to explore extending it into other schools.	Close links with St Columba Academy built. Open the Book firmly established.

School continued		Breakfast Club established at St Columba Academy	Breakfast Club meets every week with growing attendance, usually 12.
Others	Explore how to support Maurice with wider 'mission' issues		World Concern Committee established with stronger cross-parish membership

The Bishop's Lent Appeal:



Over the past two years our local focus has been on the needs of those most vulnerable when there are many facing financial pressures. In 2012 and 2013 the response to raise funds for food banks and the support of homeless people was very generous with significant rises in the amounts raised in both years.

Please pass my thanks and gratitude to your congregations and communities for their commitment and gifts. Thank you.

This year's Lent Appeal focuses on poverty and debt. Some of you will be aware that I have spoken extensively on this subject, at a lecture at Winchester University, at Diocesan Synod and in other places. It is something very close to my heart, and I hope and trust that your congregations will get behind this campaign. Normally the Lent Appeal supports an international charity and a local charity. However, because of the continuing extent of local and national need, this year the money will be divided between the national debt counselling charity Christians Against Poverty, and local food banks.



Lent Course 2014



A course based on the stories and experiences of characters in 'Les Miserables' - and how these relate to our own experience of Christian living.

We will be showing the film at St Columba Church on:

Friday 7th March at 2pm (cake & tea included)

Sunday 9th March at approx 11.45am (with a soup and roll lunch)

	<i>Holy Trinity</i> 7.30-9pm	<i>The Hub</i> 7.30-9pm	<i>St Columba</i> 10 – 11.30am
Wk 1	Tues 11 th Mar	Thur 13 th Mar	Fri 14 th Mar
Wk 2	Tues 18 th Mar	Thur 20 th Mar	Fri 21 st Mar
Wk 3	Tues 25 th Mar	Thur 27 th Mar	Fri 28 th Mar
Wk 4	Tues 1 st April	Thur 3 rd Apr	Fri 4 th Apr
Wk 5	Tues 8 th April	Thur 10 th Apr	Fri 11 th Apr

We recommend that you purchase the book that accompanies the course:

'Another story must begin' by Jonathan Meyer
currently available on Amazon for £4.49 or Eden.co.uk for £5.55. (also available in e-book format).

Please contact Rachel Abbey (Tel: 01329 318690 / rachel.abbey@ntlworld.com) if you would like a book to be purchased on your behalf / are intending to stay for soup on Sunday 9th March.

Powering onwards and upwards?

Milton Jones, the comedian, commented that “sometimes people think of church as being like a giant helicopter. They don’t want to get too close in case they get sucked into the rotas!” I should add that Milton is a Christian and I can thoroughly recommend his book of 10 second sermons.

When we think about our PCC (Parochial Church Council), though, there does need to be a certain amount of circulation. Representing the church membership on the PCC is a seriously important job, and every now and then, those who have served need to take a rest. Every three years, members need to stand for re-election, and after six years, must have a break. This means that the church continues to benefit from the variety of gifts that we all have to offer.

The PCC for our parish (Holy Trinity with St Columba) usually meets six times a year, and St Columba members also serve on our church committee. They decide how we spend our resources and take many of the decisions that go along with sharing the gospel, worship, outreach and keeping our buildings safe and welcoming. Elections are coming up at the APCM on Monday 28th April, and I would encourage anyone who is interested in serving on the PCC to speak to Jim Palmer, Jane Whiteley or me. We can tell you more of what’s involved. Nomination forms will be available before the APCM.

Ruth

Electoral Roll 2014

The electoral roll is now available in the foyer for you to check the accuracy of the name and address details we hold for you. If you are not on the electoral roll and would like to be included, please complete a slip and put it in the box. **The deadline for checking / applications is 16th March 2014.** Any applications received after this date will be added to the electoral roll after the APCM, and you will not be eligible to vote / stand for election at this year’s APCM. Any queries please give me a ring on 01329 287984.

Bridget Rollo – Electoral Roll Officer

World Concern Committee – Fairtrade Fortnight



Thousands of Fairtrade supporters around the country geared up to launch an extra special Fairtrade Fortnight campaign in 2014, aiming to bring about landmark change in the banana industry.

The enthusiasm to make this the most significant Fairtrade Fortnight yet is palpable among organising groups as 2014 marks the 20th anniversary of the FAIRTRADE Mark in the UK.

The Fareham Fairtrade group kicked off the campaign with a highly successful stall in Fareham Shopping Centre on Saturday, 22nd February. Over 500 Fairtrade bananas, kindly donated by the Southern Co-operative store in Gudge Heath Lane, were given away, and 70 people signed the 'Make Bananas Fair' campaign petition, including Mark Hoban MP, the Mayor of Fareham, Cllr Susan Bayford, and Executive Leader of Fareham Borough Council, Cllr Seán Woodward.

Many more events are planned across South Hampshire during the Fortnight by local groups from Havant to Winchester. For more information please visit: <http://fairtradeinhampshire.hampshire.org.uk/cgi-bin/page.pl?id=diary>

The Fairtrade Foundation plans to commemorate two decades of the well-known mark by tackling head-on the trade injustice that still exists in supply chains, commodity by commodity. In Fairtrade Fortnight, which began on Monday 24th February, the aim is to launch a campaign that will ultimately transform the banana industry to ensure millions of struggling banana farmers and workers get a fairer deal. It is the second phase of the Foundation's three year campaigning programme, Make Food Fair.



From cotton to bananas to tea to sugar, the pressure caused by the toxic pincer movement of consumers wanting cheap products, & retailers waging price wars, is fuelling poverty among the farmers & workers who grow the produce.

Michael Gidney, Chief Executive of the Fairtrade Foundation, said: *'After two decades of going against the tide to help farmers make a fair exchange for the fruits of their labour, millions of farmers and workers continue to struggle at the sharp end of unfair supply chains linked to some of our favourite products in 2014. That's just wrong. What's more, despite being highly successful in many areas, Fairtrade products still represent less than one per cent of global trade in most categories. Our job is by no means done, & we plan to tackle this trade injustice, commodity by commodity, starting with Britain's most popular fruit.'*

Women's World Day of Prayer – Friday 7th March



The WWDP service is held on the first Friday of March each year, and all are welcome to attend – men, women and children. The service this year has been created by a committee of Christian women from Egypt, and was written at a time of great hope, just after the Arab Spring.

The day is being celebrated in Fareham by all different denominations of Christians at the United Reformed Church. This year something new - the daytime service is to be at 10:30am, the evening at 7:30pm. Come along to share this 24 hour world-wide event of prayer and Christian celebration.

The WWDP enables the selected country and its people to become the focus of the world's prayers on the day itself, the first service of the day taking place on the island of Samoa as dawn breaks. The world is then circled in prayer for 36 hours and the service is celebrated in over 170 countries until the last one of this special day takes place on American Samoa. In this way, all those participating become part of a global movement – whose calling is 'informed, prayerful action'.

St Columba C. of E. Primary Academy - News Update!

Phonics Bug - A recent new initiative at St Columba is Phonics Bug. It was launched to parents & children in January, & is already proving a big hit. Phonics Bug allows children to read e-books chosen by their teacher in their own home on a laptop or desktop. The children also have opportunities to



access Phonics Bug at school in our special after school club each Thursday. As well as reading a book, children have opportunities to answer questions about their reading by completing the phonics bug “bugs” on screen. Many children have read several books already & we are seeing huge benefits in the progress they are

making in reading.

Curriculum Opportunities - Lots of exciting curriculum experiences are organised by staff in order to engage the children in their learning. Year R had a brilliant Teddy Bear’s Picnic before half term - going on a bear hunt, making their bears toast & honey, & retelling the story of Goldilocks & the Three Bears to their grown-ups who came in for the afternoon.

Year 1/2 had a fantastic time on a visit to Marwell Zoo in February, despite the dreadful weather that day. They were so pleased to learn about different creatures and their habitats, and to see the penguins, giraffes & all the other animals. They came back full of news about which animals they liked the most, which they shared over a warming cup of hot chocolate when they got back to school! The children raised over £100 at a cake sale on the last day of the half term in order to raise funds to sponsor a penguin.

Year 3/4 had an amazing day at the Leisure Centre last month where they participated in a whole range of activities including Zumba, boot camp (which involved a whole series of obstacles), quick reactions (which involved touching coloured boxes) and a rotating climbing wall. This all linked with their current learning which is all about staying healthy.

Year 5/6 were very lucky to have a visit from local councillor Peter Davies. He talked with the children about his role & listened to their ideas about what they wanted to improve about our local area. Councillor Davies answered their questions & then kindly arranged a coach to take some of them to the civic offices to meet the mayor and learn more about how the council works.



The whole Academy enjoyed a performance of Dick Whittington and his cat by M and M Theatre Productions in January.



Extra Curricula Clubs -Children at St Columba continue to participate in a range of extra curricula clubs and activities including Y6 Maths Club, Chess, Nature Club, Phonics Bug Reading Club, Street Dance and Football. Phonics Bug is particularly popular and now has over forty eight children choosing to stay after school and read e-books on a laptop and answer lots of questions. Zero Hour Training in Choi Kwang Do has restarted for the twenty children introduced to Choi last term, and we hope to start a new group in the Summer term. Early Birds breakfast club now runs weekly on Friday mornings.



Building Work -At present the Academy is undergoing some major building work as we were fortunate to get some funding from the Academy Capital Maintenance Fund for some much needed building improvement work. The contractors are currently replacing the doors and windows in the old Scola block and smartening it up both outside and inside. As a result we are presently a bit squeezed as some classes have had to move out of the block for the Spring term, however we are very much looking forward to seeing our smart new classrooms and smart new exterior in the Summer.



*Jane Hoggarth-Allen
Principal - February 2014.*



Services at St Columba during March

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

2nd March – Sunday next before Lent

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



5th March – Ash Wednesday

10.30am – *Holy Communion with Ashing – at Holy Trinity*
7.30pm – *Holy Communion with Ashing (St Columba)*

9th March – 1st Sunday of Lent

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

16th March – 2nd Sunday of Lent

8am - Said Communion
10am - *Morning Worship with Columba Kids*

23rd March – 3rd Sunday of Lent

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

30th March – Mothering Sunday

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

Eucharist to celebrate ministry of all God's people

Sunday 18 May | 6pm | Portsmouth Cathedral

Come and join us for a special Eucharist to celebrate the ministry of all God's people, to be held on the 20th anniversary of the ordination of women to the priesthood. Preacher: The Very Rev Dr Frances Ward, dean of St Edmundsbury.

Year's Mind for March

1 st	
2 nd	Carole Gladding, Ellen Hyde, Olwen Kirkby, Ronald Levey
3 rd	Frank Croucher, Lesley Pond, Maurice Reading, Desmond Smith
4 th	Florence Espin
5 th	Dorothy Bowyer, Fredrick Millard
6 th	Vernon Arthur, Richard Budd
7 th	Clementina Finch, John Hucker, Arthur King
8 th	Freda Herring, Walter Robinson
9 th	
10 th	
11 th	Eileen Davies, Ernest Shand, John Woodcock
12 th	
13 th	
14 th	Joyce Barnes, Bill Sweasey
15 th	Richard Grey, Vonita Newell, Barbara Smith
16 th	Ada Saunders
17 th	Hilda Budd, Vincent Butcher
18 th	Doris Peachey, Rose Wright
19 th	Doris Collins, Bob Heys, Penelope Iredale, Linda Nicklen, Florrie Stokes
20 th	Margaret Colbourne, Laurie Craft, George Short, Doris Yeldon
21 st	Royston Cobb, Harry Hindess, David Mondey
22 nd	
23 rd	Win Chilvers
24 th	Nora Mahy
25 th	Wilfred Hicks, Joyce Severn
26 th	
27 th	Betty Benge, John Moss, Dennys Stevens,
28 th	
29 th	Penny Daniels, Dorothy Sturgess, Chris Ward
30 th	William Brenton
31 st	Frederick Brown, James Muncaster, Ronald Robinson



And continuing to bravely pound the streets...

I had always hoped that I would get wiser as I got older, but that appears not to be the case. I ran the London Marathon back in 2007 and it was a truly wonderful experience, but I was so wrecked I vowed not to do it again.

Time has moved on, and as age is catching up on me I have decided that if I want to run it again I had better do it soon, so I will be running in the 2014 London Marathon – the big day is April 13th. I know that there is going to have to be a lot of training needed and I know from last time that this is going to be torture. Fortunately I have always kept myself reasonably fit, but running 26 miles is way beyond my current capabilities.



I am not a natural long distance runner, being more suited to short fast runs. My motivation to get through the training is to know that some needy cause will benefit from my pain, so

I am running on behalf of the Mental Health Foundation as I recognise mental health issues affect people of all ages and situations - young people self-harming, people suffering from workplace stress, the homeless who have lost their jobs, homes and families because of mental illness etc.

I have a sponsorship site <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/KeithWickert>, or there is a sponsorship form in the foyer if you'd like to sponsor me.

Marathon Update: *I am away on placement at the Cathedral at the moment, but wanted to thank everyone for your support both in prayer and sponsorship. The training is going well and my runs are now up to about 19 miles. My target next month is to increase this to 22 miles, so please continue to pray for me. Keith.*

In for a 'High Time' at Holy Trinity

Holy Trinity's plans for having a 'High Time' were introduced to a well-attended meeting of parishioners in February. This project is concerned with repairing, restoring & improving Holy Trinity Church – some of the repairs being both serious & urgent, whilst other parts of the project are aimed at making the church more welcoming.



Time is short...having secured a grant of £243,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the planning stage must be completed by the end of this year, & the works carried out by the end of 2015 to comply with the HLF grant.

Work that needs doing includes: overhauling and restoring the clock (which stopped working in August 2011); replacing rotting timbers and crumbling stonework; preventing rainwater ingress at the top of the tower; replacing some 'dodgy' wiring; and repairing the serious crack in the tower's brickwork – which is making the tower structurally unstable. If I pause for breath there, you might begin to get an idea of why the church was placed on the 'heritage at risk' register following an inspection by English Heritage...

Whilst this work is important and necessary, repairing the tower doesn't improve anything much in terms of community life at Holy Trinity and so the plans will include alterations to the rear of the church – with an area for serving refreshments, and glass doors into the church to make it more visibly open. Any holidays that the Holliday's (John and Sheila) take now have a tendency to include visits to other churches on their itinerary - to see how others are tackling similar issues, and Sheila showed examples of some inspirational ideas that had been found in other parishes.

It is anticipated that the parish will need to raise about £50,000 through fundraising activities co-ordinated by the Project Group, and we'll be invited to join them in having a 'High Time' at these events. The formal launch of the appeal is planned for Friday 23rd May – so keep an eye out in the local press & be ready to chat to any inquisitive neighbours who might have questions about the project!



supported by
The National Lottery
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



And Speaking of time on your hands...



Well, I never thought the day would come that I would retire, there was always so much to do. Children to raise, and nurse, and ferry about, (mum's Taxi) a large home to run, and a busy career as a chef. Make time for a hobby, which in my case were many and varied. Keeping the cake and biscuit tins full with homemade baking. Sounds as if I am painting myself as a Saint. But I am not, that is how it was in my day, all my friends and relations were doing the same. I noticed in

horror while in Tesco's last week a lady before me was buying 'Aunt Bessie's' pancake mix. I took special notice as it pipped through the till. £1.25 to make six pancakes. We never had such conveniences, besides which my conscience would not have allowed me to buy. Four of my Grandchildren popped down on Saturday asking for pancakes, with a couple of their friends, altogether (with Andy and I and my youngest son), we got through 25 pancakes, does that make it a 'pancathlon'? Not a pancake mix in sight.

When I did retire it was through ill health and it was forced onto me. I will not lie, I hated it, it was like a form of grieving, for the lifestyle you have lost. Feeling useless, and (irrationally) worthless. I suffered an awful time of depression. With the love and support of my family I overcame it, and returned to my old self. How do I know I am my old self? Well last week my Grandchildren went to spend the half term with their other Granny, Lia said "Nana is lovely but she isn't daft and potty like you !!!" Proof if it were needed - I am my old self. I think it was a compliment, I took as such. Her other Nana is a dear friend of mine of long standing and she would probably agree. The best piece of advice I was given by my Father was: 'never lose your sense of humour', I did temporarily with the depression.

The joys of retirement are many and varied, firstly on the odd occasion I feel guilty, I remind myself I have earned it. If I feel like a 'slobbing about' day I can have one. If I want to stay up late or go to bed early I can. There is time to help other people more, chat with neighbours, play on the internet, (I am

“On the odd occasion I feel guilty about retirement, I remind myself I’ve earned it...If I feel like ‘slobbering about’ or want to stay up late I can!”

a bit of an addict to my I-pad), I have time to plan my funeral - which I hope isn't for years yet! I can choose my hymns, the trouble is I have so many favourite hymns my funeral will probably be the longest in living memory. My family will have to take packed lunches to the service! He he he.

With retirement comes a myriad of new experiences, not always the best. You see all aspects of human behaviour. I unfortunately have to use a wheelchair or a mobility scooter when I go out, one day we were in McDonalds, never too old for a Big Mac, the ignorant man behind us was impatient, as we were waiting for our order he leaned forward with his elbow on the top of my head as if I were a post! Unbelievable, do we become invisible when we retire?

Well I got myself noticed just before Christmas, I popped into Argos on my shiny new scooter, it is more technologically advanced than my old one. I was sitting in the queue waiting, my hands were in my handbag getting my money ready. WHEN MY SCOOTER SHOT FORWARD AT HIGH SPEED. I ran over the toes of two customers and the scooter didn't stop till it crashed into the counter knocking a display over. I could feel everyone staring at me, and the manager was not amused. I was in a state of great distress. I couldn't understand what had happened. It appears (written in very small print) that interference from mobile phones and other electronic devices can override the controls of the scooter. The more I protested 'it wasn't anything I had done', the more it sounded as if I was fibbing. It's an amusing tale to tell now, but it wasn't funny at the time. Before I retired I would not have had time to have a crash in Argos. Aaah the pleasures of retirement. I love it, long may it last. *Eileen T J*



Check out Eileen's sweet new ride!

Beauty Outside and In

Christians in Fareham are going to have a tent again at this event which is taking place in Fareham town centre on Saturday 29th March.

Volunteers are needed to help with the day (running from 9am to 3pm) to:

- set up from 8.30am
- clear up from 3.00pm
- be willing to hand out fruit and engage with people
- hand therapy/massage
- we hope to have a table that's of interest to children (possibly face painting, or bracelet making, working with clay or other activities yet to be decided)

If anyone would like to help out please contact Sally Davenport on Tel: 07500 775926

St. Columba Leadership Team

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

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? Articles for the next edition of the Informer (available 30th March) are very welcome.

Please forward them to Rachel Abbey - hard copy deadline Mon 24th March, electronic copy deadline Tuesday 25th March to rachel.abbey@ntlworld.com - Thank you.