



St Columba Church
changing lives

ST. COLUMBA INFORMER

November 2014

Making our Memories more Real

The clocks have gone back, autumn is really here, and as the days roll by, we start to think about fireworks, bonfire toffee, and wrapping up warmly against the weather. I have lovely memories of autumn walks, making pumpkin soup and lighting sparklers with my children when they were small, and November brings back those happy thoughts & feelings.

Of course we have our own memories, but we can also remember, or bring to mind, events which we didn't witness ourselves.

As well as bonfire night, November also brings Armistice Day, the anniversary of the end of the World War on November 11th 1918. It's a day when we call to mind all those who gave their lives for their country, not just in the world wars,

but in all the conflicts of the 20th Century and more recent years.

The British Legion raises money through its Poppy Appeal in order to give grants and loans to those wounded or incapacitated through service in our Armed Forces, & the

families of those who have died. These small amounts can change lives, bringing hope & new prospects, retraining for different jobs or the opportunity of starting a small business, or paying for a

wheelchair, artificial limb or adaptations to a home. The Appeal also funds emotional support & counselling for service personnel and families. Last year, the Legion managed to raise an amazing £39 million, but there are still many people who need help.



We should offer our support for those who have put themselves in danger to protect the rest of us by donating to the Poppy Appeal and wearing our poppy with pride.

For all of us, remembering will bring back many emotions, especially if we remember those we have loved and lost. As Christians, we regularly remember what Jesus did for us, when we break bread together to recall his last supper with his friends and his broken body on the cross:

And he took bread, and when he had given thanks he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Luke 22:19

Christians have been fascinated by the power of the Eucharist, Holy Communion, to bring to mind and make Jesus' actions real to us here and now. This was expressed well by in a prayer by a 17th century priest, Dr Daniel Brevint, who yearned to be made more passionate by sharing in the Eucharist:

Help me to grieve for my sins and Thy pains, as they did who saw Thee suffer. Let my heart burn to follow Thee now, when this Bread is broken at this Table...

I pray that we are all able to make real what others have done for us, and to remember them on November 11th, and every day, with the proper gratitude and honour. *Revd Ruth*





Enemy, My Friend?

Our next Sunday lunch discussion takes place on 16th November, and follows the extraordinary story of Eric Lomax, a Japanese prisoner of war in the 1940's, who was tortured by his captors, and spent many years trying to track down one of the men responsible. This forty minute DVD tells the extraordinary story of what happens when Eric finally meets his Japanese interrogator. We are delighted that Mike Finlason, who made the film, will be joining us for discussion after lunch. **All welcome.**



The session will run from 11.45 - 2pm at St Columba Church, Hillson Drive, Fareham, and includes a simple lunch.

Contact Rachel Abbey for more details (01329 318690; rachel.abbey@ntlworld.com).

Faith for Life Sunday Lunches ...

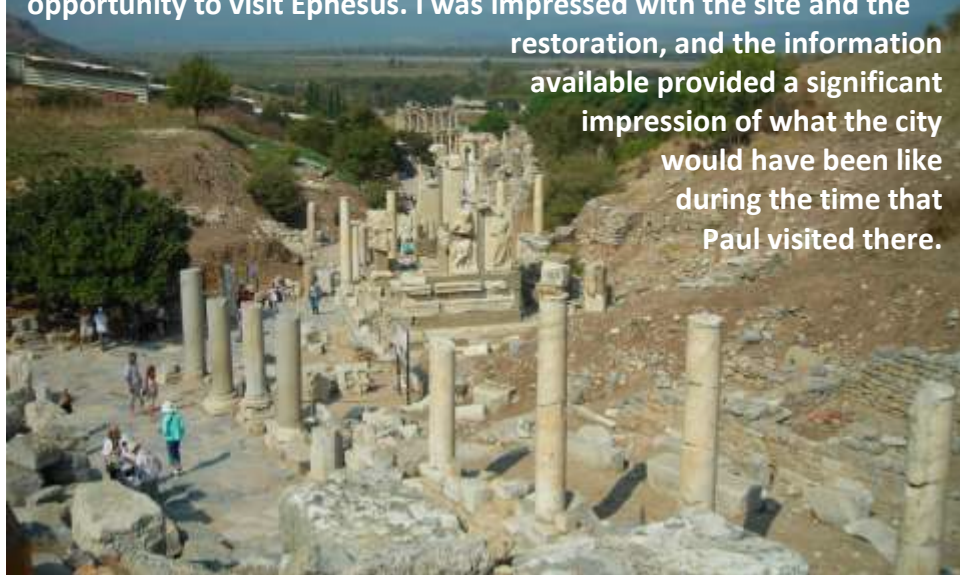
take a break during December, but if there is enough interest we may run more sessions next year – let us know if there's a topic you'd like to hear more about, or would like to discuss in an informal setting. Is there a question that's always bugged you? Would you like a 'guided' tour of a book of the Bible? Nothing is too simple or basic – if you'd like to know the answer, chances are others would too, so...

Over to you ...

Please speak to Ruth Schofield or Rachel Abbey if you have any topics to suggest.

Reflections on a Visit to Ephesus and Mary's House

.....Whilst on holiday in Turkey I took the opportunity to visit Ephesus. I was impressed with the site and the restoration, and the information available provided a significant impression of what the city would have been like during the time that Paul visited there.



It was explained that the size of the population was very significant for that age and it would have been one of the largest cities in the known world. In addition there would have been people from a variety of countries, cultures and faiths, and therefore would have provided great opportunities for evangelism. Although the book of Acts talks of Paul preaching in the synagogue, I found it was easy to envisage Paul taking advantage of the elevated positions of the theatre and square outside the library. The position of these structures would have helped to encourage significant gatherings of people to listen to his message. You can also see in the lay-out of the city how, if Paul created a stir, word of this would have quickly spread up and down the streets. It felt very exciting treading the places that Paul is likely to have trod.

The House of Mary is located on the top a mountain 9 km outside of Ephesus and contains the tomb and shrine of the Virgin Mary. It is claimed that it is

the place where Mary may have spent her last days after being brought to the area by Saint John the Evangelist, avoiding the persecution of Christians in Jerusalem. John spent several years in the area spreading the Christian message and wrote his Gospel there. The site has been visited by two Popes, and is a place of pilgrimage for both Christians and Muslims.

I came to the house with some degree of excitement, but also wondering about how authentic the claims were. To my amazement I found as I approached the threshold of the house I felt reluctant to go in. It is hard to explain, but it was as if I could sense something much bigger and more powerful than me in the building.

When I stepped over the threshold I was filled with a feeling of power and awe and truly uplifted. I could physically feel the Holy Spirit in that place.

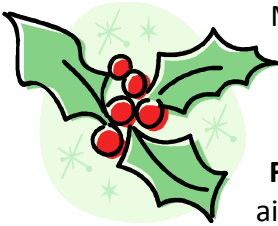
I came to the house with some degree of excitement...it was as if I could sense something much bigger and more powerful than me in the building

I followed the other visitors through and quickly found myself outside and as I left the building the intensity of the feelings declined. Fortunately you could go around again so I went back in to see if it would have the same effect and to my amazement it did. Second time around I was able to take the time to stop and enjoy the experience and pray. This convinced me that this was a place where Mary had spent significant time, and it is the effect of the strength of power of the Holy Spirit in her that remains today.



This experience reminds me of how powerful God's touch can be and makes me reflect on the physical effect an encounter with God had on Moses, with his face was aglow from being in God's presence when he came down from Mount Sinai (Exodus 34 v 29). *Keith Wickert*

Shhh! Don't mention the 'C' word!!



Much as it seems indecently early to mention the 'C' word....kick off your Christmas shopping by coming to our annual Christmas Fair which takes place on **Saturday 15th November 2014** **From 10am – 12noon** at St Columba Church, in aid of the St Columba Development Fund

Lots of stalls will be available – some old favourites (cakes, books, toys, handicrafts and bric-a-brac), some new ones, and of course the raffle and tombola.

Light refreshments will be available - have your first mince pie of the season if you dare! Please support this community event by:

- spreading the news among family, friends and the local community,
- donating items for the stalls and
- coming along on the day to share the fun and meet our neighbours.

Items (labelled *Columba Fair*) may be left at Church before the day, with cakes being brought on the day please. Contact Charlotte Farrell (phone 01489 799249/07754 772083) if you can help at the Fair or need items collecting. Thank you.

And whilst we're on the (shhh) subject....

Our annual, excellent parish Christmas dinner is planned for 14th December More details in due course, but note the date in your diary!



Services at St Columba during November

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

2nd Nov – All Saints' Day

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



9th November – Remembrance Sunday

- 8am - Said Communion
- 10am - Family Communion (with Columba Kids, and Act of Remembrance)

16th November – 2nd Sunday Before Advent

- 8am - Said Communion
- 10am – Morning Worship (with Columba Kids)
Followed by Sunday lunch discussion

23rd November – Christ the King

- 8am - Said Communion
- 10am – Family Communion (with Columba Kids)

30th November – Advent 1

- 8am - Said Communion
- 10am – Family Communion (with Columba Kids)

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 between 2- 4pm for a cup of tea, homemade cake and a chat. The next dates are: **Monday 3rd November** at the Highlands Hub, Highlands Road Shopping Precinct; and **Wednesday 19th November** at Holy Trinity Church lounge, West Street. Come and join us, we would love to see you, with or without a friend. Contact June Hays on 01329 231449 if you would like to know more.

Mauro's Mountain

Putting our clocks back recently made me think it might be nice to let my mind wander back into the past for a brief visit. But then, after some deep thought, I decided that perhaps it might not be such a good idea after all.

It led me to ponder on an e-mail that I had received recently from an old school friend, which was quite distressing. He had been on a short trip 'back home' to our old childhood village.

“Oh, Eileen,” he said, “I wish I hadn't gone. Everything has changed. Our old farmhouse has been knocked down, the orchard has gone, and where Dad had his greenhouses, it's all overgrown and covered in bindweed. I sat in the car remembering all the good times we had there as a family, then I drove down into the centre of the village. That too has changed so much, and not for the better.”

A similar story I can tell you has humorous elements, but was just as heartbreaking to listen to. Many years ago, when I was living in Africa, one of my closest friends was an Italian guy called Mauro, who was living there with his lovely wife Christine and his two children. Mauro missed his homeland. Although his parents were in Africa with him, he still pined for home. He often told us of his life in Italy, the villa they lived in, with its long garden stretching down to the river, and beautiful mountains as its backdrop.

He made it sound so idyllic, but limited finances prevented them from visiting his homeland all together as a family. After much scrimping and scraping, they were able to raise enough money for Mauro to return by himself, with the promise he would bring back lots of photos of the villa, garden, river and mountains.

We all eagerly awaited his return, but when he arrived, there was no beaming face:

"Jeepers, man, you should have seen it! Our villa was a tiny house: one step and I was past it; the garden was tiny: one step and I was past it; the river was a little stream: one step and I was over it; the mountain was a hill: one step and I was on the summit. Jeepers, man, I should have stayed at home."



Memories lurk in our brains, vulnerable to being embellished as we wish. Perhaps some of them are best left alone as happy recollections; for going back and seeing the ravages of time and progress on a much-loved place can be very upsetting.

This is not the only way our memories can become rearranged. On a personal note, I suffered the tragedy of losing my eldest son in 1988. His presence is as fresh today as yesterday, but in my memory he has taken on the status of near sainthood. Over the years his qualities have been magnified, and his faults (what faults?) have been erased and perhaps that is as it should be.



I have come to the conclusion that nostalgia is not for a **place**, but rather for a **time**, which cannot be recaptured except in our personal internal thoughts.

What really matters is how we live our present, and how we treat the people in the here and now. Just remember: you can't put your arms around a memory. So hug someone you love. Now.

Eileen Tolhurst.



Jesus: the voice that makes us turn...

**A four week course reflecting on
the different voices of Jesus:**

Week 1: A Crying Voice...the baby's cry at Bethlehem, announces that God is in town.

Week 2: An Other Voice... focuses on the strangeness of Christ, whose command stilled the storm, forgave sins and raised the dead.

Week 3: A Dying Voice... sees new depths for living in Jesus' familiar words from the cross

Week 4: A Rising Voice...examines the immense quality which made downhearted disciples turn and fire the world with their faith.

Tuesday evenings at David & Edna Inns,41 Crawford Drive, Fareham. Time 7.30-9.30pm. Starting Tuesday 25th November



Thursday evenings at The Highlands Hub. Time 7.30pm-9pm, starting Thursday 27th November.

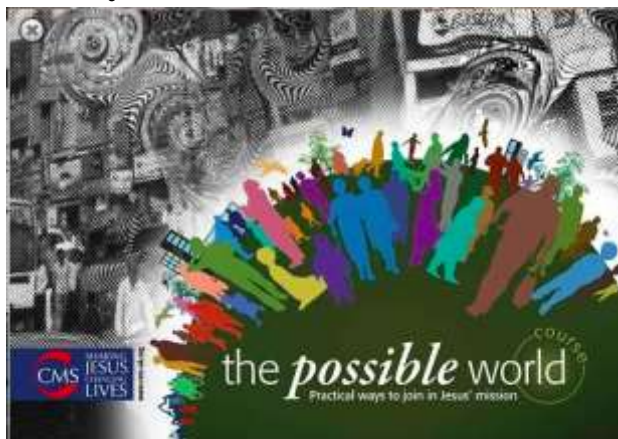
Friday mornings at St Columba Church. Time 10 – 11.30am, starting Friday 28th November (final session 2-3.30pm)

See flyer / contact Rachel Abbey for more details Tel: 01329 318690 e-mail:rachel.abbey@ntlworld.com – every session is open to anyone who wishes to join in, no booking required. Course booklets will be available, suggested donation £3.50

2014 Advent Courses



The possible world...



All of the Possible World sessions will take place at
Holy Trinity Parish Centre, Fareham
from 4pm – 5.30pm.

Sessions will take place on...

Week 1	Sunday 23rd November
Week 2	Sunday 30th November
Week 3	Sunday 14th December
Week 4	Sunday 21st December

Please contact the church office to book onto the course, so that the right number of packs can be made up.

Year's Mind for November

1 st	Leslie Ford, Rose Hunn, John Olivey
2 nd	Iris Adams, Ellen Charman, Denney Hooper
3 rd	
4 th	
5 th	Chris Handley, Dick Hawkins, Debbie Whittle
6 th	Reg Clarke
7 th	Phyllis Constant, Pat Coulton
8 th	Sally Field, Eileen Keppel, Reginald Pragnell
9 th	Kathleen Fullarton, Marge Mulholland
10 th	
11 th	Peggy Silvester
12 th	Joyce Gyngell
13 th	Emily Bryan, Joan Davis
14 th	Betty Farr, Alice Hooker
15 th	Malcolm Low, Paddy Martin, Dorothy Webber
16 th	Matthew Hicks, Mary Jempson, Ted Lord, Edwrad Watson
17 th	George Cole, Stella Weaver, Evelyn Woodcock
18 th	Hilda Nowlan
19 th	John Brown, Norah Saunders
20 th	Bob Austin, Edith Fiathfull, Eric Lawes, Michael Longhurst, Brenda Milne, Kate Ward
21 st	Dorothy Kinsman
22 nd	Selina Brown, Len Pengelly, Eileen Scott
23 rd	
24 th	Mary Bickley, Ted Green, Denis Seymour, Muriel Waters
25 th	Harry Dimmer
26 th	Lily Sharpe, Catherine Shirley
27 th	Ernest Ring
28 th	Wilson Dickinson, Adam Fullarton, Ernest Robinson
29 th	Joseph Anderson, Vera Pennell
30 th	Irene Bicker, Daniel Saunders, Jessie Simpson



Spotlight on World Concerns



OpenDoors

Serving persecuted **Christians** worldwide

"IF ONE PART [OF THE BODY] SUFFERS, EVERY PART SUFFERS WITH IT."

1 CORINTHIANS 12:26

WE DREAM OF A WORLD IN WHICH EVERY CHRISTIAN WHO IS PERSECUTED IS REMEMBERED AND SUPPORTED BY OTHER CHRISTIANS.

Who are the most persecuted people in the world? Jews? Muslims? Buddhists? One American Study estimates that over 100,000 Christians a year are killed **each year** because of their faith. The former Chief Rabi, Jonathon Sacks, compared the suffering of Christians in the Middle East as "one of the crimes against Humanity of our time". He compared it with Jewish pogroms in Europe!

The World Watch List 2014 (compiled by a secular organisation) identifies fifty countries around the world where Christians are persecuted for their faith, twenty of these are rated "severe to absolute".

In this country we can wear a poppy, a red nose or a Pudsey bear at work but be careful about wearing a cross or a fish emblem to show your faith! No problems like that in North Korea - Christians are simply killed out of hand there. In Nigeria and Egypt Christian churches - and their worshippers - are routinely burnt.



The Parish supports Open Doors in its efforts to help persecuted Christians world wide with a donation in its annual giving.

Can you help more? They suggest that we can, pray, give, volunteer, campaign. More information needed? Try www.Opendoors.org. *Maurice*

At The Highlands Hub...



The Highlands Hub costs around £25,000 per year to run, and Nicola (the manager) has been working hard at finding ways of increasing income to help cover the costs.

In addition to the original funding from Hampshire County Council and Fareham Borough Council, the monthly jumble sales have made an increasing contribution, and this year so far have totted up £708.

Rosemary, one of our long term volunteers, takes orders

for Avon cosmetics, and donates some of the profits to the Hub – she has kindly donated £23 this year.

Other customers support us by donating groceries for a hamper which is raffled off each month (tickets 50p each), which has brought in £240 this year, whilst our donated clothing rail - under Penny's eagle eyes - has brought in £533 over the year. Penny is planning a fashion show before the end of the year to raise further funds.



Find us on facebook!

[StColumbaChurchFareham.facebook](https://www.facebook.com/StColumbaChurchFareham)

... Every Little (or a lot!) Helps!

The Co-Op recently asked if The Hub needed anything, and have made a donation of £165 towards a new colour printer – which is in much demand by our customers!

You may have seen that Andy de Bere (pictured below with Nicola) ran in the Great South Run at the end of October, and smashed his target of raising £1,000 for The Hub. With gift aid, he has managed to raise a magnificent £2,000 – and a HUGE thanks goes to him for his efforts.



The following groups use the rooms at the rear of the Hub for offering professional services:

- iTalk (cognitive therapy)
 - Citizen's Advice Bureau
 - Fareham Community Savers
 - Baby Massage
 - Autism Hampshire
 - Avalon (drugs and alcohol recovery service)
 - Nail & manicure services
 - Art group for unemployed
- God is good...!!



Nicola, Penny and Becky supporting Andy de Bere at the Great South Run.

Thank you to our contributors this month. We love to hear from you – want to reply? Want to share something that's struck you, or tell us about something you're involved with? Articles for the next edition of the Informer (available 30th Nov) are very welcome – 500 words or less. Please forward them to Rachel Abbey - hard copy deadline Mon 24th Nov, electronic copy Tuesday 25th Nov to rachel.abbey@ntlworld.com.

Taking Opportunities

When Edna and I went to 'New Wine' in July this year I was in a thoughtful mood, wondering 'Is God going to prompt me into something, is he going to point me to an opportunity?' Last year after hearing Robbie Dawkins speak about healing, & especially about the authority and power that we, as Christians, have in Jesus, I spotted him outside afterwards. He was nearby in the crowd & as his taxi turned up he gave me a few moments & we spoke briefly about healing. He made it sound so ordinary that when we got back I did pray for a couple of people when down in Fareham Market. I began to pray for people on my own, and Keith (Wickert) brought to my notice the organisation known as 'Healing on the Streets' (HOTS). I thought 'If this is not a prompt then I don't know what is'. Well I have followed the prompt & am part of the group that minister in Lee-on-Solent, Gosport &, more recently, Fareham.

Back to New Wine 2014, & again waiting for the prompt. I did not have to wait long, & as I left the talks given by the Bible Society things were going on inside me. I felt some

shame as I have a number of Bibles on my shelf, we just take them for granted in this country, we can obtain them whenever we like but, in some countries they are not available and people are 'crying out' for them. We were shown some videos & I was struck by the hunger of people in some countries for Bibles & by the gratitude of those who received them.

He made healing sound so 'ordinary' ...that I did pray for a couple of people in Fareham market...

The Bible society do a wonderful job & 'guess what?' – when Ruth delivered a great sermon on Bible Sunday she

wrote out the Colossians reading in edible ink on rice paper and we all tore off a piece to eat. I looked at my piece which had two words on it, 'perfect Christ'. I thought 'yep that's for me' – what a breakfast! When we were at the Bible Society Seminar at New Wine one of the speakers asked the question 'Why read the Bible'. All sorts of answers came out but the answer that I have in my mind now is, 'because we should', & one final thought 'let us be thankful for God's word so freely available to us'.

God bless,

David I (trying to get it right!).

