



St Columba Church
changing lives

ST. COLUMBA INFORMER

October 2014

Better together....

It's been nearly two weeks since we held our breath (well I did!) over the Scottish vote about Independence after the Acts of Union passed in England and Scotland, joining them together for a period of more than three centuries. Whatever the outcome of the recent vote in Scotland had been, we knew that things were never quite going to be the same again.



It's been more than forty years (17 June 1971) since St Columba and Holy Trinity were formally established as a team ministry in the benefice of Fareham. In March 2010, the Bishop of Dorking (acting in the vacancy following Bishop Kenneth's retirement) 'suspended presentation' – that is the right of the historic patron (the Bishop in our case) to present the incumbent of the parish. This happened in every other parish of Fareham Deanery when a vacancy occurred over the past few years. It gave time for the Bishop and the Deanery to explore new ways of working together across the parishes and to renew the mission of the church in our particular communities.

During this time, we have had the freedom to consider ways to encourage collaboration across parish boundaries and to work more closely in ministry and mission. We also needed a plan to reduce the

number of full-time (stipendiary) clergy. Alongside this, it was thought worth considering if Holy Trinity and St Columba might separate so each church could more readily join with, for instance, a neighbouring parish. Though not an easy time, we were willing to look at new ideas, and see what we could learn from others in the deanery. It is now agreed that there is no need to make formal changes, but to work together across parish boundaries in mission to the town. Having considered the feasibility of separating, the PCC concluded there was more to be gained by staying together and working as a team, than to try to go our separate ways. After some good discussion, the PCC agreed to let the Archdeacon know that we are content for this suspension of presentation to lapse.



So, we feel that we're better together. This period of discernment has been useful. We recognise and value – perhaps even more now - our different styles that help us reach out to those in our immediate locality. We continue to be a training parish for Curates and know we can offer them really good and varied experiences.

So, we feel fortunate to remain in one parish – that we are 'better together'. There are some things for which we want to come together more often, but other things where we recognise our churches need to be more autonomous. It's important that we can rejoice in what the other is doing and support each other wherever possible. After more than forty years, that feels a pretty healthy development. In the words of a skilled mediator I heard recently: "There's no us and them, only us." Amen to that! *Sally Davenport*



Aspects of Faith Explored

Our series of monthly talks and discussion over lunch continues....

Sunday 12th October – *In the Footsteps of Job* – led by Rev Ruth Schofield.

‘Why does a God of love allow suffering?’ is a question asked afresh by each generation. This second session is a chance to think through the difficulties that suffering poses in the light of Biblical insights.



Sunday 16th November – *Enemy, My Friend?*



Eric Lomax, a Japanese prisoner of war in the 1940's, was tortured by his captors, and spent many years trying to track down one of the men responsible. This 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.

Sessions run from 11.45 - 2pm at St Columba Church, Hillson Drive, Fareham, and include a simple lunch.

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



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

Harvest Time. Harvest... to gather in (crops)

As the nights are drawing in, and thoughts of chilly days and winter begin to fill our minds, I suddenly realized it's not only the farmers that are gathering in. I am 'harvesting' too: I have made plans to visit friends for the weekend, & an old school friend has just contacted me with plans to visit in a couple of weeks. I am harvesting new memories, that squirrel-like I can store for the long winter ahead. My friend Pat is going north on Saturday to visit her sister, before the weather gets bad, another has gone to France for a month to see her daughter and family, before the nights get long. Peggy and Jane are going to Bournemouth for a week, before they start their hibernation. That's just in my small circle of friends.



We all are indeed harvesting in a way, harvesting the love & affection we get from, & feel for our friends & family, it keeps us well stocked up until Christmas, when weather and circumstances permitting we can all see each other again, or exchange newsy Christmas cards. I really love cards when the sender has spared a few minutes from their busy lives to update with news of the family or what they have been up to. I make myself a cuppa, sit down and read and enjoy the 'fruits' of my harvest.

We all like to take something to the Church for Harvest festival, likewise I never visit friends or family empty handed, it may only be a cake I made, or a bottle of wine. One friend I visit I take a bottle of gin, but that's another story, suffice to say it's very much appreciated and enjoyed all the more for sharing. He he he. One friend received a pound of Gloucester old spot sausages from one of her old pals, which were all the more delicious because they were proffered with love.

So, this harvest season, if you have someone you really should get in touch with, do it, don't put it off, there will be many hours during the winter when you perhaps may wish you had. Reap your own harvest of love and memories from your friends and family, tis the season to gather in. Ei. x

Around the Diocese



Rev Dr Anthony Rustell is being installed as Portsmouth's new Head of Mission, Discipleship and Ministry on Tuesday 4th November at 6pm at



Portsmouth Cathedral. All are welcome to attend.

A Taize style Eucharist is being held at Portsmouth Cathedral on Sunday 26th October at 6pm – all welcome!

From Silence through Noise to Stillness

Saturday 11th October 10am-3.30pm
At Portsmouth Cathedral.

An opportunity to set aside a day to explore your spirituality alongside others, under the guidance of Ruth Tuschling, our diocesan spirituality advisor. Cost £8.50. Contact Clare Jones at the diocesan office to book.



Bishop Christopher is coming to an evening in our Deanery on Thursday 16th October at St Peter & St Paul, Fareham for an open questions session (sounds like a one-man Question Time without David Dimbleby!). **It is open to all in our Deanery** so come along to St Peter's & St Paul's to join in. 7pm for 7.30pm start.

Year's Mind for October

1 st	Chris Mead, Violet Stanley, Ronald Starr, John Wright
2 nd	Elizabeth Kerry, Reg Leach, Pauline Rasey, Maureen Clyde
3 rd	Elsie Cotton, Alfred Hutchings
4 th	May Gardner, William Watkins
5 th	George Charman, Maude Shuttle
6 th	Ronald Dewe, George Idle, Lewis Slipper
7 th	Anthony Usher
8 th	Joyce Shortner
9 th	Queenie Bonsor, Rose Stockwell
10 th	Frank Brewster, Gladys Butler, Reginald Dolton
11 th	Margery Deluchi
12 th	Terry Ashman
13 th	Norman Hopkins, Queenie Lawrence, Edith Shand
14 th	Roland Corkett
15 th	Grace Grant
16 th	Edward Hewett, Peter Lawes, Mary Reynolds
17 th	Linda Kirkby
18 th	Ron Crook
19 th	Gerda Payne, Ray Phillips
20 th	Henry Morgan, Charles Peachey
21 st	Violet Adams, James Furnell, Charles Gauntlett
22 nd	George Cross, Ciceley Gedge
23 rd	
24 th	Ernie Barnes, Edgar Cooper, Hilda Godwin, Lois Hambley, Nina Mansbridge, Peter Smith
25 th	Iris Ahrens, Hilda Layzel, Edna Reading
26 th	Joanna Adams, Doreen Heath, Leslie Thomas
27 th	Anthony Allen
28 th	Ted Dodd, Emma Fritchley, Jenny Longhurst
29 th	Maurice Godwin, Doll Withams
30 th	Len Frier, Harry Young
31 st	Mary Hatt, Pete Pope, Reginald Satchwill, Grace Taylor



<i>November</i>	
1 st	Leslie Ford, Rose Hunn, John Olivey
2 nd	Iris Adams, Ellen Charman

Services at St Columba during October

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

5th Oct – Harvest

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



12th Oct – Trinity 17

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

19th Oct – One World Week

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

26th Oct – Last after Trinity

- 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 6th October** at the Highlands Hub, Highlands Road Shopping Precinct; and **Wednesday 15th Oct** 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.

ONE WORLD WEEK

19th to 26th OCTOBER 2014

“LIVING DIFFERENTLY”

Breaking Chains – Making Change!

God has blessed us with a world full of the wonders of nature and bountiful resources. One world, his world! It is a Christian duty to allow all of God’s people to share in these wonders and resources.

One World Week sets out to bring to our notice where we are failing in this duty. Importantly it raises particular issues, and seeks to show where we can make changes in our lives to meet our duty. How do we cope with a changing world, declining resources and the growing inequality even in our own country let alone those of the wider world?

Although we are all one family with a common destiny we must recognise and accept that we have a need for a diversity of life-style and cultures; a diversity of needs for the resources of the world and the uses of nature’s beauty. However we also need to recognise and accept how these differences affect others and to remember their right to their share.

Please use One World Week to reflect on how you can help to **“Break Chains”** and **“Making Change”** by living your life differently! Use **One World Week** as a stepping stone for a better understanding of the conflicts that prevent us living as one, in unity and harmony. And then to act in the future to support human rights, economic justice and harmony with our neighbours: where ever and whoever they are.

It is One World, Gods World!



Spotlight on World Concerns



Parish Giving for 2014

At the PCC meeting in November members will be considering the distribution of Alms Giving for 2014. The World Concern Committee is tasked with preparing a recommended list for the PCC's consideration.

The pattern for setting the recommended Charities is to cover three areas; local, national and international. Within those settings the aim is to cover Charities supporting different themes; justice, peace, poverty, discrimination, self help, development, evangelism, health and ecumenical work.

The amount for distribution is calculated as 7½% of this year's loose plate and pledged giving.

It is divided up into units for distribution to about twenty Charities, so as not to spread the value of each unit too thinly, with each Charity receiving a "weighting" of one, two, or three units.

The Charities chosen depend a lot on recommendations from the people of the Parish! So if you have a particular

Charity you feel needs Parish support you need to respond quickly to the pew leaflet request for the information to be given to:- Maurice Shergold, Nigel Dean, Jim Palmer, Jenny Hellyer or someone on the Clergy Team. A flyer setting out the work of the Charity would be welcome!



Diversity of Age

Age is something we all have- it marks our progression along the conveyor belt of life. As we move through life we accumulate years and experience, and our attitudes change as do our physical and mental abilities. The diversity of our lives with age brings richness and sadness; struggles and regrets; opportunities and understanding.

For example I now appreciate the turning of the seasons so much more than when I was young. I now relish the transformation of summer into autumn and then winter, followed by the dawning of new life in spring. With age comes time - to reflect and understand, time to appreciate the seasons of life itself.

"Older people may have wisdom but the young have open minds and the thirst to discover"

Older people may have wisdom but the young have open minds and the thirst to discover. St Paul wrote "When I was a child I spoke like a child, thought like a child, reasoned like a child; but when I grew up I finished with childish things"

We do give up childish things as we get older, but we also lose that innocent naivety that sees clearly without the prejudice of experience. We need to understand & respect those of other ages. Society provides for the proper care of children & for their education. We also try to respect & look after older people & give them extra support. But the actions we take as society are not enough. We need individually to honour and respect the young and the old; and not to overlook those in the middle who are often having the hardest time of all.

As well as the diversity of our individual experience of age we also have the diversity of ages which make up our community. As we

change with age so also does society change, reflecting the values and attitudes of the combined consciousness.

Social attitudes which were common in the 1950s when I was growing up - attitudes to equality, discrimination, the minorities - or even those with disabilities - would be unthinkable today.

Each generation has its own perspective on how things should be. For example I thought legislating for same sex marriage was a step too far. When I discussed this with our son - in his forties- I was surprised to find how out of touch I was with his generation. He thought it was perfectly right to legislate for gay marriage, and overdue. In turn his children will grow up to have their own attitudes, at variance with his, and society will continue to shift.

The change brought about by this diversity of age and attitude is unending and if we have faith we can believe that we will come closer to a society which loves its neighbour.

As we travel on that conveyor belt of life we should try recognise the richness of each stage we pass through and thank God for it. We must try to respect the needs and opinions of people of all ages and we should try also to accept gracefully the changes in our society.



I will leave the last word to Tony Benn: “The old have a lot of experience and should have no further personal ambition, but they do have a clear responsibility to encourage other people , especially the young , whose knowledge and intelligence are often seriously underestimated by them. From the young we have a great deal to learn”
John and Judy Ekins

Introducing.....Don Smith and 'why St Columba'?



My name is Donald Smith, please call me 'Don'. Can some of you recall the cartoon character 'Donald Duck'? If you can, imagine the teasing you would be subjected to at school with such a name! I

can usually be found towards the back of the church, just in front of the children's area, and usually next to Maurice! And usually on Holy Communion Sundays.

What brought me to St Columba? Sadly my Darling wife Patricia passed away a year ago...I went through all the normal funeral arrangements & found that Ruth would be conducting the funeral service. From the first moment that we met she was so full of sympathy & understanding. Patricia's funeral service was one full of joy & thanksgiving brought about by its content & the manner in which it was conducted. Food for thought. Despite having wonderful neighbours and support from my golfing friends I felt such a comfort from Ruth's kind words that I decided to attend St Columba. My first visit was a revelation! Maurice and I were RN apprentices together. I had not seen him in 56 years, and yet he was the first person I spoke to at St Columba! I think from that moment, the rest as they say 'is history'. You, the congregation, have all been so welcoming and supportive, so full of sympathy and understanding, during what has been a year of sadness, and yet in many ways a year of joy and happiness. So, from me, a very sincere 'thank you' to all at St Columba. *Don Smith.*

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 2nd Nov) are very welcome – 500 words or less. Please forward them to Rachel Abbey - hard copy deadline Mon 27th Oct, electronic copy Tuesday 28th Oct to rachel.abbey@ntlworld.com.