

St Columba's, West View  
Wideopen

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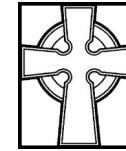
[www.stcolumbaswideopen.co.uk](http://www.stcolumbaswideopen.co.uk)

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## St Columba's Wideopen Parish Magazine



April and May 2020

[www.stcolumbaswideopen.co.uk](http://www.stcolumbaswideopen.co.uk)

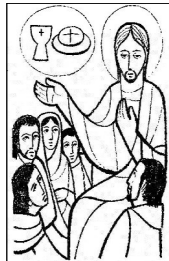
# ST COLUMBA'S WIDEOPEN

## **Our Mission Action Plan**

Ensure that we put Christ at the centre of all that we do.

Attract more young families and young people to the family of our Church

Help all members to grow in faith, discipleship and pastoral care



## **JAMES HAMILTON** FUNERAL DIRECTORS

No one ever wants to organise a funeral, but when the inevitable happens it is reassuring to know that

**James Hamilton Funeral Directors**

are here to guide you through that difficult time.

Serving the community of  
Wideopen, Cramlington  
and all of the North East

We are an Independent Family Firm  
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New chapels of rest at Darrell House Brunswick Village

### **Let our family look after your family**

If you would like more information on costs  
and the service we provide

24 Hours a day, 7 days a week,

Please feel free to give us a call on

**0191 236 6243**

Golden Charter Pre- Payment Plans



Clothes of all designs quality and colour eventually appeared on the screen. Some clothes we called our “Sunday best” a special day, or was it that we thought we should be the same as everyone else? Some clothes become like old friends, they hold so many memories. Uniforms clearly show that person’s occupation and we rightly or wrongly, immediately form an opinion, we may be seeing a wolf in sheep’s clothing. Whatever clothing we choose to wear, it is the person wearing it we should look to. More recently we have what we call “The throw away generation” they don’t really get to know their clothes. Could we perhaps liken this to a superficial faith in Christ?

Rev. Pauline concluded her talk, with this sentence.” As we follow Christ, will he clothe us in garments of his choice, not ours?

We then retired to the hall for tea/ coffee and biscuits, not lingering long this day, all anxious to get home for shelter from the atrocious weather.

Sadly, Wyn Blake and Johanna Davison have recently died, they were both regular Mothers’ Union and church going members. They will be greatly missed.

Future meetings of the Mothers Union have been postponed and will be rescheduled in due course.

## ST COLUMBA’S CHURCH IN THE PARISH OF CHRIST THE KING

### **Associate Minister**

Rev’d Peter Sinclair

### **Team Vicar**

Rev’d Dr. Pauline  
Pearson  
Tel 07753744349

### **Hon. Assistant Priests**

Rev’d Bill Miller  
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### **Churchwardens**

Mrs Marjorie Fairbairn  
Mr Bill Lomas

### **Magazine Editors**

Bill and Avril Lomas  
avrillomas@aol.com

### **Hall Bookings**

Mrs Marjorie Fairbairn

### **District Church Council**

Mrs Moira Allan  
Mrs Susan Brimer  
Mrs Hilary Cartwright  
Mrs Joyce Elrod  
Mrs Mary Lobb  
Mrs Mary Main  
Mrs Val Pringle  
Mr Edgar Ridley  
Mrs Wendy Shaw  
Mrs Hilary Temperley  
Mr Stephen Temperley

### **DCC Secretary**

Mrs Avril Lomas

### **Deanery Synod Rep**

Mr Bill Lomas  
Mr Edgar Ridley

### **Parish Council Reps**

The Churchwardens  
Mrs Mary Lobb  
Mrs Avril Lomas



## From your editors

The effects of the coronavirus pandemic are reaching every aspect of daily life in just about every part of the world. Not for nothing is this called a global pandemic and the church magazine is no exception. This edition will not appear in hard copy as the usual distribution channels via the regular church services are no longer available. However it will be uploaded on to the church and parish website and so be available to everyone in that way.

Many people say that they prefer the feel of paper in their hands when they read, be it in the form of a book, a magazine or a newspaper, or I should probably say many older people say this as younger people say they read everything online. However at least in this digital form the magazine gets to where it needs to be just differently presented just as the Sunday service was uploaded on to the church website and provided reassurance to so many of the congregation.

And for those looking for a silver lining in the dark cloud lowering over us perhaps it is that in future we may amend the way we do things in the context of what we have just experienced. Perhaps we will make more use of the fantastic communication technology at our disposal, perhaps we will travel less, pollute less, be more content with a more slimmed down life – who knows?

But in the meantime we have a pandemic to overcome and strict rules to obey. We wish all our readers a safe journey through the months ahead.

## CLOTHED IN FAITH

Thursday March 12<sup>th</sup> 2020 was pretty miserable, the rain lashed down and the wind howled around the church building. Despite the weather 20 brave souls attended our “Quiet Afternoon”, meeting led by the Rev. Pauline.

The chosen title of Pauline’s talk was “**Clothed in Faith**” which was intended to link up with pictures of clothes to be shown on the screen. However the technology was “playing up” which caused Pauline to tread a path from the lectern to the equipment for some time. This brought to mind the saying” If at first you don’t succeed try, try try again”. 10 out of 10 for Pauline.



Continued overleaf



### PRISON OUTREACH

On February 13<sup>th</sup> 2020 we welcomed Mr. Roger Sammons to our meeting. A retired prison officer and a Methodist local preacher, Roger joined the Prison Service in 1968, he has worked at Birmingham, Winchester and Dartmoor prisons, called in to help quell a serious riot in Dartmoor prison in 1990.

The following year he attended “The Spring Harvest” a Christian conference held in the town of Minehead in Somerset. Roger was inspired by a message he received as he listened to the preacher during the evening celebrations. The reading was from “Acts. Chapter 4” on Barnabas, the son of “encouragement”. Following subsequent events and much thought, Roger knew he had to go back to Dartmoor prison as an “encourager”.

On returning to Dartmoor prison Roger formed, amongst the prisoners a Christian music group which he named “Philippi” also a prayer and study group.” Over the next ten years I had the privilege of seeing men come to Faith”, Roger’s own words. Some of these men still keep in touch with him.

Roger had many stories to tell some humorous, sad and distressing, others bringing hope.

This was an interesting and enlightening talk as most people in the room will have escaped the law, barring minor motor-ing offences. Perhaps remembering in our youth getting a clip on the ear from the local bobby for stealing apples from the neighbour’s tree.

There were many questions put to Roger as we enjoyed tea and coffee with biscuits. 20

### SERVICES AT ST COLUMBA’S



|           |         |                                                              |
|-----------|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wednesday | 9-30 am | Said Eucharist followed by<br>coffee in the hall             |
| Sunday    | 8-00 am | Said Eucharist in Chapel.                                    |
| Sunday    | 10 am   | Family Eucharist.<br>Followed by tea and coffee in the hall. |

**All services in church have been cancelled for  
the foreseeable future because of  
coronavirus precautions.  
Please check the website for any changes to  
this situation.**

**Please see the website**

**[www.stcolumbaswideopen.co.uk](http://www.stcolumbaswideopen.co.uk)**

**for services online**



## From our Team Vicar

Dear Friends

This is not the adventure I expected!  
Nor is it for you I dare say. We are in  
Lent as I write, but this is not a Lent

like any of us have known. In one way it is strangely peaceful - like an endless Sunday afternoon - few cars on the roads, more people at home in the day, people out gardening or driving to the coast. There are rather fewer people out walking - except with dogs, who of course always need a walk! But in other ways this Lent is very different.

Lent is usually marked by quite a lot of opportunities for study and reflection. We began as usual, but managed only two weeks of 'normal service'. But it strikes me we are learning a lot since the response to COVID 19 ramped up. Not the usual sort of things - mostly quite ordinary things - but things that will much more push us to listen hard to what God is saying to us.

For most of us the pattern of our days has radically altered. For me saying morning and evening prayer remains a linchpin (if you want to follow the texts they are available at <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>). It is surprising - but no, not surprising really - how often the psalms set, or the readings, will speak to the news that I've just been listening to, or the interactions I've had by email, phone or social media.

The congregation retired to the church hall for tea/ coffee biscuits and Zimbabwean corn meal cake, giving us all a chance to reflect on the service, the hardships and courage of our Christian families in Zimbabwe.

The challenges they face are many – but their faith is great- and, our Zimbabwean visitor assured us, would be greatly strengthened by our prayers.



## World Day of Prayer

This year Womens World Day of Prayer was celebrated on March 6th in Sacred Heart Church, Wideopen. The service itself was written by the women of Zimbabwe, the theme being, Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk.

The flag of Zimbabwe was draped on the altar, on which were three candles of red for love, white for peace and yellow for reconciliation. A table in the nave, in the front of the altar, was covered with fabric in the colours of the Zimbabwean flag. Placed on this table were items representing Zimbabwean culture, carvings, hand rattles, drums, clay pots, beads, samples of indigenous food and most significantly, small sisal mats made from reeds. A photograph of a flame lily, the national flower of Zimbabwe, was displayed on a small table in the entrance to the church alongside a bowl of water to drink from, which is a welcoming gesture in Zimbabwean culture.

The service began as the participants attempted to dance down the nave, vigorously shaking rattles, accompanied by Zimbabwean music. The procession brought to life by a lady, originally from Zimbabwe, in colourful native dress. An open bible was placed on the altar and ladies dressed in red, white and yellow lit the three candles on the altar.

A letter from the women of Zimbabwe was read, outlining their nation's struggles after independence, their efforts to form a stable government supported by the majority of the population. Work to bring all sides together is still proving difficult and traumatic, leading to political unrest, affecting all areas of Zimbabwean society.

We listened while a CD played "Rise. Take Your Mat and Walk", sung by a Zimbabwean Choir. The service continued with a bible reading followed by periods of meditation, hymns, prayers and intercessions, concluding the service by singing the hymn. "The day Thou gavest Lord is ended".

Obviously, I mostly work from home, and normally spend quite a bit of time writing - but I have found myself needing to learn new technologies to help me link with many of you and also other groups I work with, as well as using my phone much more. This has made me reflect on how superficial some of our usual connections with people are - and how much we take for granted. People connecting for meetings are sharing details of their families and their jobs and challenges, their own problems and anxieties about health, and neighbours they worry about. Individuals are setting up links to help each other cope, and sharing creative ideas for activities. There is a wealth of energy to offer care, to speak to strangers, church to connect with community centre and yoga group and local businesses, political activists and leaders to share in sourcing practical help.

Lent is normally quite a serious and focused time, and Holy Week much more so. This year it feels as if we are already in a sort of permanent Way of the cross... and as I write it is only 6 days into social distancing... Someone wrote, thinking of *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe* (worth a (re)read for all ages if you haven't read it or recently), is it destined to be always Lent and never Easter? Partly perhaps because - in the biggest change to normal church activity for many centuries, the Archbishops have suspended public worship. And partly because people feel anxious, even fearful, and uncertain about the future. It feels as if the crucifixion still lies ahead, in the headlines we hear and read, yet we struggle to imagine the joy of other side... And our faith is weak...



But I suggest there is much to see hope in, much that we ought to recognise as signs of God's love and power working 'behind the scenes', as indeed it did that first Easter... All the community commitment and compassion - all the contacts with strangers - from brief waves at a safe distance to conversations in the Coop to the network of people from our congregation and groups sustaining each other day by day. Retired health professionals signing up to support their younger colleagues. People keeping on, keeping on. The signs are there. Taking time each day to pray - not only for the headline news, important though the people underlying it are, but also for all the aspects and details of each day as it passes can help. As we hold them in prayer, God will help us to see Him operating.

Easter will come and though we might feel that we will be spending a longer time than usual in the wilderness, facing our darkest and deepest fears, there will be a time when we are truly released to celebrate all the tiny details of our lives which we have come to value and to cherish - and all the connections that have shared God's love with us in new ways - and above all the new and transforming life and light of the risen Christ... Our world is being transformed now by love. When we are released from captivity, this year, we will really celebrate!

Keep well, with love and every blessing

*Pauline*

## **Coronavirus pandemic March 2020 U.K.**

When this is over, may we never again take for granted, a handshake from a stranger, full shelves at the store, conversations with a neighbour, a crowded theatre, Friday night out, the taste of communion, a routine check up, the school run each morning, coffee with a friend, the stadium roaring, each deep breath, a boring Tuesday, life itself.

When this ends, may we find that we have become more like the people we wanted to be, we were called to be and may we stay that way- better for each other, because of the worst.

( Laura Kelly Fanucci)





## Groups meeting in Church

Book Club monthly, watch for dates and venues  
Ladies' Group 3rd Wednesday of the month 7.30 pm  
Mothers' Union 2nd Thursday of the month 2 pm  
Open Door 1st Tuesday of the month 12 - 2.30 pm  
Parent and Toddler Group Tuesday 9.15-11 am (term time)  
Scrabble alternate Mondays 2pm  
Whey Aye WI 4th Tuesday of the month 7.00 pm

All held in the Church Hall unless stated otherwise.

Please note the Parent and Toddler Group does not meet in the school holidays.

**None of these is meeting at present.  
We hope to resume all activities as soon as  
the current situation allows.**



## **AGM**

The AGM has been postponed. A new date will be set as soon as possible and notification take place in the usual way. In the meantime if you would like to be on the Electoral Roll please let Hilary Cartwright (Electoral Roll Officer) know, by email [petercartwright\\_wideopen@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:petercartwright_wideopen@yahoo.co.uk)

Provided for us by Ben Pullen

## **AN 8-YEAR OLD EXPLAINS GOD**

-- By Danny Dutton

*Written by an 8 year old from Chula Vista, California .*

One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth.

He doesn't make grownups, just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way he doesn't have to take up his valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers.

God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times beside bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this .Because he hears everything, there must be a terrible lot of noise in his ears, unless he has thought of a way to turn it off.

God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting his time by going over your mom and dad's head asking for something they said you couldn't have.

Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there are any in Chula Vista. At least there aren't any who come to our church.

Continued ...

Jesus is God's Son. He used to do all the hard work like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn't want to learn about God. They finally got tired of him preaching to them and they crucified him. But he was good and kind, like his father, and he told his father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said O.K.

His dad (God) appreciated everything that he had done and all his hard work on earth so he told him he didn't have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in heaven. So he did. And now he helps his dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones he can take care of himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary, only more important.

You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to help you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time.

You should always go to church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God. Don't skip church or do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. This is wrong. And besides the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway.





**Remember,  
they can't cancel Spring !**



If you don't believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like to camp, but God can.

It is good to know He's around you when you're scared, in the dark or when you can't swim and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids.

But... you shouldn't just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and he can take me back anytime he pleases. And this is what I know about God.

<http://www.inspire21.com/stories/faithstories/8year-oldsExplanationofGod>



## COVID-19

**The Church continues to be alive and active, but our buildings must close**

We are seeing a huge increase in the number of people falling sick with COVID-19. We must distance ourselves from one another and prevent the spread of infection in order to save lives.

**Therefore, as well as public worship being suspended, this and all church buildings in the Church of England are now closed.**

Our worship of God and our care for each other continue but cannot be done in this building.

Our website contains details of how to join others online for prayer, worship, study, and community life.

See: [www.stcolumbaswideopen.co.uk](http://www.stcolumbaswideopen.co.uk)

The vicar/churchwardens of this church can be contacted in an emergency

by telephoning     Mobile: 07753744349  
                             Landline: 0191 236 2280

or emailing     [infostcolumbawideopen@gmail.com](mailto:infostcolumbawideopen@gmail.com)

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength . . .

Love your neighbour as yourself

There Is no commandment greater than these.”

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR CORONAVIRUS

*serving the communities of  
Seaton Burn, Wideopen and Five Mile Park/ North Gosforth*

**Community Support Phone Number  
Call 07729 632242**

During this period of uncertainty about the effect of Coronavirus you may already have arrangements in place for support from family, friends or neighbours. However, we are aware that there may be some situations where it is difficult for some people in our communities to get the support that they need for everyday essential activities.

It may also be that as people self-isolate, they feel cut off and would appreciate hearing a friendly and reassuring voice on the end of a phone.

So, if you need practical help (e.g. shopping) or friendly support during this period of the Coronavirus out-break, then please feel free to call the number above.

**The phoneline will be open between 9.00am –6.00pm each day.**

You will be able to leave a message and we will get back to you. This support is being provided by volunteer members of the local community from St Columba's Church, St Aidan's Church and local residents. Further information at:

[www.stcolumbaswideopen.co.uk](http://www.stcolumbaswideopen.co.uk)

Facebook: [@stcolumbawideopen](https://www.facebook.com/stcolumbawideopen)