

St Columba's, West View  
Wideopen

0191 2362280

Churchwardens: Marjorie Fairbairn 0191 2365661  
Bill Lomas 01670 772267

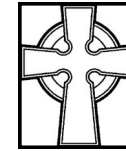
[www.stcolumbaswideopen.co.uk](http://www.stcolumbaswideopen.co.uk)

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Magazine Editors: Bill and Avril Lomas 01670 772267

Printer : L&S Printers,  
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Tel 0191 2161717  
Email : [landsprinters@gmail.com](mailto:landsprinters@gmail.com)  
Website : [www.landsprinters.com](http://www.landsprinters.com)



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## St Columba's Wideopen Parish Magazine



August and September 2020

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

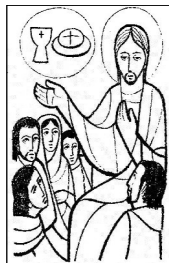
# ST COLUMBA'S WIDEOPEN

## 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  
With over 25 years experience in the business

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

## **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.**

## **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  
Tel 0191 2365024

### **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

I wonder how many of you now do all their shopping on line having said in the past that you would never do such a thing. Or how many of you have recently discovered the benefits that such video link technology as zoom can provide to enable you to meet up virtually with friends, colleagues or even take part in bible study or book groups. It may end up being called the new normal – it is too soon to say.

But recently the lockdown was lifted enough to allow all places of worship to open and at St Columba's we now have been operating a Sunday service at 10.00 – we have a limit caused by the need to socially distance so it is important to let one of the wardens know in advance that you are coming.

So do please avail yourself of this opportunity and come along. If you can't then it is streamed live on the website or you can come to an alternative service at 4.00 on Sunday afternoon. We look forward to seeing you soon.

*Bill and Avril*





## Did you know ?

A giraffe can clean its ears with its 52 centimetre long tongue

Fingernails grow nearly 4 times faster than toenails

A mole can dig a 100 metre tunnel in just one night

Slugs have 4 noses

The elephant is the only mammal that can't jump

More monopoly money is printed in a year than real money

More people use blue toothbrushes than red ones

And

No piece of paper can be folded more than 7 times - try !

## SERVICES AT ST COLUMBA'S



Wednesday  
10-12 noon

Church open for private prayer .  
Socially distanced refreshments in  
the vicarage garden

Sunday  
10 am

Eucharist in church and also  
available on Youtube, and Facebook  
followed by socially distanced  
refreshments in the vicarage garden

2-3pm

Church open for private prayer

4 pm

Eucharist in church

For further information and about reserving places at  
Sunday services please see the notices overleaf.

## News from the Pews

On Sundays we will be having a service of Holy Communion again at 10am, and will continue to offer this, technology permitting, live on YouTube and Facebook. Given we have been running close to capacity, we will also continue to offer a second service of Holy Communion at 4pm on Sunday. Please let the Wardens know as soon as you are able which service you would like to attend so that we can make lists and ensure we don't have to turn anyone away! First come first served! Please let us know each week! Thanks!

We will continue to open for prayer plus socially distanced tea/coffee in the vicarage garden on Sunday afternoons from 2-3pm, and on Wednesdays 10-12 for the next few weeks at least. We will offer an online service of prayer and reflection on 'The Journey Ahead' on Wednesday evenings on Facebook and YouTube (7.30pm).

We have paused Friday evening live offerings for now, but will explore some other possibilities in the autumn.

Singing hymns: Sadly at present we aren't allowed to sing hymns. At present that is government policy. Bishop Christine asked a question in the House of Lords, but was told categorically no singing. But it is great to have Peter playing for us. Face coverings are required from August 8th.

If you have been saving envelopes why not bring them in to church? Every little helps! And if you are getting used to 'wave and pay', we have the technology: ask the wardens

Please don't hesitate to email/ phone/text if there is any way you think we can help you or indeed the community in this new phase.. and if you are in touch with anyone not on technology, do keep them informed and assure them of our love and concern for them.

### Verse 2

Where do we go from here?  
It's all still too near  
too close, too raw  
yet we can still see that door  
which opens wide and invites us in  
to reflect on where we go and where we've been  
It's a wake up call to make the best of it all  
to nurture our world and all that is free  
to pull back the blinds and then we can see  
what really matters to us in all this fuss  
is love for our neighbours all over this earth  
given to us freely, a gift at our birth

**Chorus** It's the lockdown blues....

### **Pauline sent prayers by WhatsApp every day**

God of all the nations,  
with all your people,  
may we make known your grace  
and walk in the ways of peace  
for your name's sake  
Amen

**And Hilary wrote a song—**

**Lockdown Blues**

**Verse 1**

Strange times pave the path to new ways  
of living, laughing, listening and crying  
Can we remember how it felt to hug each other,  
to no longer miss our sister and brother?

So many people sick and dying  
yet from the earth comes new life and a glorious spring  
green grass, trees in blossom, birds gathering to sing,  
to tell us of a new dawn in our humanity  
where greed and hunger give way to love and charity  
a new age of appreciation of simplicity

**Chorus**

It's the lockdown blues  
bringing us news  
of a change in pace  
in the human race  
yeah, the lockdown blues  
given to us freely, a gift at our birth

**Chorus**    It's the lockdown blues....

**From our Team Vicar,  
Pauline**

**Dear friends**



Do you feel as disoriented as I do in this year so unlike any other? We are now moving into late summer and almost autumn, and this year broke apart when the winter was still just saying farewell. And it isn't just the ubiquitous sanitiser, masks and markers for direction and distance. Nor the continuing complexity of each tiny step forward to our new world. The big and disorienting shift is the transformation that has taken place in what matters for each of us – and in how we relate to each other.

I think how we relate to each other is probably affected by the many weeks during which most of us saw so few people. Even people in retail saw many fewer customers in a day than would be usual. Many of us learnt to make do with seeing folk on a screen, possibly one face among many, seeing glimpses of other people's pictures, wallpaper and gardens, but not able to glimpse how they felt. Some developed close networks with neighbours across garden boundaries and while walking dogs. Some spoke on the phone

As we went out and about we learned to stay at a distance from others. And as we have begun to emerge, we have learnt – most of us – to stay distant. The rules after all require it. We have learnt, almost, to fear each other – when in reality what we fear is a pesky invisible virus which could damage or destroy us. But even as we stay distant, we know that as human beings, we need relationships – friendships – with others – love for each other -in order to flourish.

What matters for you? For me, life became simpler – and even though we are now doing more, and coping with those complex guidelines for almost everything we do, it has remained streamlined. Some stuff that was previously part of life has proved to be pretty unimportant. Some stuff, like reading, became more central. But prayer and people became pivotal.

I know that for many of you also, both these things are really important. And as we have returned to worship in church I know that the new arrangements, which will of course gradually evolve, are presenting some challenges. Worship is really important to each of us, and the whole thing of booking ahead every week makes it feel more like a transaction – like a trip to the cinema or the theatre – and less like a family where you can always squeeze people in.



We applied the same system to another neighbour's 12 year old son who had never ridden and his mum, who is also an RDA volunteer, did all the spade work! He rode the bigger, more capable pony, Rusty, and has now become a real rider and is completely hooked !

I also did some riding of Rusty and, despite having ridden for over 60 years, found this rather daunting as I have done little recently. I am enjoying riding again. So, all in all, a learning curve for us all and much fun and laughter in the Throphill community.

When we restarted three RDA riders last week the ponies were fit, ready to go and able to fulfil the purpose of RDA.

In the midst of all the sadness some good has come from coronavirus.



In the last edition of our magazine Wendy Shaw produced an excellent and much enjoyed piece entitled Lockdown Uptime telling of the wonders of nature discovered whilst walking. We have followed this up with further pieces of Lockdown positives.

### **Newcastle and District Riding for the Disabled Group**

When Lockdown began in March all our RDA activities ceased. We were left with four ponies and no work for them and so decisions had to be made. Our choice was to give them a holiday or devise a plan to keep them fit. Our trustees supported the latter so that we were ready to go as soon as this was allowed – it can take a number of weeks to bring ponies back into work after a prolonged absence.

And so we began...

The two young children next door aged 4 and 7 came with their mum and older sister (who is an RDA volunteer) 3 times a week to ride the two smaller ponies, Charlie and Will. One was a complete beginner, the other had limited experience. The family did all the preparation and I taught the sessions from a distance over the fence fulfilling all the Lockdown criteria.!

We had fantastic fun playing all sorts of games that kept the ponies in RDA mode and enabled the two to learn to ride at the same time

I still haven't hugged my grandson since early March – because I love him and we still need to keep our distance. But I do enjoy seeing him, as I expect you enjoy seeing the others who come, those familiar faces, and certainly opportunities for a chat over tea and coffee in the garden seem popular. For now we are expanding our 'space' by offering a live stream for those who aren't able to come, and offering a second Eucharist at 4pm on Sundays for those who can be flexible, as well as continuing some online services elsewhere in the week.

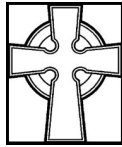
The beginning of August will see a whole lot more people officially 'released' from lockdown who might want to be with us. If you like to come at 10, consider if you would be able to manage 4pm sometimes instead, to free up space for those who really can't. It is a way of loving your neighbours and friends. And please be patient and understanding if it is you that forgets to book in (it happens!) and arrives to be told we are full... We are all doing our best, and we really don't want to turn anyone away, but the priority just now has to be everyone's safety. In these disorienting times, we will all need a certain amount of flexibility, patience and understanding for each other as we work out the way ahead. But even if it's at a different time or in a different way, you will always be welcome.

Every blessing,

***Pauline***

## From the Registers

### Funerals



May 4th

George Robson

June 16th

Ronald Storey

Living God,  
Keep us open to the Light that still shines,  
even in the darkness  
which can never put it out.



On behalf of the congregation and the community, we would like to thank Rev. Pauline for all her hard work and dedication behind the scenes during the lockdown, for keeping up our moral, providing prayers and worship whilst being apart from her family, and, as we slowly return to worship in church for the preparation required to safely come back to a new normal.

Marjorie and Bill

## A Mother's Recipe

First see that your hands are clean and polish your implements.

Take a handful of well tested experience,

Another of fine high-principle,

Six, or more, newly-laid fresh ideas,

A little seriousness,

A whole bottle of the essence of truth,

Sprinkle with the spice of fun.

Weight, cut equal parts of justice and generosity.

and put them in with finely powdered discipline,

which gives the mixture good consistency and  
firmness

No pepper to be used, but flavour with sweet words;

Just a little salt is advisable, to make it keep well

Rub all smooth with a firm but gentle touch, and finish with  
the oil of kindness.

Keep the mixture near the warmth of a mother's heart.

This recipe, if accurately followed, has brought "prizes" to the maker.

Miss Tattersall, Supt. Nurse, Toxteth Park Union, Liverpool

Provided by Wendy Shaw from a book of her mother's.

## Children are what they live

If children live with criticism -  
They learn to condemn

If children live with hostility -  
They learn to fight

If children live with ridicule -  
They learn to be shy

If children live with shame -  
They learn to be guilty

**BUT**

If children live with tolerance -  
They learn to be patient

If children live with encouragement -  
They learn to be confident

If children live with praise -  
They learn to be appreciative

If children live with fairness -  
They learn justice

If children live with security -  
They learn to have faith

If children live with acceptance and friendship -  
They will find love in the world.



On Sunday August 9th we will be hosting a virtual service of Compline at 7.15 for 7.30pm for Mary Sumner's Day, including a reflection by Rt Revd Mark Bryant This will be on Zoom and Facebook Live. The Zoom details are Meeting ID: 834 4683 8241 Passcode: 828474 All are welcome—please join in good time!

### AGM

St Columba's AGM will take place on Sunday October 4th, further details to follow.

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)



### Book Club

The next meeting of the Book Club will be on Wednesday August 18th at 7pm to discuss "Holy Island" by local author L J Ross.

Please contact Bill Lomas by email ([avrillomas@aol.com](mailto:avrillomas@aol.com)) for further information.

## Church Life under Covid 19

The development of Covid 19 spreading from its source in China to right across the globe has had an almost unimaginable impact on all aspects of life, and that of course includes our church. At the start of the lockdown in late March all places of worship were closed even for the clergy who may have lived close by and for whom the church was part of their main responsibilities. The immediate reaction to this reality for St Columba was to initiate virtual services recorded in Pauline's home and uploaded on to the website so that the congregation, at home and digitally connected, could effect their worship in a different but entirely appropriate way. It does involve some quick learning but Pauline, ably supported by Maurice, have shown themselves to be up to the task and we have all benefited hugely from these services. They included both a parish and district walk as part of the celebration of Rogation Sunday where more of their filmic talents were on display.

But the lockdown came to be eased and churches were then opened for private prayer – how to respond? Within days there were two days a week for members of the congregation, and anybody else, to come and pray, a Wednesday and Sunday, followed by a socially distanced drink in the vicar's garden. This did take some preparation – a careful scrutiny of the government guidelines and then judicious use of a 2 metre curtain fashioned by Marjorie enabled the church seating capacity to be clearly marked out with a maximum of 29 in the main body of the church.

Equally, sufficient quantities of sanitiser had to be bought and placed in the correct parts of the church with appropriate signage. Finally all had to follow the guidelines.

That worked well but the next move was to allow services – so do we stop the virtual services to be replaced by real? As it was clear, through a survey ( another initiative ), that the virtual services were much enjoyed and supported we decided to carry on with them whilst offering a service on a Sunday with maximum attendance of 29, although it could rise a little if more household bubbles came. This proved not enough and now Pauline is offering in addition a service at 4.00 on a Sunday as an alternative. For those at home the Sunday morning service is streamed live, more help from Maurice, and there is a Wednesday service recorded and uploaded too, not to mention evening prayer on Facebook.

This constitutes an enormous degree of resourcefulness and creative thinking on the part of Pauline whose response to this crisis has been fantastic. It naturally has been a huge disruption to the way the worship at St Columba's has been structured and presented since its inauguration in 1983 and is greatly unsettling. However the disruption may not be all negative in that it makes us think of what is important and what isn't. In the next edition of our magazine we'll try to tease out the benefits as well as the drawbacks from this experience.