

St Columba's Wideopen



Parish Magazine

February and March 2022

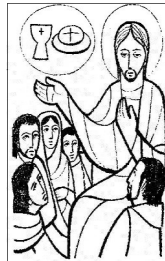
ST COLUMBA'S WIDEOPEN

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



**ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH
IN THE
PARISH OF CHRIST THE KING**

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From your editors

We are now in the depths of Winter, amongst the most unappealing days of the year. So what is there that is positive to say?

Well for a start the pandemic does look as though it may be developing into an endemic and thus becoming less dangerous as it can be then maintained at a baseline level. Also the restrictions around Covid are being loosened and allowing us to make our own judgements in different situations.

And finally the weather so far has been relatively kind and the days are getting longer! So come on out! We will be delighted to welcome you to any of the services and events mentioned in the magazine.

Bill and Avril

SERVICES AT ST COLUMBA'S



Services until further notice will be :

Wednesday 9.30
Holy Eucharist

Sunday 8am
Holy Eucharist

10am Parish Eucharist
(and on Facebook and YouTube - book ahead if attending)

Refreshments return!

Please do join us after services, on Sunday and Wednesday for tea / coffee. We are indoors as the weather gets colder but please stay socially distanced, and sit at tables.

**From our Team Vicar,
Pauline**



Dear friends

Doesn't January seem long! Someone wrote on Twitter: 'Thirty days hath September, April, June and November... but January has about 131!' As we edge out cautiously into this new year, it does seem we have truly turned a corner... but the constant reassessments of activities and changes due to COVID are wearing. People are tired, and in need (despite the Christmas holidays) of some refreshment...

As we continue through February and then into Lent, a season of austerity after all, I'd like to suggest three ways we might refresh ourselves (though there are of course many more!) The first that comes to mind, building on the very successful musical evenings we had last autumn, is music. We might find more opportunities to hear music, and enjoy the way it lifts our emotions or soothes us when we are feeling frayed, the power of music to paint pictures or to transport us to places far away. As the year goes on some of us might also look for opportunities to share in making music, working with local people and schools. Music is, like poetry, often a way of connecting with our inner lives.

A second way in which we might refresh ourselves is through nature – the environment around us – all the landscapes, plants and animals which we had more time to appreciate in lockdown – but which are still mostly out there today. 2022 is likely to be The Year of Nature. It's not that climate change has gone away or been fixed. Far from it. We must keep pressing for faster government and business action on climate change. But a related crisis – biodiversity loss – is likely to get a high profile in 2022.

'COP15' – the next meeting of the parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity meets in Kunming, China, for two weeks in late April and early May and is supposed to set new international goals to avoid mass extinction of species.

2022 will also be the first year of the new Environment Act, passed by Parliament last November. Organisations working on green issues will be looking to the government for rapid implementation of its promises. They will also be alert to any attempts to use its loopholes to carry on 'business as usual'. The UK is one of the most nature-poor countries in Europe. For many people the Environment Act is our last good chance to turn around this continuing decline before it really is too late for dozens of species.

The Church of England centrally have committed to achieving Net Zero carbon emissions by 2030. I read somewhere that if we don't achieve this by then, the world for anyone under forty will be very different. There is no substitute for getting off fossil fuels fast, improving energy efficiency in our church building etc. But there is also increasing awareness that land management can play a role. Where there is land, there is a potential habitat for wildlife. We are already growing herbs and flowers that attract bees and butterflies. 2022 would be a very good year for us to pay more attention to nature.

As we move into Lent, a third way to refresh ourselves is through focusing on reflection and prayer... taking time to connect with God. We will be offering a parish Lent group focusing on prayer: 'An Adventure with God: stories and thoughts on a life of prayer.' There will be visiting speakers each week talking about what prayer means to them, and how it's changed or grown over their lives, with time for questions, discussion and, of course, prayer. We hope it will refresh us and give us all new perspectives.

Every blessing,

Pauline

A LITANY

Lord God,

We seek to be mindful of the issues and concerns that confront the regions of our diocese and to understand how the Gospel compels us to respond as faithful members in our community.

We ask for eyes that are free from blindness so that we might see each other as brothers and sisters, one and equal in dignity.

We ask for hearts of compassion especially for those who are victims and survivors of abuse and violence, deceit and poverty.

We ask for ears that will hear the cries of children abandoned, adolescents lost, men and women oppressed because of race or creed, religion or gender.

We ask for minds and hearts that are open to hearing the voice of leaders who will bring us closer to your Kingdom on earth and in heaven.

We pray for discernment so that we may discern leaders who hear your Word, live your love, and keep in the ways of your truth as they follow in the steps of Jesus and his disciples.

Guide us to your Kingdom of justice and peace.

We ask this in the name of your Son Jesus Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Vacancy in See Committee

It was a couple of years ago when the Reverend Pauline suggested I might nominate myself for this committee as there was an upcoming election for lay members to be voted on. It is a committee which only meets when a bishop has to be nominated so when Bishop Christine retired it swung into action. As I was the only candidate I was duly elected!

The chairman of the committee is Sir Philip Mawer who lives in Berwick and the vice chair is the Archdeacon of Lindisfarne, the Venerable Dr Catherine Sourbut Groves. The rest of the committee consists of lay and ordained people, some there by virtue of their office and some elected. In all there are 25 members of the committee.

We have so far met twice – the first time to go through the process and also to ask for volunteers to analyse the survey which the diocese would carry out electronically to canvass views about the new bishop and also to prepare what is called the Statement of Needs which is like a parish profile except it's about the diocese and contains a description of the diocese and a sort of job description and specification of the new bishop.

I helped with the analysis of the survey and two other groups are drafting the Statement – it's quite a tight timetable as all drafting has to be agreed by the committee and the final text has to be submitted before the end of February.

The second meeting was to give an update on the results of the survey and also to look at the comments which the secretary, Shane Waddle, had received and to assess where we were with the drafting of the Statement.

The next stage of the process involves 6 members of this committee joining the Crown Nominations Commission, which will include the Archbishop's and Prime Minister's Appointments' Secretaries, for the selection and interviewing of the candidates and the decision on the final nomination. Those 6 members will be elected by the final meeting in February. Interviews will take place in July and the new bishop is expected to be in post by the new year.

It is fascinating to be part of this process and many thanks are due to Pauline for suggesting it in the first place!

Bill Lomas

Prayer at a Time of Choosing a Bishop

Eternal God, shepherd and guide, In your mercy give your Church in this Diocese a shepherd after your own heart who will walk in your ways, and with loving care watch over your people. Give us a leader of vision and a teacher of your truth. So may your Church be built up and your name glorified; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Some advance notices

Pancake party



Last year it had to be virtual, but this year, its for real !
Clear your diaries for the event of the year:
a real life pancake feast
on Shrove Tuesday (1st March) at 7pm

LENT Course

We are also planning a Lent course An Adventure with God: stories and thoughts on a life of prayer. with a variety of invited speakers including Bishop Mark Bryant. These will most likely take place on the five Wednesdays starting 9th March. Do put it in your diary and come and join us!

Mothering Sunday

Service to celebrate Mothering Sunday will take place on March 27th at 10 am. This is also when British Summer Time begins so don't forget to change your clocks !

From the Registers

Marriage Blessing

On November 27th
between Yewande and Gods Favour

Funerals

Dec 3rd	Joyce Schofield
Dec 6th	Allan Wilson
Dec 20th	Albert Thompson
Dec 23rd	Eleanor Woodward
Jan 5th	Ann Goodsell
Jan 24th	Hylde Berriman
Jan 26th	Kathleen Scott
Jan 28th	John Stephenson



We had our first meeting of 2022 on Thursday 13th January. There was a short service led by Reverend Pauline. We then congregated in the church hall for our meeting which consisted of a review of 2021 and plans for 2022.

After this we thanked retiring committee members and our organist Mary Burdon, and presented bouquets of flowers. We finished meeting with a lovely tea of cakes, sausage rolls and biscuits.

Here's to MU at St.Columba's in 2022.

New members are always welcome.

Church Flowers



The new flower list is on the notice board for anyone who would like to donate flowers for an anniversary, birthday or to the glory of God, so that we can have flowers in church every week. Thank you for your continued support.

New Tyneside Orchestra Concert.

Sat March 26th at 19:30
at St Nicholas Cathedral, Newcastle.

The Programme will include
Baba Jaga by Liadow,
Enigma Variations by Elgar.

The Second Half of the Concert will be a
performance of Rachmaninov's 2nd Symphony.



Gosforth Musical Society

3 Performances of Gilbert & Sullivan's popular
opera " Gondoliers".

at Gosforth Trinity Church , High St , Gosforth.

On Thurs March 31st at 19:30,

Fri April 1st at 19:30.

Saturday's performance on April 2nd will be at the
earlier time of 17:30.

Dudley—our very own church mouse

For younger readers and the young at heart

Seaton, Dudley's wife was getting concerned. Every time she tried to talk to Brunswick, her eldest son, he didn't have time to speak to her. He just locked himself in his bedroom and came out at meal times!

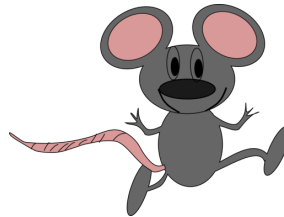
Dudley told her not to worry as it was probably a "phase" he was going through. She was worried in case he was having problems at school or was being bullied. Neither Hazel or Rigg, his brother and sister, knew if anything was troubling him.

Well, one day , when the children were at school, Seaton was tidying their bedrooms when she saw a card on Brunswick's bedside table. It was a handsome card, covered all over with red hearts. The penny dropped ! That was why he had been so secretive. He was in love and too embarrassed to talk about it !

Thank goodness, thought Seaton, now I can stop worrying.

Do you remember the first Valentine card you sent or received? I wonder?

Happy Valentine's Day



Do you buy online?

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online – from your weekly shop to your annual holiday – you could be raising free donations for St Columba's Wideopen with easyfundraising?

There are over 4,000 shops and sites on board ready to make a donation – including eBay, Argos, John Lewis, ASOS, Booking.com and M&S – and it won't cost you a penny extra to help us raise funds.

All you need to do is:

1. Go to https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stcolumbaswideopen/?utm_campaign=raise-more and join for free.
2. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.
3. After you've checked out, the retailer will make a donation to St Columba's Wideopen at no extra cost to you whatsoever!

There are no catches or hidden charges and we at St Columba's Wideopen will be really grateful for your donations.

Thank you for your support.

IN OLD MONEY !

Do you remember pre decimal currency?

Can you work out this calculation?

Find the total

££££££££££££££££	£	s	d
Boy's name			
Girl's name			
Kind of pig			
Old type bike			
A poorly sea creature			
Type of male singer			
Moon, Venus, Mars			
Leather maker			
Total			

Christmas Quiz answers

1. Quadruped with crimson proboscis
Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer
2. 5pm to 6am without noise Silent Night
3. Small settlement in the East
O Little Town of Bethlehem
4. Adorn the vestibule Deck the Halls
5. Exuberance directed to the planet Joy to the World
6. Listen, aerial spirits harmonising
Hark the Herald Angels Sing
7. Monarchial trio We Three Kings
8. Yonder in the place for hay Away in a Manger
9. Assemble everyone who believes
Come All Ye Faithful
10. Perambulating through a December solstice fantasy.
Walking in a Winter Wonderland
11. Fantasies of a colourless December 25th
I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas
12. A dozen 24 hour yule periods
The Twelve Days of Christmas
13. Homo Sapiens of crystallised vapour
14. I merely desire a pair of incisors
All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth
15. I spied my maternal parent osculating a round man in red
I saw mummy kissing Santa Claus

Well done !

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)

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.



The Book Club will meet again on Zoom on Thursday 17th February at 7.00 - the book will be A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens. Hope to see you all then .



JAMES HAMILTON

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