

# ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH NEWS

*The church that welcomes one and all with closed doors (temporarily)*

## **An idea from members of the congregation**

The inspiration for this invitation to you comes from a short video by Rev. Andy Longe, a Methodist Minister in the North of England. He filmed a short video on a bridge overlooking a fast-flowing river. He was encouraging two groups of people – those who would soon be thrown back into the frenzy of life (as illustrated by the turbulent river water) and those who might need to continue to distance themselves from others (as illustrated by the riverbank). To both groups he gave encouragement, that before they stepped into the future beyond lockdown, to remember what they had gone through in the last three months which was good, creative, showing the best of who they were.

**Invitation:** You are invited to submit short answers to the following questions concerning your experience during the lockdown period. Your article will appear in St. Columba's Church News. If you prefer, you may remain anonymous to the readers. Email your answers to GGlover@churchofscotland.org.uk Folk who have been receiving a printed copy of the Newsletter will not be left out! Georgia Meikle will invite them to a telephone interview.

Here goes!

Q.: Have you used the weeks/months to concentrate on a hobby which you had little time for prior to the lockdown? Have you surprised yourself with a newfound skill?

Q.: Have you a special appreciation for a thing/person(s) that/who made your time in lockdown easier?

Q.: What are you looking forward to doing as the lockdown eases?

Q.: Have you felt God's presence more strongly/less strongly over the weeks?

Q.: Is there anything you wish to carry on doing after lockdown eases, that you weren't doing before it happened in March?

Here follows the prayer with which Reverend Longe finished his video: Dear God, to You we lift one another in the stillness of this moment before life gets hectic again. Renew us. Remind us of what was good in the last weeks. Remind us where You have been present, showing up in unexpected contacts from friends and family, Scripture and song. Help us to keep listening out for traces of You in our lives. As we step into the river of life, or stay on the shoreline a little longer, thank You for carrying us. Amen.

## **Sueno's Stone News**

What on earth is Sueno's Stone, I hear you ask? Well, a member of our congregation operating under the *nom de plum* [nom de plume. Ed.] Tammy Shanter reveals all..

**Tammy Shanter writes,** The historic parts of Scotland occupied by the Picts have left many archaeological artefacts the most intriguing of which is the carved stones. The Sueno's Stone being far and away the most impressive, at 6.5m high and with intricate carvings on all sides it is a striking feature on the north east side of the town of Forres.

One side of the stone shows a Celtic ring headed cross, with interlaced knot work designs, whilst the rear of the stone is a series of carvings that depict a great battle. However we don't know which battle or when it took place. The Stone is a magnificent sight that is estimated to have been carved between 1200 and 1300 years ago.

We may not know which battle Sueno's Stone depicts but we do know that the Picts were involved in a battle in May 685 that arguably changed the history of the Scottish Islands. The Battle of Nechtanemere.

In the period immediately prior to the battle, the Picts were being threatened by the Kingdom of Northumbria which was attempting to exert its authority over neighbouring territories. Following a victory over the Picts in 672, the Northumbrian King Ecgfrith put in place policies that demanded the Picts paid tribute to the Northumbrian Kingdom. However, when the Pictish King Brude came to power he decided he had no interest in paying tribute to his Southern neighbours and concentrated on consolidating his power and influence in the north and west. By 683 King Brude controlled and that extended from the Northern Isles down to the Forth in the south.

By feigning retreat, the Picts, under Brude, lured the Northumbrians deeper into Pictish territory using local topography to trap their enemy. While it is not certain it is generally agreed the battle took place near Dunnichen Hill in Angus, 12 miles north of Dundee.

The battle was decisive with King Ecgfrith killed, marking the end of the period of Northumbrian expansion. With the borders secure the battle is considered to have created the foundations of Scotland and is seen to be one of the most important events in Scottish history. The story of the Battle is depicted on the reverse side of a Pictish stone that is in the graveyard of Aberlemno 4 miles north of Dunnichen.

## **Classifieds**

**Columba Kids!** - A new twenty-minute online church for children. Contact our minister for how to join!

**Online communion - 28th June @ 11am** - Please bring your own bread / cracker and wine or grape or any other juice.



**Vinnie Jones from the Grace Trust writes,** we want to say a huge 'thank you' for supporting the Jersey Food Bank and to offer an update on what has been achieved over recent weeks. Please know that without your generous and kind support, none of this would have happened.



In no time at all a partnership was established between the Salvation Army, the Grace Trust, the St Vincent de Paul Society, in order to ensure that food was available for anyone in Jersey who cannot afford food at this time. Accordingly, the Jersey Food Bank was launched.

The Jersey Employment Trust and the Probation Community Services Team and many volunteers have supported the food bank. Tens of thousands of foodstuffs have been purchased, donated and shared with

those in need. The phone line (telephone 872270) is open each day (except Sunday) between 11 am and 3 pm and translators are available for Polish, Portuguese and Spanish speakers. Someone is also available for Romanian translation, if needed. Food is delivered each Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

## Sinclair Calling...



**Musings from home by Jim Sinclair,** We are now heading for the home straight as our sequestration edges to a close. I have been advised by Gina Baker she has been cleared for release by her doctor from her internment and she may venture out for the first time in months. Christel and I will get her out somewhere as soon as possible. I have only been in phone contact with her since this all started. The continued closure of

the Kirk is a bit of a blow. The Zoom services are what they are. They are moving and are fulfilling a need but I think we all feel are not the

same. However, the restrictions which would have been imposed if we did open earlier, no singing, no collection plate etc would be surreal. So the first Sunday in September it is then. The weans came down for Fathers'/Papas' Day. Their faces were a picture. Tylah made me this Papa Day card (below). Wonder how she knew I liked Rangers? Mystery that.

[Last week Jim sent in a photo of his first cuddle with his grandkids. I forgot to get it in last week. Rectified below. Apologies. Ed.]



## Competition News

Another thrilling conclusion to last week's "weather" quiz. The winning entry was in doubt until the final moments. One question "stumped" almost everyone: Gary Sobers, Viv Richards and Brian Lara are examples of a what? The answer was a "windy" - nickname of West Indies cricket players. Only one person got that question right and it was enough for the only completely correct entry. Congratulations...Alan Blair!

Answers: 1. Foggy, 2. Rainier, 3. Thunder, 4. Windy, 5. Gail, 6. I See (icy), 7. Wet Wet Wet, 8. Snow, 9. Hail, 10. Missed (mist)

## This Week's Competition

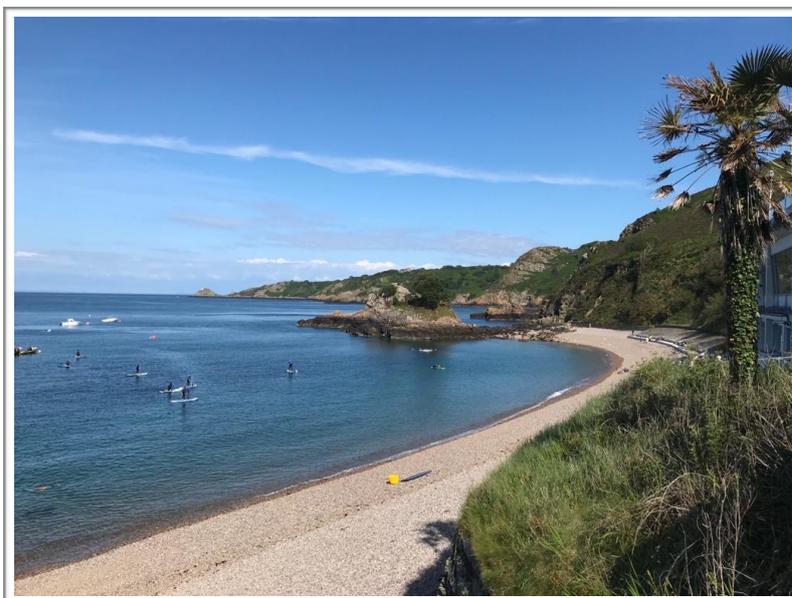
Have a go at this week's quiz - "20 Questions". Below are questions on a whole variety of subjects. Send in your answers or just do for fun at home.

1. Which soft drink is commonly associated with Scotland?
2. What is the largest wild animal in the Channel Islands?
3. IPA is a popular type of beer - what does the acronym stand for?
4. What currency is used in Mexico?
5. What is the name of the fictional borough of Melbourne where Australian soap Neighbours is set?
6. God Only Knows was a 1966 hit for which American band?
7. Which European city hosted the 1936 Summer Olympics?
8. Gouda is a popular cheese originating from which country?

9. Pret a Manger is a popular sandwich chain, but what does the French name mean in English?
10. Which UK city is situated further west – Bristol or Edinburgh?
11. What language is spoken in Norway?
12. What was the surname of Ronnie Barker's character in Open All Hours?
13. The six main stars of Friends appeared in all 236 episodes. Who is the next most regular character to appear in the show?
14. How many sides does a hexagon have?
15. Which planet is nearest the sun?
16. What part of a plant conducts photosynthesis?
17. Which children's characters famous for living on Wimbledon Common released several novelty singles in the 70s
18. John Denver's song Take Me Home Country Roads is about which US state?
19. What was the name of Cliff Richard's backing group during the 60s?
20. Café Terrace at Night is an 1888 oil painting by which Dutch master?

## Blair Country

**Sam Blair writes,** Dear All, One could be forgiven for thinking that we have been catapulted into some far off land at the other side of the world where the sun shines every day at the moment. Here I was the other evening looking down at Bouley Bay with the paddle boarders and canoeists enjoying the sea. What a glorious sight! Do hope you are all well – I am in discussion with Graeme at the moment about starting up the walking group – it looks like it will be August so watch this space.....Until next week – Sam x



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