

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH NEWS

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

Social (Distance) News

Margaret Gicquel's house move has gone well! Fantastic news.

The Thains report that they are finding the time passing quite fruitfully, with a walk each day and garden and garage tidying taking up most of their time.

Due to his civil service job, Alistair Blair is currently isolated from his family in London. However, the former "run round the rock" competitor has a novel way of taking his baby daughter to work (see photo)

Aileen Collins has come up with a marvellous idea. She has started a "thought for the day" on the notice board where she lives. We are proud of her.



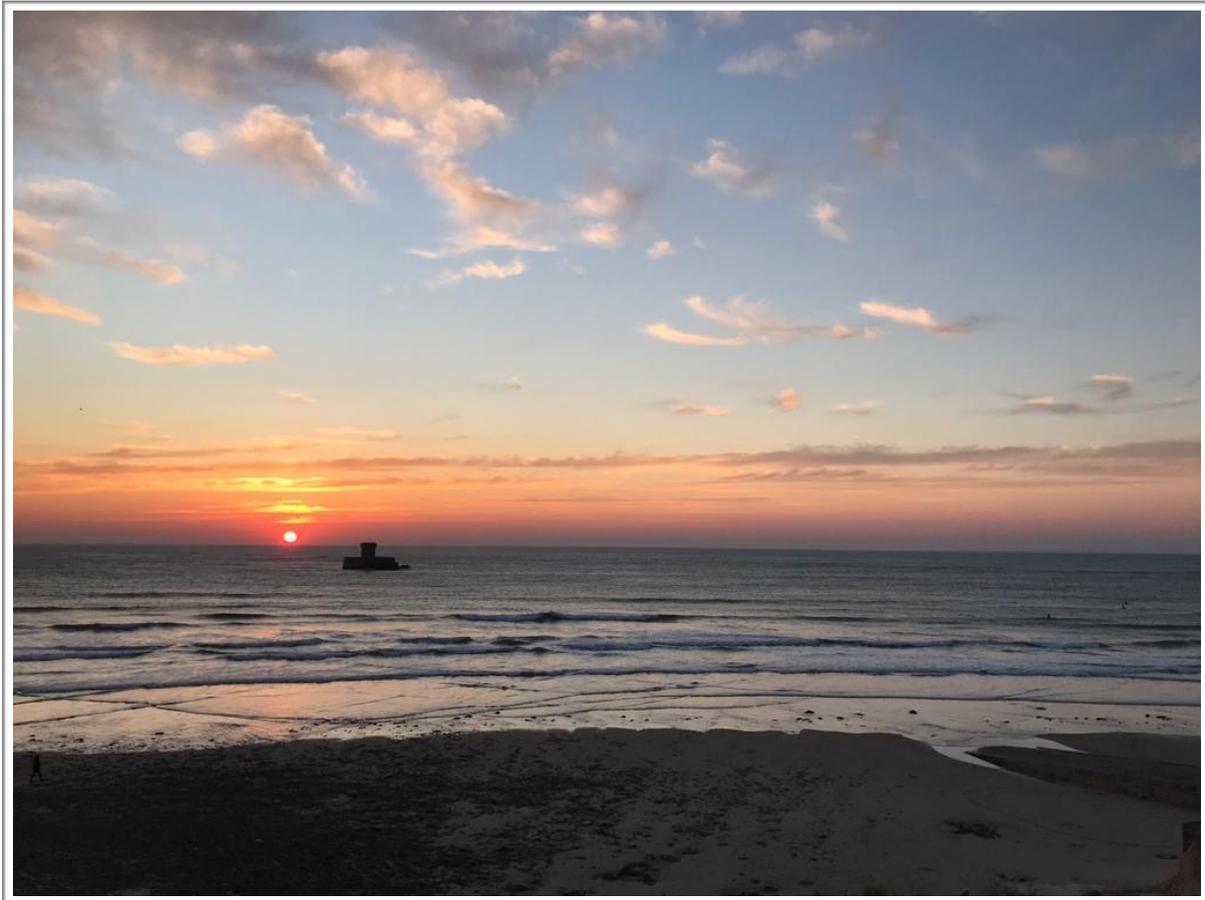
Sinclair Calling...

A series of musings from Jim Sinclair on life at home....

Directly opposite our front window there is a cherry blossom tree. Every year, without fail, we record the date of the first bud on it. This can vary depending on the climate. It is usually mid-April. This year the pre-buds are already in evidence. We wait with bated breath as this heralds the true arrival of spring. It also for us heralds the birthday of my darling wife Christel on May the first. When she was growing up she had a cherry blossom tree on her estate and it was always in bloom in the lead up to her birthday. It is gloriously pink when it comes and when it goes, aided by the wind, blows across the road and settles in the gardens, cars and gutters like a pink snowdrift. Another simple yet glorious example of God's wondrous creation. I shall let you all know when the first bud appears.

Blair Country

Sam Blair writes, Hello everyone, whilst lots of things around us seems to be exceedingly strange at the moment I thought I would share with you this photograph (see over) that my daughter Lauren took of the sunset at St Ouens Bay. It feels very reassuring to know that some things are exactly the same - the sun is still rising and setting and showing its many splendours. So for those of you who are not venturing far I hope you enjoy this and may it not be too long before you see it again in person! Until next week – Sam x



Hymn of the Week

This week's choice is from Marianne Coutanche who requests "In Christ Alone." Marianne asks for it in memory of some significant milestones for her family at this time of year.

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought
and storm
What heights of love, what depths of
peace
When fears are stilled, when
strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll
stand.

Competition Result

Our Session Clerk is now on a two-week winning streak, as she follows up her previous joint first prize with a win this week. The competition was to make the longest word from letters in "Saint Columba's Church" and her winning entry was "Lambrusco". Molto bene Caroline!

New Competition



Look at the photo above: which member(s) of the congregation's house is this? Answers by next Thursday please.

!!!The 3.a.m. Crew!!!

Never worry again about missing out on the gossip while stuck at home. In a new feature, a team of our most fun-loving, glamorous members are going to be partying non-stop in order to bring you all the latest showbiz news. If the gossip is hot, then you will read it here first. Let's Party!!!

The 3.a.m. Crew writes, unfortunately, due to pressing the "snooze" button too many times, we have been unable to bring you any gossip this week.

[Strike one. Ed.]

Overseas News

David Coulter writes from the church in Guernsey, Many of us here are saddened by the decision to suspend Church Services. Initially I felt that even in wartime Churches remained open but this is different. If nothing else it has caused us to think about new ways to engage with members and the wider community.

We as a Church are very much still in business. Our love and care for one another has not diminished in fact it is even more important to look after one another and to care for one another. More than ever we need to hold onto the premise that we really are a Church of :Open Hearts; Open Minds and Open Faiths.

Please do send our warm good wishes to our many friends and fellow Christians in Jersey.

Meanwhile and for as long as this crisis lasts, I will continue to use the prayer:

May the Strength of God Pilot Us
May the Power of God Preserve Us
May the Wisdom of God instruct Us
May the Hand of God Protect Us
AMEN

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

My daughter Jenny is a nurse and is keeping away from family to protect us from the virus. It may be many months before we see her again. When we find lockdown difficult, lonely and frustrating let us remember all the amazing healthcare workers who are staying apart from their loved ones in order to look after those who become sick. We can do our bit by staying at home and reducing the number of people who fall ill.

Gill Lanyon,
St. Saviour

Dear Editor,

A very big thank you must go to Linda for "June's biscuits." [see Food News in Edition 1. Ed.] They were consumed with gusto.

Yours,
Marianne Coutanche,
St. John's

Dear Editor,

I am writing to thank the government for cancelling all the ferries and planes leaving Jersey. I have been recommending this for years. Why would anyone ever want to leave?

Yours,
Mr. R. Renouf,
Proud Jerseyman, Jersey. [Did Ralph really write this? Ed.]

Dear Editor,

I have been handed a copy of your newsheet and am anxious to enter into correspondence with you. However, before I do so, will you please let me have your assurances that your journal is ATOL Protected.

Yours etc.,

Anxious,

Green Island.

PS will you also confirm that no animals were injured whilst your newsheet was in course of production.

Editor's reply: I have looked into your seemingly preposterous questions and astonishingly I have discovered that we actually are ATOL Protected! The only church with such protection in the Western Hemisphere, I believe. An initial Kirk Session investigation suggests that our minister accidentally signed us up when trying to book an online summer holiday. Our vacation and stewardship committee is now trying to make use of this surprising protection. With regards to your other question, I can reassure you that no animals were harmed in producing this newsletter, although I am delighted to introduce our new canine columnist below.

Hello Molly...

As many of our loyal readers know, Kiki Cree has a wonderful dog named Molly. In a new series, we are delighted to introduce real-life tales [tails? Ed.] from Molly's week..

This week, Molly had to go to the dog grooming parlour and, as Kiki was confined to quarters, Molly was sent in a taxi to the parlour and then back home again all by herself. Molly seemed delighted with this Grand (Vaux) day out. After she got home, the tail wagged all afternoon.

(Apparently, Molly tipped the taxi driver £96!- that's in dog money of course)

Classifieds

Walking Holidays - St. Columba's Church is proud to launch walking holidays of Midvale Road. Places available for spring 2021. Book with confidence: we are ATOL Protected.

Liberation 75

Cathy Le Feuvre from BBC Jersey writes, BBC Radio Jersey and the Jersey Library are inviting you to take part in a very special *Liberation75 Writing Challenge*

- Were you at the Weighbridge that day to welcome the British troops? Or maybe you were busy doing something else? What are your memories?

- Maybe you're a younger person who might like to chat to an older person in your family (safely, of course) about THEIR memories?
- Perhaps you'd like to make up a story, or a poem about that day?
- Or it might be that you'd like to write down your feelings about 'Freedom' and 'Liberation' ... what does it mean to you ... today? That might be interesting considering a lot of us are confined to four walls right now!

The Writing Challenge is open to all ages. You can write UP TO 1,000 words and BBC Jersey and the Jersey Library are looking for fact-based or fiction stories, poems etc. The deadline for entries is the end of April. We plan to record many of the entries and play them on the radio during this Liberation 75 year. Jersey Library plans to also stage an exhibition. To find out more please contact me at: cathy.lefeuvre@bbc.co.uk. Thanks, Cathy.

Sinclair Calling...

Further musings from Jim Sinclair...

I am a bit of an amateur astronomer and I can honestly say that this has been the worst winter in living memory for observing the glorious winter constellations. Cloud, cloud, cloud. However this week past has been one of the most cloudless weeks in months. Orion, glorious in the south, is already receding in the west and, with the clocks going forward, will now disappear into the gathering gloom soon after sunset. It has also been a marvellous week for observing the International Space Station. One night I saw it and three other satellites at 8.40 pm. I have never seen four satellites in such a short space of time. Anyone interested can download the ISS app which will enable you to find out the times of passing over St Helier. It truly is a wonderful sight. However, the same gathering gloom is now later and we await the full glory of God's spring, rebirth and then a (hopefully) glorious Jersey summer.

Event Postponement

The St Columba's Church Burns Supper 2021 has now been postponed [Surely you mean Tokyo Olympics 2020? Ed.] The event, due to begin and end on 25 January 2021, will now take place "no later than winter 2022". To help mitigate against disappointment at this postponement, Kay Forrest, Aileen Collins and a number of others have asked us to print the Robert Burns poem "Tae a Virus":

Twa months ago, we didna ken,
yer name or ocht about ye
But lots of things have changed since then,
I really must salute ye.

Yer spreading rate is quite intense,
yer feeding like a gannet

Disruption caused, is so immense,
ye've shaken oor wee planet.

Corona used tae be a beer,
they garnished it wae limes
But noo it's filled us awe wae fear
These days, are scary times.

Nae shakin hawns, or peckin lips,
it's whit they awe advise
But scrub them weel, richt tae the tips,
that's how we'll awe survive.

Just stay inside , the hoose, ye bide
Nae sneakin oot for strolls
Just check the lavvy every hoor
And stock-take, your loo rolls.

Our holidays have been pit aff
Noo that's the Jet2 patter
Pit oan yer thermals, have a laugh
And paddle ' doon the waater'.

Canary isles, no for a while
Nae need for suntan cream

And awe because o this wee bug
We ken tae be..19

The boredom surely will set in,
But have a read, or doodle
Or plan yer menu for the month
Wi 95 pot noodles.

When these run oot, just look about
A change, it would be nice
We've beans and pasta by the ton
and twenty stane o rice.

So dinny think yell wipe us oot
Aye true, a few have died
Bubonic, bird flu, and Tb
They came, they left, they tried.

Ye might be gallus noo ma freen
As ye jump fae cup tae cup
But when we get oor vaccine
Yer number will be up.

Music News

Where have all the flowers gone: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=75bNNjMrOF4&feature=youtu.be>

Quote of the Week

"When asked for the first signs of civilisation in a culture, the anthropologist Margaret Mead cited a 15,000 year old fractured femur found in a dig; the bone had been broken and healed. Mead explained that in the animal kingdom, if you break your leg you die. Unable to run from danger or hunt for food, no creature survives long enough for the bone to heal. A broken femur that has healed, is evidence that another person has stayed with the fallen and tended them through recovery. "Helping someone else through difficulty, is where civilisation starts" she said."

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100% of the jokes used are recycled
Please send complaints to the Editor (limited to 5 complaints per reader)
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