

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH NEWS

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

Congregational Meeting News

Our minister writes, we have agreed to hold two online meetings with the congregation to discuss plans for moving back into our building for Sunday worship. I am writing, firstly, to change the dates of both meetings. I am sorry for the inconvenience, it's entirely my fault that the dates are being changed. The new dates are: Thursday 23 July at 7.30pm and Thursday 20th August at 7.30pm. We will use the same weblink to join as we use on a Sunday morning. The meetings will last an hour at the maximum.

The Church of Scotland recently held an online discussion about moving back into buildings. You may wish to watch it in advance of our own meeting. You can see it here: <https://stream1.churchofscotland.org.uk/webinar/worship-jun-2020>



Blair Country

Sam Blair writes, Dear All, My latest ramblings took me to deepest darkest St Lawrence to see the wicker toad in his splendid isolation. He seemed to be basking in a patch of sunlight looking very majestic. No matter how many times I have seen him (I know that this is probably considered very sexist but I always consider him to be a he!), it is always a wonderful surprise to come round the bend in the road and to be confronted by him – not at all what one is expecting. Ah, the joys and delights of all things wonderful in Jersey! Until next week. Sam x

Eric and Sheila Milton News

For new people, the Milton's were here from 1976 - 1982. Eric was minister. **George Sinclair writes**: Mixed news from Carnoustie via a friend in Dundee who has friends in the Carnoustie area. Sheila was ill recently and admitted to hospital but has now recovered to a care home in Carnoustie. Eric hopes to join her soon whenever a "husband and wife" unit becomes available in the Care Home."

Lockdown News

This week's person responding to the questionnaire about coming out of lockdown wishes to remain anonymous:

How have you spent lockdown? I have not taken up anything new, just done more of the things I usually do, such as knitting, reading, gardening, baking and freezing some of the produce I have grown in the garden.

Any new appreciations? Yes, I have a special appreciation for the girls who have volunteered to do my shopping, and also getting to know my neighbours, who are really lovely.

What are you looking forward to? I am looking forward to lots of things when we get back to normal. Meeting my friends for lunch and having them home for a get together in comfort.

Where has God been for you? I have felt God is with me all the time, guiding me through each days. Some times my faith wavers and He gives me a talking to, after which things get back on an even keel again.

Thank you. Finally, what would you like to continue? The things I would like to continue to do is have more time to do my hobbies.

Sinclair (long distance) calling...

Musings from Jim Sinclair (far) from home, You may recall in last week's screed I said I was going on a boys' trip to London. I went, indeed, I am sitting at Gatwick on my way home. This has been one of the most surreal experiences of my life (and I've had some believe me). The journey over was spooky. Plane empty, both airports empty and 12 people got off at Victoria from a 12 carriage train. Tuesday saw the rendezvous at the Wetherspoon's in Whitehall, which was closed. Apparently it will not reopen. We adjourned to another hostelry for lunch and then to my Club in Great Scotland Yard. Today (Weds) having the full day available, I decided to quit the Smoke and headed to Lewes in Surrey. Again, trains absolutely deserted as was Lewes. Shops all shut, town deserted. Fear not, I found somewhere open where this weary traveller found sustenance. Jersey is far more advanced on the road to normality than England. We should be grateful. It is as if someone has got a giant Hoover and sooked all the humans off to Mars. It really is quite surreal. How the UK and other countries are going to pay for this is beyond me but I suppose we'll just soldier on.

Music News

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SFeYhScbZto>

Linda Lowseck writes: This setting of Alfred, Lord Tennyson's Poem, Crossing the Bar, caught my ear on Radio 3 recently. I knew neither the poem nor the singers but was stopped in the tracks of what I was doing at the time to listen, and later to look up both on line. The Spooky Men's Chorale, who hail from Victoria, Australia have uploaded their rendition given in in Ely Cathedral

when they were on tour in England. The composer, Rani Arbo, is an American folk/blues singer and fiddler. The poem, with its metaphor for crossing from life to death, has been set to music by many well known composers. I think this is particularly beautiful. You can listen by clicking on the link above.

CROSSING THE BAR BY ALFRED, LORD TENNYSON

Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning of the bar,
When I put out to sea,

But such a tide as moving seems asleep,
Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from out the boundless deep
Turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell,
When I embark;

For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crost the bar.

Competition News

Great answers again to last week's multiple choice quiz. However, no 100% answers. Can you hear sound in space? Apparently not, as space is a vacuum and so sound waves can't travel. Loudest animal on earth? The blue whale, although some say the sperm whale (which was not one of the quiz options). Thank you for playing. Answers below. Oh yes, who was the winner? Caroline Ludlow retains her crown!

Answers: 1. Alderney, 2. Rubicon, 3. Maldives, 4. Asia, 5. Mercury, 6. Blue whale, 7. Gagarin, 7. (again) No, 8. Ireland, 9. Spinach, 10. Queen.

This Week's Competition

The theme is "dance" this week:

1. Name of both an orange drink and an Argentinian dance?
2. In what Tchaikovsky ballet does Odell and Odette appear?
3. Name the man who was Hong Kong's cha-cha champion of 1958? (First name begins with "B" and last name is "Lee")
4. What kind of dancing does Mr Bojangles perform?
5. First celebrity winner of Strictly (initials are NK)?
6. Which Church of Scotland is nearest the Royal Ballet School - Crown Court near Covent Garden or St Columba's in Chelsea?

7. What two dances are among the words used in the radio communications alphabet that begins Alpha, Bravo, Charlie?
8. What two words from the radio communications alphabet form the title of a popular TV policewoman series in the 1980's? [Get back to the proper theme. Ed.]
9. What is the common term for a slow dance in triple time?
10. What was the name of Fred Astaire's most famous partner?

Sports News

Seventeen years ago, there was a big game of basketball being shown across America. A 13 year old girl was given the honour of singing the National Anthem. She sang like an angel...for the first three lines. She then forgot the words. Nightmare. She looked around for a hole in the ground. Instead she saw the towering figure of Maurice Cheeks - basketball player and coach - coming towards her. Maurice put his arm around her, whispered some words to get her re-started and they then sang in duet. Rarely, has a National Anthem received such a standing ovation. Those of you with the internet can watch here: <https://youtu.be/ZXnT84Eu-oA>

More Sports News

Alan Blair writes, the cricketer Sir Vivian Richards – the great West Indies cricketer mentioned in the last quiz - was interviewed in Sunday's paper. He was asked "What's the first thing you do when you wake up?" He replied "Thank the Almighty Father for opening my eyes. I say "Thank you, God, for letting me see this morning and, hopefully, you'll give me the opportunity to see out the day." A great man!

Thought for the Days

Every weekday during lockdown, Aileen Collins has been putting a thought for the day on the notice board where she lives: Slow down and enjoy life; I thought that growing old would take longer; Retirement means goodbye tension, hello pension; If you're happy and you know it...it's your meds; does running late count as exercise?

This last week, Aileen signed off with a final thought for the residents:

"Wrinkles indicate where the smiles have been. Signing off as we enter the new normal, keep well. Thanks all those who made us laugh during lockdown. Thanks to all those who took on tasks, thanks to all those who buildings. Thanks to all those who kept an eye on anyone needing help or friendship."

Thanks for sharing, Aileen. We are so proud of you!

St. Columba's Church News is a Condor Nast publication

Please send complaints to the Editor

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