

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH NEWS

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

Blair Country



Sam Blair writes, Dear All, A break in the atrocious weather meant an opportunity for an unexpected stroll round Queens Valley reservoir – a beautiful Autumn afternoon. I do hope that many of you were able to do the same and get some fresh air before we get battered by the next storm! Details to follow shortly about the next church walk. Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible. Until then – Sam x

Sinclair Calling

Musings from Jim Sinclair, Well here we go again. Just as we thought it was safe to go out we are in danger of having restrictions reinstated. We should all be thankful that (1) we were here during the first lockdown and (2) we will be here during the coming reintroduction of restrictions. I doubt very much if they will be as severe as the first set. I must confess I was impressed with the way the Government of Jersey (as the States has been renamed) handled the initial outbreak. You should all be thankful that I am not a medical expert or scientist as I truly thought we would have been on top of it by now. I thought - or hoped - the virus would have begun to run its course and it would fade away. It however had other ideas. Maybe we have to change tack. Maybe we have to learn to live with Covid the way we live with other viral diseases. People who are at risk know, or should know, how to ameliorate the risks and should take the necessary precautions. Maybe the rest of us should be allowed to live as normal a life as possible. I was about in 1967 when 80,000 people in the U.K. died of Hong Kong flu. I don't remember panic or the shutting down of the economy. Shutting down of the economy came in 1973 when the U.K. went on to a three day week with power rationing. I remember sitting in Nellie's pub, AKA The Fountain Bar in Coatbrig, drinking Younger's Tartan heavy by candlelight and Tilly lamp. I am not making a political point here just posing questions. As I said, I am not a medical expert or scientist. I suppose my grandweans Tylah and Brody will remember this year as the year the schools closed. On a happier note, Christel

and I managed a week in Madeira at the end of September. We thoroughly enjoyed it. A two hour forty minute direct flight. Well done Estrela Travel. Note to Hildegard, I went to see the burial place of the last Kaiser of Austria, Karl i. It is at the top of the cable car ride in Funchal in a church. Quite moving, him buried so far away from his family and homeland. I suppose those of us who are exiles - albeit voluntarily - here will end up in a similar situation. Now there's a sobering thought.

Competition News

It was a while ago, and you may not even remember your answers, however thanks a lot for your answers and we have a new quiz winner to announce. Congratulations Margaret Gicquel!!

Answers: 1. Leg, 2. Tennessee, 3. 117,649, 4. Nelson Mandela Tower, 5. Holland 6. La Manche, 7. 100 degrees, 8. Elizabeth, Charlotte, Emily, Maria, 9. Almonds, 10. Carlisle.

This Week's Competition

This week it's a Harvest Festival special:

1. What make of tractor is predominantly green and yellow?
2. And what make of tractor is predominantly red and grey?
3. Normally, the windows of each side of St Columba's are individually decorated for Harvest. How many such windows are there?
4. Yum Asia makes (excellent) appliances to cook the world's most popular food stuff. What is this food stuff?
5. These appliances can also be pre-set to have your porridge ready in the morning [get off Amazon! Ed.] Which doctor wrote the following: "Oats are a grain which in England is generally given to horses, but in Scotland supports the people"?
6. "Caring O" is an anagram of what word?
7. Which parish in Jersey has the most farmland?
8. You have once been a child taking part in a Harvest Festival. True or false?
9. What percentage of a tomato is water? 50%, 75% or 95%
10. What five-letter word is a type of marine snail that, in Jersey, is only permissible to be fished for between 1 Oct - 30 April and even then only on days of full or new moon and the subsequent three days? [Can you cook these in your rice cooker? Ed.]

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