

# St Columba's

United Reformed Church, Oxford

## Newsletter



February 2012

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Lord of all being,  
May you so live within us  
and among us,  
That in our relationships  
you become our love,  
In our decision making  
you become our wisdom,  
In our words you become  
our integrity,

In our actions you become our  
justice,  
In our darkness you become our  
light,  
In our suffering you become our  
hope,  
In our dying you become our life.  
Amen, let it be so.

*Sandra Pickard, Vision4Life*



## CHURCH SECRETARY'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

Shortly after the publication of my recently completed book I was contacted by a man named Marshal Zeringue, who runs a blog for 'The Campaign for the American Reader'. One feature of his blog is a section that he calls 'The Page 99 Test'. This section takes its cue from the following quotation by Ford Madox Ford: '*Open [a] book to page 99 and read, and the quality of the whole will be revealed to you*'. Zeringue invites authors of recently published books to apply Ford's test to their own books, and then to say a little about the results.

It struck me that there might be some interest in applying Ford's test to the Bible. So I took down from my shelves my copy of the New Revised Standard Version, which is the version that we have in the pews at St Columba's, and opened it to page 99. There we find the passage from St John's Gospel in which Jesus cures the man who has been born blind. It is one of the most wonderful passages in the entire Bible. And it does stand in an interesting relation to the rest of the Bible, much of which is concerned with the various vexing issues that permeate the story. What is the relationship between suffering and sin? What is the relationship between godliness and the law? Who is this extraordinary man who can work such wonders? Debate about these issues rages from the beginning of the story to the end.

But the two protagonists of the story - Jesus and the blind man - seem to be gloriously immune to the debate. 'Why was this man born blind?' the disciples ask Jesus. 'Was it because of his own sin, or because of his parents'?' Jesus rejects their question. It is not a matter of anyone's sin. This man is blind. That is all that counts. And it means that there is work to be done. Jesus cures him. Later the intellectual hubbub increases. As well as the disciples fretting about what the blind man's blindness means, there are the Pharisees wondering how he can possibly have been cured; there are the man's neighbours wondering whether he has really been cured; and there are the man's parents not even daring to enter into the debate. There are questions and answers and follow-up questions and accusations. Some of Jesus' enemies insist that Jesus himself must be a sinner. And, in amidst all of this, there is the man himself, no doubt overjoyed that he can now see, no doubt utterly bemused by what is going on around him. Eventually he says something that gets right to the heart of the matter: 'I do not know whether [this man] was a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.'

***'Let us pray that, where there is work to be done,  
God will give us the courage and the determination  
to do it...'***

Marvellous! It makes me think that Zeringue's Page 99 Test does have a certain application to our own sacred text. In the utter simplicity of that comment '*the quality of the whole*' is indeed revealed.

So let us try to embrace that simplicity. Let us pray that, where there is work to be done, God will give us the courage and the determination to do it, and where there are sights to be seen, we shall, through God's grace, acquire the vision to see them.

With love in Christ,

*Adrian*

### **Finance & Property Committee**

2011 concluded in a way that was not anticipated 12 months previously, and certainly not anticipated 24 months previously. It was a challenging year regarding the finance and property of St Columba's but one that was very successful. The heating & hot water project is almost completed – with only one or two minor items still outstanding – and it appears we were within budget. The latter is despite unexpected improvements in the aesthetics of the building and also the reduced income whilst the building was out of action during the heating and hot water project.

We begin 2012 cautiously optimistic, with the main work being the required roof maintenance/repairs. This activity is planned for the summer and quotes are currently being obtained. We also hope to build up reserves for the replacement of the glazing and doors in the vestibule and gallery, which we hope to tackle in 2013.

On a positive note, 2012 has started with the refurbishment of the two main toilets in the building. This improves the aesthetics of the building further and improves the situation for those using the disabled toilet that had become unfit for use.

On the negative side, the suspected break-in has focused the mind on the security of the building. The vestry laptop was stolen and numerous locked cupboards were damaged. However, the rectification work is currently in progress or in planning.

In terms of membership, the Committee is still low on numbers of people who can frequently attend the monthly meetings. We continue to search for new members.

We also want to thank you for your patience as we become familiarised with the new heating system & the control software.

***Tim Llewelyn***

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## **Burns Supper**

There was a good turnout for the Burns Supper on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January, when 47 people enjoyed a feast of haggis, tatties and neeps, accompanied with a variety of drinks, cheese and oat biscuits and followed by fruit, coffee and shortbread.

Shelagh Sneddon did a splendid job addressing the haggis and Wilson Sutherland started the meal with the Selkirk Grace. The Immortal Memory was given by Outi Pickering, the mother of our former member Anna Pickering.

A very enjoyable evening concluded with Scottish dancing led by members of the Oxford University Scottish Dance Society.

***David Townsend***

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## **Cumnor URC**

Christmas Eve was a tremendous occasion for us with a packed church enjoying Carols by Candlelight. It was good to have friends from St Columba's with us, and we thank Sarah in particular for taking a 'speaking part'.

We marked the 'Week of Prayer for Christian Unity' with our friends from the other churches of Cumnor and Botley with opportunities for shared prayer throughout the week and a packed joint service in Cumnor Village Hall on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>.

We are aware that many people are looking for healing, whether of body, mind or spirit, and may look to faith communities but be a little wary of what may be involved. On 18<sup>th</sup> February our morning service will be a new venture for us with a focus on healing, using a pattern of worship from the Iona Community.

The first Fourth Friday supper, speaker and discussion of 2012, on 27<sup>th</sup> January featured Professor Valentine Cunningham, speaking about '*Last Things: writers talking about death and other end things*'. The second Fourth Friday, on 24<sup>th</sup> February, will see Mr Ian Bensted speaking to the title: '*The Ghost of Broadway and the Great Stink*'. In talking about the importance of clean water and good sanitation, both historically in this country and in the developing world today, Ian will draw on a wealth of professional and personal knowledge and insight. Do join us if you can. To book supper call Glenda on 01865 883 515. All are welcome, there is no charge but a donation toward the cost of supper is welcome.



On Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March from 2:30pm we shall be holding a film afternoon, showing 'The Mission' and then discussing some of the themes that arise from it and reflecting on their implications for belief and practice, closing with tea. This is part of our marking of the season of Lent. And we offer you a warm invitation to join us.

March will also see our Country Lunches return on Saturday lunchtimes from Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> March between 12:00pm and 2:00pm: soup, bread, cheese pickle and salad garnish, apple pie and cream with tea or coffee. We hope that some of our friends from St Columba's will come and share lunch with us on at least one of the Saturdays.

**Nigel Appleton**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Student & Young Adult-Led Service**

As is customary, students and young adults will be leading a church service this academic term. Consequently, there will be a preparation evening on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February at St Hugh's College. To reserve a place and for more information, please contact Adrian Moore via [adrian.moore@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk](mailto:adrian.moore@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk).

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### **Lentern Activities in Oxford**

All members of the Faith In Action Group (FIAG) churches [New Road Baptist Church, St Columba's URC, St Michael's at the North Gate and Wesley Memorial Church] are invited to the evening service for Ash Wednesday – 22<sup>nd</sup> February - at St Michael's.

During Lent there will be weekly lunchtime Bible studies with a soup lunch on Thursdays, based on Christian Aid Bible studies which focus on world poverty from a Third World perspective.

More details about all of this will be available nearer the time.

*Advance notice:* The Christian Aid service will take place at Wesley Memorial Church on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May.

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### **Faith Groups to Clean Up Oxford**

Churches Together Central Oxford (CTCO) is joining together with the Mosque to provide a team for OxClean 2012. This is an annual event organised by the Council, when groups of people pick up litter at so called 'grotspots' in Oxford. It takes place on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March between 10:00am and 12:00 noon, and we will be assigned a 'grotspot' in East Oxford, near the Mosque. Tools and coats will be provided by the Council, and it is hoped

that lunch will be provided by the Mosque. We would like to find about 16 people from the various churches so please volunteer!

In practice, Bob Wilkes (vicar of St Michael at the North Gate) reckons that the FIAG churches will probably be providing most of these - so if this really could be highlighted, then Shelagh Sneddon would be grateful. Anyone interested should get in touch with her in the first instance.

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### **Fairtrade Fortnight and Oxford International Women's Festival – Women Working for a Fair Deal**

*Rozina lives in a remote area near the Afghan border of Pakistan. Her father is bankrupt, her mother dead, her elder brother disabled and her younger brother and sister are still children. The family depends on Rozina, but she was uneducated and her only skill, weaving the local dried mazri grass into basketware, was shared with the other village women, so it was difficult to sell her baskets locally. However, a Non Governmental Organisation (NGO), Khwendo Kor (KK), has begun micro-credit work in the village and taught Rozina new designs which they can sell in Islamabad and overseas. She now earns enough to support her family and send the children to the school run by KK, and herself attends adult classes in literacy, numeracy and book-keeping.*

*Omana and Geeta run the village shop in Nirambur, South India. A few years ago poor people like Omana and Geeta were illiterate, had no capital and no land. Then the wealthy local landowner donated land, and the village was built. But they still had to walk miles to the shops, did their shopping on tick and were permanently in debt. So they formed Women's Self Help Groups (SHGs) and got help to start small businesses and training in skills like bookkeeping. They linked up with the organisation Just Change, through which they sourced wholesale goods including tea grown by another Just Change partner, a cooperative of indigenous people up in the hills. An SHG member says, 'The shop is really good for us. What it sells is very good quality and the price is fair. It is our shop'.*

As a Fairtrade church, St Columba's will be aware of Fairtrade Fortnight in early March. This year it coincides with Oxford International Women's Festival, an appropriate conjunction as the stories above demonstrate. Justice for women is deeply entwined with their ability to earn a living. Fair trade opens up markets for their skills and encourages them to acquire the numeracy and literacy necessary for business. The income it generates enables them to educate their daughters for a future free from the forced marriages, ignorance and poverty their mothers have had to fight.

At St Columba's on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 11:30am – 2:30pm, Oxford Fair Trade Coalition are sponsoring an event as part of Oxford International Women's Festival, with Fair Trade stalls, refreshments (including a light lunch) and talks - at 12:00pm by Rukhshanda Naz, a Board Member of Khwendo Kor ([www.khendokor.org.pk](http://www.khendokor.org.pk)), and at 1:45pm by Sabita Banerji, from Just Change ([www.justchangeuk.org](http://www.justchangeuk.org)).

Rukhshanda began her struggle for women's rights as a teenager, resisting marriage plans and insisting on being allowed to study for a law degree, then regarded as a male preserve. She will talk, with videos, on her long experience of working with the Aurat Foundation ([www.af.org.pk](http://www.af.org.pk)) and UN Women for the empowerment of women in traditional societies, and her support of Khwendo Kor since it was founded by her friend, Maryam Bibi.

Sabita will be familiar to many in Oxford through her work for Just Change, an alternative trading organisation that directly links communities in India and the UK, enabling them to control the terms on which they trade and the way profits are distributed. Born and brought up in South India, she will be showing slides and talking about her recent trip back to the beautiful Nilgiri Hills in South India where Just Change operates.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

***Elma Sinclair and Maureen Hussain***

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## Piano and Organ Recital

7:00pm on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March (please note change of time) at St Columba's Church.

'A Keyboard Spectacular' - Paul Page will give a recital on both the piano and the organ in aid of St Columba's church funds.

Programme to include: J.S. Bach Toccata & fugue in D minor and Liszt Petrarch Sonnet.

Tickets available from the Elders:

£10

£8 concessions

£5 under 16s

For further details contact Paul on 01865 604 887 or email [ppage3@btinternet.com](mailto:ppage3@btinternet.com).

**Paul Page**

### First Light: Jesus and the Kingdom of God

Food for the body and food for the soul -- the culmination of fifty years' of John Dominic Crossan's contemplation of Jesus, with the comments of Marcus Borg.

<b>29<sup>th</sup> Apr</b>	The Lake as the World
<b>13<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Parables as Lures
<b>27<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Jesus as Lord
<b>10<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Substitutionary Atonement?

Dinner is followed by a DVD and discussion session.

**Sunday Evenings, 7:00 - 9:00 pm**

*Please let Sue Pearce know you will be attending  
([administrator@saintcolumbas.org](mailto:administrator@saintcolumbas.org); 07880 601 109)*

## INFORMATION

### **God's Passion: Praying with Mark - a Book for Lent 2012**

Over the last couple of years, we have looked to explore the season of Lent in different ways at St Columba's - one year we read the whole gospel of Mark during worship, while last year we used Elizabeth Gray-King's paintings as the starting point for reflections. This year, the Elders would like to recommend a new book to members and friends of St Columba's. *God's Passion: Praying with Mark* is a recent publication by Terry Hinks, who is the URC Minister in Romsey, Hampshire. After some introductory material about prayer in the Gospels, and about the gospel of Mark, he breaks the text of the gospel into 40 chunks, and provides a brief reflection and prayer for each section. The Elders feel that many people in our church would enjoy and value working through this book over Lent 2012.

'*God's Passion: Praying with Mark*' is published by Darton, Longman and Todd, and is available in Blackwell's among other places.

**Gordon Woods**

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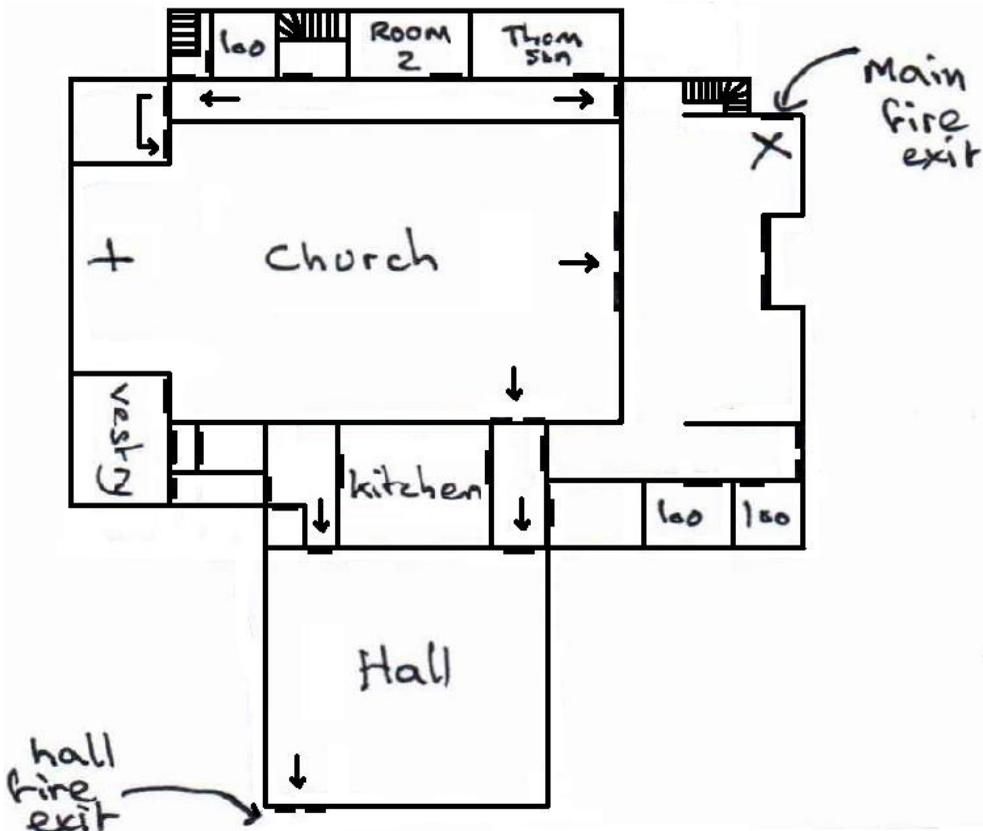
### **Office Space...**

You will see a few changes around you in church! Over half of the building has been refreshed with a coat of paint and the odd tone of yellow has appeared here and there. The floor from the church to the hall has been re-covered and a gentle slope allows the table trolley to be wheeled back and forwards by Archway each week, without the risk of losing fingers. We are just finishing off the toilets. The heating system is working and in a couple of weeks will be much easier to control properly and there are some door changes that should be noted...

1. As many of you will be aware, there was a thief in the building a couple of weeks ago. The church laptop was stolen and

several cupboard doors broken open. They may have come in through a poorly closing fire exit door at the front of the building, or gained access when there was a large group in the building. So please don't ordinarily use the front fire door (marked with an X on the plan) unless you have to for disability reasons. The metal door will have to be replaced over time, but has been partially mended to make it last until then. Please also ensure that you do not let anyone in the building you don't know.

2. The door mentioned above is, of course, the main fire exit and if the alarm sounds please leave the building through that fire exit. The second external fire exit is the double wooden doors leading out onto the Bear Pub garden area.



2a. In an emergency, if you are in the side rooms (the Thomson Room or Room 2), the gallery, the toilets, vestry or church please leave the building through main fire exit. The younger and more mobile should leave quickly first and the less mobile afterwards (this enables the exits not to be blocked).

2b. If you are in the kitchen or hall please exit via the second fire exit onto the Bear Pub garden.

2c. There was previously a way of leaving the church via the vestry (through the vestry courtyard, to the rear of the kitchen and through the hall to the Bear Pub garden). This is no longer a fire route.

2d. Instead of the fire route mentioned in 2c, please note the following: If a fire prevents you from exiting through the main fire door at the front of the building, please leave the church via the wooden double doors to the side of the sanctuary. The doors should be unbolted when any group is using the church. The doors swing outwards into the lobby space between the sanctuary and hall and can be hooked open. The door leading from that lobby to the toilets now has a self-closer fitted so that is triggered off by the fire alarm, restricting the spread of fire from the vestibule to the hall. Use the fire exit from the hall to the Bear Pub garden to leave the building.

That catches you up to date with some of the changes and please do continue to leave messages on the white board in the kitchen or email me - it really helps! Many thanks,

**Sue Pearce**

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### **Minister's Sabbatical**

Carla will be on sabbatical until 16<sup>th</sup> April. While she is away, the Elders and Church Secretaries will cover her duties.

## NEWS ABOUT PEOPLE

### **Congratulations**

Congratulations to Adrian Moore on the publication of his new book *'The Evolution of Modern Metaphysics: Making Sense of Things'*.

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### **In Memoriam**

Schola Cantorum, of which Howard Shaw served as treasurer for a long time, is dedicating a future concert to his memory. It will take place at Exeter College at 8:00pm on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March. Further details, together with an e-mail address for obtaining tickets, can be found at <http://users.ox.ac.uk/~schola/>.

## PROFILE

### **Jenny Barrett**

Like all the hardiest creatures, Jenny Barrett is a mongrel. Raised Plantagenet Anglo-Catholic by a Congregationalist mother descended from the Red Cumyn, she did time in the House Church movement and renewed Anglicanism before finding St Columba's.

Jenny was born in Suffolk, brought up in the Lakes and Northumberland, and sent away to school in Fife. In 1979 she led the English Liberation Organisation (ELO) to a resounding defeat in mock elections at the school in St Andrews (yes, another survivor of St Leonard, patron saint of asylums). The SNP team fared rather better, though the Tory resurgence in Westminster was to delay all our best hopes for a decade or two.

In 1994 a publicity job with Christian Solidarity Worldwide brought Jenny to Oxford. And when it moved on, she stayed. She's since compiled Oxfam's first national catalogue of secondhand books, served in the editorial office of the Baptist Missionary Society, and designed leaflets and fliers for Blackwell's then 90-strong bookshop chain. While Project Administrator for Brookes University's Academic Development office ("the Vision thing"), she added to her Masters in Playwriting a training in performance poetry, with her stage *début* still pending. Though you can find a short piece of hers in *'Re:versing the Damage'*, a still-celebrated climate change edition of the Nail Magazine (2008). Or on her website ([www.jennybarrett.biz](http://www.jennybarrett.biz)).

A late 1980s stint with the World Health Organization in Geneva\* was useful preparation for two years as Development Officer to the Webb Institute for Leadership in Democracy, hosted at Ruskin College. Talented young leaders of Non Governmental Organisations and Trade Unions from the former Soviet and Yugoslav countries were brought onto neutral ground to live, study and go shopping together, learning new ideas and techniques, and moving beyond ancient enmities. Word spread quickly, and applications were beginning to arrive from across Central and Southern Asia, even Africa, when the trustees of Beatrice and Sidney Webb's legacy ran out of investment income.

In March 2011, Jenny was recruited as Support Worker (Relief) to MacIntyre's Lifelong Learning Centre on Osney Lane. 'Getting paid to find fun things to do with new friends' read the Christmas round-robin, in celebration of having found a useful outlet for her myriad interests and connections across Oxford. Delivering personalised care on a shoestring budget to lovely folk with autism, Downs Syndrome and a range of other conditions is a substantial and often stressful challenge. But her skills as a creative catalyst and facilitator are beginning to bear fruit, and she's developing a thriving ministry in group visits to the Ashmolean Museum.

Jenny is a jazz-loving pianist and gifted wordsmith. Aged eight,

she won the Brooke Bond National Infant Free Writing Competition with a story about watching a red squirrel run up a pine tree, on an early morning outing with her favourite pony. As her prize, she chose from the catalogue a lavishly illustrated edition of Grimm's Fairy Tales, which was found to be out of stock. Instead she was given a boxed set of Black Beauty, Swiss Family Robinson and Gulliver's Travels – none of which she has yet read.

Neither is she published, other than in a few obscure trade journals during work experience on the journalism course that lured her back from Switzerland. But there is industry interest in a literary memoir about the first woman to qualify and work as a chartered shipbroker in the 1950s. And the journey Jenny has been on since her mother died and Jenny found out that's who she was.

\*(working in the pioneering HIV/AIDS programme and then the Press Office, through the first Gulf War and the fall of Communism.)

## EDITOR'S COMMENTS

The mild winter weather that brought spring flowers to bloom in December appears to have come and gone. The cold easterly winds have brought below zero temperatures and snow to the majority of the country. Such a different perspective it provides.

The recent snow arrived as I was visiting my family in Bury. Nine hours of snow flurries passed and the result was Christmas card perfection. The world was white and untouched, all was quiet, and car-shaped snow sculptures stood as fresh ornaments along the roadsides. The following morning, my dad and I put on our warm winter attire and headed to church on foot. When we arrived, we were greeted by friendly faces offering us hot drinks and a tremendous sense of community. This got me thinking, and a chain of thoughts followed...

What is community? How does this relate to our faith and the

Church? And what does this mean for our Christian mission?

In a small semi-circle at the front of the church sat one lay preacher, seven members of the congregation, a dog... and my dad, who joined us between hymns when he wasn't required at the organ. Now at some churches even a semi-circle would have raised an eye-brow never mind a dog (!) but it was a very special service and one that I shall not forget. It was a combination of the people, the unquantifiable atmosphere, the shared friendship, the sermon, and the willingness of those individuals to brave the elements to be there to serve and worship God. It really did not matter that there were so few of us in attendance, and it reminded me why it is so wonderful to be part of such a loving church community.

I have been to churches where the abovementioned numbers are the norm for a Sunday service. Some would question the rationale for not just calling it a sad loss, moving on, and integrating into another church. Sometimes bigger is better, more sustainable, and spreads the pressure of keeping such a place alive and kicking. However, I believe that from small churches with large hearts for God and good community spirit great things can come. After all, it didn't take many to start the Church in the first place, enabling it to spread across the globe and it becoming one of the major world religions.

At my previous church, a meal was shared at the manse – and prior to that, a house of a member of the congregation – on a Friday evening. Attendances were between approximately five to twelve people and the cooking duties were shared between those willing and able. There was a mixed age profile and included people from various walks of life, some church goers and some not. Yet this small community – like the aforementioned services – felt like something of which Jesus would have approved; not the sprawling politically charged world of organised religion and all the associated complexities that can detract from the greatness of God and what faith has to offer, but rather where the love of God can be experienced in its simplest and maybe the most effective manner.

Now I am not advocating the end of large denominations or even larger churches but I do see the benefits of these smaller communities... and particularly God-focused proactive loving communities. This also provides hope when we worry about falling church membership across the British Isles and further afield. Furthermore, it helps us to understand the draw for many of the so-called Emerging Church and congregations that simply meet in each other's homes or a hired room. This leads me to think that such retrenchment can strip back our faith to its roots from where there can be renewed energy, new growth, and new life.

This topic had also arisen during a conversation with a Baptist minister in January, as we discussed the challenges of city centre church life. With people living further a way it is often more difficult for people to travel to city centre churches and form a community spirit. We concluded that it wasn't just about what takes place in a particular church building during a week - albeit important to church life - but also the community we create as individuals in the areas that we live and work. The latter is where we are located for the majority of the week and often where we can 'leave church behind', forgetting about the bigger picture.

Ask yourself what you are doing in your local area and/or at work. How are you forming community and showing this secular society what faith has to offer the world? Perhaps you live near others from our church and your paths never or rarely cross? I suggest trying to arrange to meet up with them and others, formally as a house group or just socially. From this, our communities and Christianity can strengthen and grow.

**Tim**

**Newsletter Deadline...**

All contributions for the next issue of the newsletter should be sent to Tim Llewelyn (Editor) by Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2012 to the following Email address: [llewelyn\\_tg@hotmail.com](mailto:llewelyn_tg@hotmail.com).

The next issue will cover from May to mid-July.

News items: 400 words (maximum); discussion articles: 600 (maximum).

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Events

#### February

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- 17<sup>th</sup> *Student & Young Adult-Led Service Planning*. St Hugh's College. TBA.
- 19<sup>th</sup> *Commitment for Life Service*. Church. 10:45am.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> *Ash Wednesday Service*. St Michael's at the Northgate. TBA.
- 24<sup>th</sup> *Fourth Friday*. Cumnor URC. 7:15pm.
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#### March

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- 3<sup>rd</sup> *OxClean 2012*. Oxford city centre. 10:00am – 12:00pm.  
*Oxford Fair Trade Coalition event*. Church. 11:30am.  
*'The Mission' film event*. Cumnor URC. 2:30pm.
- 4<sup>th</sup> *FirstSunday*. Church. 7:15pm.
- 10<sup>th</sup> *Country Lunch*. Cumnor URC. 12:00pm.
- 17<sup>th</sup> *Country Lunch*. Cumnor URC. 12:00pm.  
*Piano and Organ Recital*. Church. 7:15pm.
- 24<sup>th</sup> *Country Lunch*. Cumnor URC. 12:00pm.
- 31<sup>st</sup> *Country Lunch*. Cumnor URC. 12:00pm.
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#### April

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- 1<sup>st</sup> *FirstSunday*. Church. 7:15pm.
- 5<sup>th</sup> *Maundy Thursday Service*. Wesley Memorial Church. TBA.
- 6<sup>th</sup> *Good Friday Service*. New Road Baptist Church. TBA.

29<sup>th</sup> *Living the Questions.* Church. 7:00pm.

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## **Meetings**

### *February*

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21<sup>st</sup> *First Sunday Planning.* Time & place TBA.

28<sup>th</sup> *Mission Group.* T. Llewelyn's house. 7:30pm.

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### *March*

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8<sup>th</sup> *Finance & Property Committee.* Church. 7:30pm.

15<sup>th</sup> *Elders' Meeting.* Church. 7:30pm.

20<sup>th</sup> *First Sunday Planning.* Time & place TBA.

27<sup>th</sup> *Mission Group.* T. Llewelyn's house. 7:30pm.

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### *April*

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12<sup>th</sup> *Finance & Property Committee.* Church. 7:30pm.

17<sup>th</sup> *First Sunday Planning.* Time & place TBA.

24<sup>th</sup> *Mission Group.* The Manse. 7:30pm.

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## LECTIONARY

### February

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19<sup>th</sup> 2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9.

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26<sup>th</sup> Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15.

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### March

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4<sup>th</sup> Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38 or Mark 9:2-9.

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11<sup>th</sup> Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22

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18<sup>th</sup> Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21.

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25<sup>th</sup> Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33.

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### April

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1<sup>st</sup> Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 14:1-15:47 or Mark 15:1-39, (40-47).

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8<sup>th</sup> Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8.

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15<sup>th</sup> Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31.

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22<sup>nd</sup> Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48.

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29<sup>th</sup> Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18.

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## USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

### Minister

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Revd Carla A. Grosch-Miller      7 Hawkswell Gardens, Oxford, OX2 7EX.  
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### Church Administrator

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Sue Pearce      Tel: 07880 601 109 Email: administrator@saintcolumbas.org

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### Treasurers

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Andrew Baker & David North      Email: treasurer@saintcolumbas.org

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## St Columba's URC, Oxford

Sunday Worship: 10:45am

***ALL are welcome.***

*Be thou a bright flame before me,  
be thou a guiding star above me,  
be thou a smooth path below me,  
be thou a kindly shepherd behind me,  
today, tonight and forever.*

***St Columba's Prayer***

ALFRED STREET,  
OXFORD,  
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