

Message from Rev Iain Lothian

Dear all

We have lots of ways for you to join in with church and we would love for you to join us!

Join us in person: This week our Sunday Morning Service, starting at 10.30am, will be led by Rev Inderjit Bhogal OBE and held at Stephen Hill with a small congregation. The service will be followed by the St Columba Annual Church Meeting which will also be streamed live on Zoom.

*Numbers in Church are limited because of social distancing regulations, so It's **very important** that we know how many folk wish to attend Stephen Hill Church, for the Church service.

St.Columba's APCM will follow after the service so we also need to know if members intend to stay for the service and the APCM or are planning to come for the meeting only.

We would be grateful if you could **let Brenda Nelson know what your plans are** by emailing her at bj.nelson@btopenworld.com or ringing 07835455562.

Join us by Zoom: Click the following link:

<https://zoom.us/j/95130964519?pwd=Z1prOVc0VjNZR0FmMFRkT0pIME5vUT09>

The Meeting ID: **951 3096 4519** and the Passcode: **service**.

Join us by phone: Dial **0330 088 5830** followed by the Meeting ID: **951 3096 4519** and Passcode: **7647720**

Dial-a-Sermon: You can also hear the sermon via the number **0114 4782335**. Calls cost the same as a local call.

Unfortunately, last week's service failed to record and so is not available to view.

Night Prayer: To join the night prayer which follows the usual compline pattern, click <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XF194iadXoY>. It provides a lovely peaceful ending of the day for me and I hope it might do the same for some of you.

If you are ill, show Covid symptoms or are aware of being in contact with anyone with Covid, or displaying Covid symptoms, you must not come.

Stay Safe & keep well

Iain x

Please send any news or notices for the notice sheet by Lunchtime on Wednesdays.

Email admin@stcolumbacrosspool.org.uk or phone 267 0006

Or

Email: shgrapevine@gmail.com or ring Brenda : 2306918 or John : 2304960

Stephen
Hill
Methodist
Church



St
Columba's
Church
Crosspool

WORSHIPPING GOD // INCLUDING ALL // SPACE TO EXPLORE // PROMOTING JUSTICE

Sunday, 18th October 2020

Church opening times this week

Morning Prayers at St Columba - Monday at 10.00am

Morning Prayers at St Columba - Wednesday at 10.00am

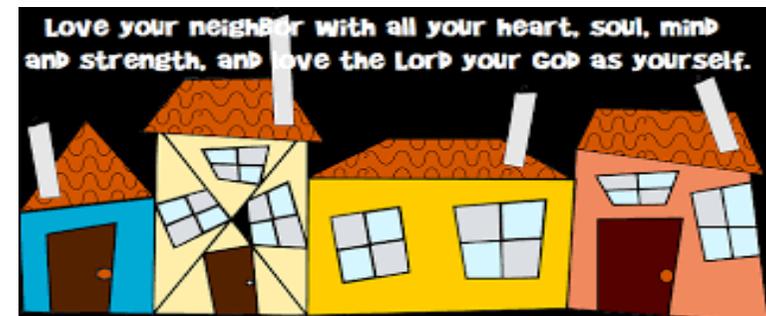
Private Prayer at St Columba - Thursday from 10.00am to 12noon

Personal safety remains a priority and social distancing will be observed, with seating in designated areas only. Automatic hand sanitiser dispensers are available in the entrance area, and automatic soap dispensers are in each loo. Laminated (for easy sanitising) service cards and prayer cards will be available. Church bibles and prayer books cannot be used at present according to church guidelines.

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**Lectionary readings for today**

**Exodus 33:12-23 & Psalm 99    Isaiah 45:1-7 & Psalm 96:1-9, (10- 13)  
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10    Matthew 22:15-22**



### **Pastoral.**

The Pastoral Prayers Group is maintaining the prayer link. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with all the members of our Church families and the community who are unwell or have special needs at this very difficult time. Please continue to let Maureen Owen or George Wild know of anyone who should be included in our prayers.

We also pray for all the community in Crosspool and this week especially for the residents of Sandygate Park Road and Crescent.

**St Columba's Annual Church Meeting** - Will be held after this morning's service at Stephen Hill Church and also it will be streamed live on Zoom.

### **Operation Christmas Child – Shoebox appeal**

Drop off filled boxes at St Columba Church from the **9<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> November**. Get an empty medium sized shoebox, and wrap the box and lid separately in colourful wrapping paper or order pre-printed shoeboxes online. Attach the appropriate boy/girl label, marking if your gift is for a boy or a girl. Select an age category 2-4, 5-9 or 10-14 and attach the label to the top of your shoebox. Fill your shoebox with a selection of fun toys, hygiene items and school supplies. If possible, include one or two special items you know a child will love such as a doll, cuddly toy or deflated football with pump. See our Gift Suggestions for more ideas. A suggested donation of £5 is essential to cover project costs. Give online at Follow Your Box and you can print out a barcode and place it inside your shoebox on top of the contents. Or you can enclose cash or cheque (to Samaritan's Purse) and place it in an envelope inside your shoebox on top of the contents.

### **'Free to Be'**

Sometimes the momentum of life can feel overwhelming. As women we may find we're constantly trying to balance home life, family, work, health and relationships. It's difficult to know what's worth keeping up and what to let go of. 'Free to be' is the title of another Webinar from Care for the Family and it's being streamed three times on 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> of October at 7.30pm. It offers to equip you with practical ideas and to challenge you to become bolder, braver and more confident about the future God has created for you. Its free to join but registration is needed at [cff.org.uk/freetobe](http://cff.org.uk/freetobe).

### **Food bank**

St Cuthbert's Food bank is very grateful for all the kind and much needed donations. Please place any donations of cheques and cash in an envelope marked "Food Bank" and post in St Columba Church mailbox. Cheques should be made out to St Cuthbert's Church PCC and endorsed "food bank" on the back. Please, no money or cheques in the Food Bank box. To donate on-line, please go to <https://localgiving.org/firvalefoodbank>

### **Stranger things!**

A few weeks ago I sat in my rocking chair, glass in hand, with the French sliding doors open reading a country diary. Though in an urban setting my secluded garden is open at the back of the house and frequented by a host of birds that entertained me and chattered away as I read. Occasionally they would fly for cover into the pyrocanthus or ivy hedges and then flutter down again onto the feeders. However, this is what I read and it stayed with me the rest of the day..."my neighbour John who has the loveliest fields in Wormingford has given me the obituary of a farmer who died in 1930. This obituary is in the form of one of the fields saying farewell as the cortège passed, the coffin on a flowery wagon, the Suffolk punches be-plumed...' I have been a field for nigh on a thousand years, and I know men. Some are clever, some are kind, but very few are clever and kind, but he was, and I am sorry that all the other fields in England....who need him so much in these days...will have to go on without him".

This eulogy set all kinds of thoughts running in my head. Not least that we are deeply interconnected with the earth. What we do does affect other people and, presumably, the earth and our environment for better or worse. Will the field really miss the considerate farmer? Was it able to differentiate a good farmer from a bad one? To answer yes seems a little fanciful, but I think for sure, there is more going on here than we may imagine, or meets the eye, and we are only just beginning to understand. Some indigenous Indian tribes of the USA for instance, knew that if they looked after the earth, it would look after them and provide what they needed in due season, no more, no less.

Having just read Robert Macfarlane's latest most wonderful and disturbing book *Underland*, there is no doubt that what goes on beneath our feet, and in the deepest parts of the earth is almost beyond our human imagining. More and more is being learned every day through science and technology, and our human story and our place in the overall scheme of things, is an integral part of the whole story of the good earth. Plants, trees, birds, animals, mammals, the soil, even fungi, the whole shebang of biodiversity beneath our feet and around us does respond to our activity and considerateness, revels in our care and attention, repays us for such, and for that we are all the beneficiaries.

May our grandchildren and future generations look back at us and thank us for being, hopefully, both "clever and kind" during our brief sojourn on this planet earth, and which for the foreseeable future and beyond is our only home. However, much is being done at home and across the world right now which is changing the way we live and think, and which are small steps towards a much safer, more secure and hopeful future.

*Rev Michael Wildgust*

**St Columba's Church:** 503 Manchester Road, S10 5PL, 0114 267 0006

Priest-in-Charge: Rev Iain Lothian (267 0006 [iain.lothian@stcolumbacrosspool.org.uk](mailto:iain.lothian@stcolumbacrosspool.org.uk))

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**Stephen Hill Methodist Church:** 547 Manchester Road, S10 5PL, 0114 266 7073

Minister-in-Charge: Rev Iain Lothian (267 0006)