

## Dates for your diary

**3<sup>rd</sup> Pentecost 2 10.30am Holy Communion at St. John's.**

**17<sup>th</sup> Thursday 10.30am Holy Communion at St. John's.**

**10<sup>th</sup> Pentecost 3 10.30am Holy Communion at St. John's.**

**14<sup>th</sup> Thursday 10.30am Holy Communion at St. John's.**

**17<sup>th</sup> Pentecost 4 10.30am Holy Communion at St. John's.**

**21<sup>st</sup> Thursday 10.30am Holy Communion at St. John's.**

**24<sup>th</sup> Pentecost 5 10.30am Holy Communion at St. John's.**

**28<sup>th</sup> Thursday 10.30am Holy Communion at St. John's.**

Richard Gillings 01479 831365

Jenny Jones 01540 673532

Alison Hart 01479 841614

Tony Sparham 01479 481151

Ian Sykes 01479 870394

### **A Prayer by Justin Welby**

Gracious and generous God, you became poor so that we might be enriched by your love, and you gave the world's wealth and resources as a common inheritance of all human beings.

We pray you would strengthen your church to be a beacon of hospitality for the poor.

We pray that, seeing the light of Christ's love, the nations and peoples of the world may fight not to kill, but to outdo one another in care for the poor, and in actions of gracious generosity.

Through Him who for our sakes did not grasp the wealth of heaven, but instead gave all to live for us as a slave, and die for us in pain, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

**June 2018**

## *Some reflections ....*

### **St. Columba of Iona**

I wonder which saint you feel you have a connection to? For me, it's Columba and on June 9<sup>th</sup> we celebrate the life of St. Columba of Iona. But who was this 6<sup>th</sup> century monk?

He was born into a royal family in Ireland and had a comprehensive education, becoming a priest and abbot. Around 560AD he became involved in a dispute with another abbot, which led to a battle in which many men were killed. Columba resolved to go into exile and to win for Christ as many men as had been killed in the battle.



In 563 with 12 companions he travelled to Scotland in a wicker currach covered with leather. Arriving on the white sandy beaches of Iona (the first place he landed where he couldn't look back and see his native Ireland), Columba built his first church of clay and wood and established a monastic community.



St. Columba was not the shy retiring type and displayed some strange idiosyncrasies, including banishing women and cows from the island, claiming that “where there is a cow there is a woman, and where there is

a woman there is mischief”. The abbey builders had to leave their wives and daughters on the nearby Eilean nam Ban (Woman’s Island). Stranger still, he also banished frogs and snakes from Iona. (We’re not sure how he managed this feat!)

Once settled, the Irish monk travelled around Scotland and northern England, sharing his faith in Jesus.

Iona’s fame as a missionary centre and outstanding place of learning eventually spread throughout Europe, turning it into a place of pilgrimage for several centuries to come. Iona became a sacred isle where kings of Scotland (48), Ireland (4) and Norway (8) were buried.

***Some interesting facts:***

- \* He was a striking figure of great stature and powerful build, with a loud, melodious voice which could be heard from one hilltop to another.
- \* It is said that he banished a ferocious "water beast" to the depths of the River Ness after it had killed a Pict
- \* He wrote several hymns and transcribed 300 books.
- \* The clan McCallum claims its name from Columba.

**A prayer of St. Columba...**

***Be a bright flame before me, O God  
a guiding star above me.  
Be a smooth path below me,  
a kindly shepherd behind me  
today, tonight, and for ever.  
Alone with none but you, my God  
I journey on my way;  
what need I fear when you are near,***

***O Lord of night and day?  
More secure am I within your hand  
than if a multitude did round me stand.  
Amen.***



**Evensong  
Sunday June 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

**Alison’s Homegroup – June 20<sup>th</sup>**

***From the last Vestry meeting:***

- we hope to go ahead with the removal of 1 or 2 pews from the back of the church.
- the boundary fence is in need of repair.
- the church bell has been electrified.
- a new altar cloth is to be purchased, thanks to legacies from Audrey and Mac.
- the entrance and main room of the hall is to be painted.
- there are discussions on improving the acoustics of the hall.
- Church Doors Open Day is on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September.
- St John the Baptist’s day falls on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June and it was proposed the congregation has lunch at the Cairngorm Hotel after the service.

**Looking ahead**

**Vestry meeting** Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> July after church.

**Discovering New Hymns** – Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July

