

THE SIGN

APRIL 2017

ST CUTHBERT'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH COLINTON

St Cuthbert's endeavours to be a community in which all are encouraged to participate in worshipping God and serving the wider community. It welcomes those who are doubters and sceptics as well as those who are committed in faith, and has a particular concern for those who have been hurt by their experiences of life.

Vacancy Update

Interviewing will take place on Monday 27 March. As soon as it is becomes possible to do so the congregation will be informed about the outcome of these interviews. Please pray for all those involved.

Joan Smith & Jayne Churchill



**Our Interim Pastor
Fred Tomlinson**

SARAH'S VIEW

A risky faith

I've been thinking a lot about risk taking recently. Partly that has been fuelled by a book I've been listening to during my frequent car journeys between Colinton and Grangemouth. It's a fictional account of the life of Flora MacDonald, the Jacobite heroine. She famously assisted Bonnie Prince Charlie - on the run in 1746 - at great risk to herself, by helping him escape from Benbecula to Skye. She suffered a short imprisonment in the Tower of London for her trouble.

Fortunately, no-one has asked me to help any fugitives who might be hiding out in Colinton. But life for all of us constantly presents risk in many possible forms. We can't avoid it - and I don't think we should always seek to. Last Saturday the Diocese of Edinburgh of the Scottish Episcopal Church met for its yearly Spring Synod. The most sensitive issue on the agenda was the proposal to amend the Church's Canon (rule) on the conduct of marriage in our churches, by removing the definition of marriage from the Canon. Removing this would potentially pave the way to allow those clerics who feel called to conduct same sex marriages, to choose to do that. In June, our General Synod, involving all the Dioceses of the Church, will vote on this; the outcome of that vote will be decisive.

There are risks to many people in discussing and bringing forward this matter in a context where marriage has been traditionally upheld as a union between a man and a woman. There is the risk of hurting those who this discussion directly affects, i.e. the many committed Episcopalians not currently allowed to marry their partner in Church. There is the risk of the Church being perceived as simply falling into line with societal change for the sake of it. Blessedly most of the discussion last Saturday was helpful and thoughtful. However, such a discussion could not happen without some pain, and possibility of division.

But to have had no discussion at all, or the vote, would also have been wrong. To never risk hurt to oneself or others means that we might fail to discern when we need to change.

As we move towards Easter, and go beyond the Cross and Resurrection with Jesus Christ, we will remember one man who risked everything, in order for us to be reconciled with God. One man who loved his friends, yet said goodbye to them; who was fully engaged with

life, yet gave it up; who could have exerted his power, and instead, relinquished it.

I believe our Church – living out his will, and living in his name, needs to take risks in order to follow the will of God – wherever that takes, or doesn't take us, and however uncomfortable we are. It is a risky faith that we are called to.

Sarah Shaw

Welcome Project for Refugees

The Weekend Project is an initiative run by Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees. Monthly events are being held to help refugees and migrants feel welcome here, and to give them something of Scottish culture. We are planning to host an event here at St Cuthbert's on **Saturday 8th April** - details to be confirmed, but the proposal is to have a short walk in Colinton then an afternoon tea or high tea, late afternoon/early evening.

Help would be very welcome! If you can help, please get in touch with:

Wendy Pearson or
Sarah Shaw.

I KNEW A MAN PASSION PLAY EASTER 2017

by J.O.Sowinski

'I Knew A Man' is based on the book of Isaiah and the 23rd Psalm. It is the story of the Roman Soldier at the foot of the Cross and those standing with him. It is in narrative and choral form and lasts one hour.

Good Friday 14th April

**St Cuthbert's Episcopal Church, Colinton @
2.00pm**

Good Friday 14th April

Colinton Parish Church of Scotland @ 7.00pm

Easter Sunday 16th April

All Nations Christian Fellowship @ 11.00am

***Retiring Offering for 'Our Neighbours' Zimbabwe
British Registered Charity SALT-UK (Charity Number :1163009)***

2017 Lent Study Group

All are welcome to this year's Lent Group which will meet for six weeks on a Wednesday afternoon, starting on **Wednesday 8th March at 3.00 pm at The Rectory.**

The book we will read together is this year's Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book, 'Dethroning Mammon: Making Money Serve Grace' (by Justin Welby).

The book is available from Cornerstone Bookshop or internet sources.

Holy Week and Easter

During Holy Week **Compline** will be said in the Church from **Monday through to Wednesday at 6 pm.** Please see the Calendar for all of the Holy Week and Easter Services

'Bad Friday' for Kids

On **Good Friday, 14th April, from 10.30 - 11.30 am** there will be messy activities for little ones in the Hall, telling the story of Easter. Please round up any little ones you know and join in the fun! Refreshments will be served and the event is free.

Songs of Praise on 7th May - requests welcome!

Plans are underway for a 'Songs of Praise' service on **Sunday 7th May at 6.00 pm** (in place of the usual Evensong service). Is there a hymn that has special meaning for you? Would you like it to be included in our Songs of Praise? Please get in touch with Sarah Shaw.

Thoughts to Ponder : Adapt or Die?

Recently a visiting preacher pointed out to the Congregation that our World is rapidly changing. Expressions like “false truth” and “alternative facts” were examples of how our language and understanding were changing.

Looking back over the last 12 months or so it is easy to understand why and how individuals might feel isolated, anxious, uncomfortable and start to question their long held beliefs and attitudes.

Over the last year there have been some unexpected and unsettling events. Britain is to leave the EU after 40 or so years. Here in Scotland there may be a 2nd Referendum on Independence which will significantly add to the uncertainty that Brexit is already causing. At the same time Europe as a whole is facing a refugee crisis stimulated by political and economic factors, causing large numbers of desperate people to move westwards looking to survive and hopefully a safer better life.

In America the new President uses social media to promulgate his views which many find offensive and which are threatening to many sections of society. In France Marie Le Pen is being seen as realistic candidate in the forthcoming Presidential election, and the liberal regimes in Germany and Holland are under attack from the right wing parties in their own countries.

Faced by all these factors many people retreat into a laager mentality where they become increasingly traditionalist looking back to the “good old days “, seeking comfort in the known and understood. They become more conservative, resisting change and seeking scapegoats to blame for the world not being s they would want it.

Perhaps the most depressing aspect of all the above is the sight of so-called western Christian countries worsening the plight of these refugees by closing their borders or severely restricting the number admitted (is the UK so overcrowded and broke that it can only find space and resources for 350 unaccompanied children?), although there are one or two honourable exceptions.

The leaders of the Established churches have not been able to provide the certainties that are being demanded of them by those struggling to adapt to the contemporary world. Consequently the influence of the churches is declining. Regular attendance is also declining.

Many individuals feel alone misunderstood and undermined by the events going on around them.

However these feelings of isolation confusion and anxiety are not unique to our own generation. In the 19th century Matthew Arnolds' poem, Dover Beach, expressed similar feelings.

All the certainties of Arnold's early life were under threat. Darwin's Theory of Evolution, along with major advances in Geology, Biology and Zoology threw doubt on the absolute authority of the Biblical account of the origins of the Earth, animals and mankind.

At the same time the agrarian way of life was being replaced by the industrial towns, whose factories and workshops were described by Blake as "England's dark satanic mills". Arnold describes the earth as a "darkling plain" which reiterates the confusion felt by many today.

The Christian church eventually had to face up to these changes and develop new insights and understanding in the light of all the new knowledge pouring forth, including a new approach to the bible based on archaeological discoveries and a more critical, academic approach to Biblical studies, and did so quite successfully (in most cases).

Similar challenges have faced the church in the 20th and 21st centuries as new and startling discoveries have been made in Physics, Astrophysics, Astronomy, Medicine and Microbiology. The realisation that there are at least 100 billion galaxies and 1,000 billion stars in the universe we have so far discovered puts a completely different perspective on our view of ourselves in that universe.

The church and its members are still trying to come to terms with all these scientific and intellectual developments, but, as in the 19th century, change has to be faced and new understandings and insights developed in the light of new knowledge. Unless the church and its members are able to rise to this challenge Christianity in the developed world will continue to decline into irrelevance – to bring it locally, in our own Diocese three churches have closed in the last ten years.

The Christian church, in the past, has proved highly resilient, adaptable and open to change. The modern Church and we as its members need to follow that example.

Wendy Stewart March 2017

FROM THE ARCHIVES

John Peacock our church archivist has been researching aspects of our church and has written a series of articles which will be in The Sign over the next few months.

Know your church 3

Hidden away at the back of the chancel is the rarely seen window showing St Cuthbert, Bishop of Lindisfarne, holding the head of St Oswald on a plate. This is a rather strange image which dates back more than a thousand years.

Oswald was the son of Aethelfirth, the pagan king of Northumbria. After his death Oswald with his young brother, Oswiu, and possibly his mother fled to the king of the Scots. At this time the Scots controlled a small strip of land on the west coast and some of the islands of the Hebrides. They were Christians who, migrating from Ireland, followed the Irish or Celtic traditions of Christianity. St Columba had established the monastery on Iona and he set about converting the Pictish tribes.

Oswald returned from his exile c 634 and defeated his enemies in Northumbria. The lands along the east coast from the Forth to the Humber were under his rule. He may well have captured Edinburgh and established an Angle settlement here. Oswald invited Celtic monks led by St Aidan to come to Northumbria and convert the Angles (English). The missionaries were given the island of Lindisfarne as their base. Thus the king can claim to have played his part in converting the English.

Oswald was killed in battle against the pagan Mercians and his body was dismembered. In a successful raid the Northumbrians were able to recover some of his remains, including the head, and bring them back to Lindisfarne. Eventually the head was buried with the remains of St Cuthbert. Danish raids forced the monks to leave the island and seek sanctuary further south. They finally settled in Durham at a bend on the river Wear. St Cuthbert with the head of St Oswald were buried here.

John Peacock

VESTRY REPORT – FEBRUARY

At the February Vestry meeting, held 14.2.2017, the following issues were discussed.

Matters Arising:

Discussions about the provision of a box to hold the Memorial Book were proceeding.

Arrangements for the St Cuthbert's Lecture (17.3.2017) were finalised

Finance. A request for a new digital projector was discussed and Vestry decided to await more information about different models on the market before making a final decision.

Interregnum. Vestry approved the arrangements made by the Wardens for interviewing applicants for the post of Rector which followed Diocesan guidelines. The need to represent different perspectives within the congregation and also for transparency was stressed.

Property. The Property report was accepted and arrangements for the lopping of trees and the felling of the cupressus outside the hall outlined. It was noted that a visit by a member of the Diocesan Buildings Committee to inspect the Rectory had been satisfactory.

Donations to Charity. Jayne Churchill agreed to ask for suggestions for charities among whom the annual donations might be divided.

Sarah Shaw gave information about the **Charity Art Exhibition** (March 9, 10) in aid of the Our Neighbour project and plans for the Passion Play and requested volunteers to act as welcomers for the exhibition.

A copy of the full minutes may be found at the back of the church.



NOTES FROM THE CHOIR

Organists for April

Sunday 2 April	Philip Rossiter
Sunday 9 April	Julian Jefferson
All Holy Week	Philip Rossiter
Sunday 23 April	Andrew Matheson. (Mattins)
Sunday 30 April	Philip Rossiter

I have not published the music plans, since they have been subject to change often recently owing to shortage of choir members (volunteers welcome).

On the evening of **Sunday 7th May**, Evensong will be replaced by **Songs of Praise**. If you would like to choose a hymn, please give me details and an assurance that you will introduce your choice at the service!

Donald Mackintosh

CALENDAR FOR APRIL 2017 YEAR A

Sunday 2nd		Fifth Sunday of Lent (Passion Sunday)
		8.30am Holy Communion
		10.30am Sung Eucharist
		6.00pm Evensong
5 th	Wednesday	10.30am Holy Communion
		3.00pm Lent Group in the Rectory
		4.00pm The St Raphael's Prayer Group
6 th	Thursday	2.30pm The Thursday Service
Sunday 9th		Sixth Sunday of Lent – Palm Sunday
		8.30am Holy Communion
		10.30am Sung Eucharist
10 th	Monday	6.00pm Compline
11 th	Tuesday	6.00pm Compline

		7.30pm	Vestry
12 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion
		2.00pm	Service at Cairdean
		3.00pm	Service at Thorburn Manor
		3.00pm	Lent Group in the Rectory
		6.00pm	Compline
13 th	Maundy Thursday		2.30pm The Thursday Service
		7.30pm	Maundy Thursday Service – The Institution of Holy Communion and Washing of feet
14 th	Good Friday	10.30am	Bad Friday for Kids
		12.00 – 3.00pm	First hour - Music and Reflection Second hour – Reflection Third hour – Passion Play

Sunday 16th – EASTER DAY

		7.00am	<i>Early Easter Service</i>
		8.30am	Holy Communion
		10.30am	Sung Eucharist
19 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion
20 th	Thursday	2.30pm	The Thursday Service

Sunday 23rd – Second Sunday of Easter

		8.30am	Holy Communion
		10.30am	Matins
26 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion
27 th	Thursday	2.30pm	The Thursday Service

Sunday 30th – Third Sunday of Easter

		8.30am	Holy Communion
		10.30am	Sung Eucharist

READINGS FOR APRIL 2017

Year A

Sunday 2nd – **Fifth Sunday of Lent (Passion Sunday)**
First Reading Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 130
Second Reading Romans 8:6-11
Gospel John 11:1-45

Sunday 9th – **Sixth Sunday of Lent – Palm Sunday**
Psalm 31:9-16
Reading Philippians 2:5-11
Gospel Matthew 26:14-27:66

Thursday 13th – **Maundy Thursday**
First Reading Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-16
Second Reading 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
Gospel John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Sunday 16th – **EASTER DAY**
First Reading Jeremiah 31:1-6
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Second Reading Acts 10:34-43
Gospel John 20:1-18

Sunday 23rd – **Second Sunday of Easter**
First Reading Acts 2:14a, 22-32
Psalm 16
Second Reading 1 Peter 1:3-9
Gospel John 20:19-31

Sunday 30th – **Third Sunday of Easter**
First Reading Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-16
Second Reading 1 Peter 1:17-23
Gospel Luke 24:13-3

FLOWER ARRANGERS' NEWS

APRIL FLOWERS

For most of the month of April there will be no flowers in the church, but fortunately the church gardens will be putting on a wonderful display of spring flowers for us to enjoy.

The church will be decorated for Easter on Saturday 15 April. If you would like to become involved, you would be made most welcome. Just let me know.

Margaret Holmes

A BREW AND A BLETHER

Please join us in

St Cuthbert's Church Hall

2-4 pm on the first Saturday of each month

**for a cup of tea, a piece of cake, a game of scrabble
or just a natter**

Everyone welcome

SHALOM (In the presence of God)

We seek to provide a 'sacred space';

A space to reflect, pray;

A space to find peace, stillness and refreshment.

Shalom meets on Saturday 29th April, 10am in The Lady Chapel. All are welcome to join us for reflective prayer followed by refreshments.

Wendy Pearson and Jean Myers

THE OPEN FORUM

The Open Forum meets on the First Sunday of each
month

at 9.15am in the Church Hall Meeting Room.

Christian Aid Many thanks to everyone who attended our annual quiz night, and I'm sure you will agree it was one of the best! It was very appropriate to present our two wonderful quiz masters with engraved tankards, marking 21 years (at least!) service to this much loved event. The fantastic total of £736.70 was raised so that we will be sending a total of £1000 to Christian Aid this month, split between our ongoing Balaka Malawi project (which is matched funded by the Scottish Government 12 to 1) and partly to the Emergency East Africa Famine Appeal.

Please remember our preparations for Christian Aid Week, 14th- 20 May, and if you are willing and able to help with door-to-door collecting and have not volunteered before, contact Patricia Brignall.

A prayer for the people of Syria

Almighty and all powerful God, creator of the world and the nations
We bring before you all those caught up in the conflict in Syria.

We pray for an immediate ceasefire, for an end to violence against all civilians.

We pray for those who are experiencing the pain of personal loss, for families who are mourning the loss of loved ones

Comfort especially those who have friends and family members missing.

We pray for those forced to flee their homes: keep them safe on their travels and arrival in foreign lands.

We pray for Christian Aid partners in neighbouring countries: guide them in their response to this situation.

And we pray for ourselves, that we will not ignore their pleas for help

That we may play our part in bringing about the change that they want to see. Amen.

Elegant Strawberry Tea

Saturday 10th June,

3pm-4.30pm

*St Cuthbert's Church Hall and
Garden,*

Westgarth Avenue.

Musical entertainment

Tickets £7

available from Patricia Brignall

All proceeds to Christian Aid

PHEONIX GROUP

Jean Myers gave a very interesting and informative talk with slides on her cruise round the south of South America to some of our group and some of the residents at the Cottage Homes. She gave a real flavour of her journey from Santiago and Valparaiso in Chile, down the west coast, then through Tierra del Fuego via the Beagle Channel to the Falkland Islands and up the East Coast calling at Buenos Aires and Montevideo in Uruguay and finally disembarking in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil. Jean's ship was not able to sail round Cape Horn as the sea was too rough. The Meeting Room in the Cottage Homes was a very pleasant venue and it was good to meet some of the other residents over tea, coffee and cakes and buns provided by Jean. She is giving the talk again on FRIDAY 31 MARCH at 7 pm in the same place.

JULIA ROBERTS has kindly agreed to give a TALK entitled THINKING and MOVING with the ALEXANDER TECHNIQUE in the Meeting Room at the Rectory on WEDNESDAY 19 APRIL at 2 30 pm. Julia will explain that not only can the Technique be highly effective in relieving back and neck pain, it can also help to relieve unnecessary muscle tension and pain throughout the body and improve balance. Furthermore it produces better posture, greater ease of movement and a way to relieve stress and have a greater stillness in our lives. This is through increased mindfulness and the experience of Technique lessons where people find new easier ways to use their bodies to achieve everyday tasks. All women in the congregation are very welcome. Please contact me if you would like to come along. Margaret Kieran

Early Christianity

The Phoenix group invites members of St Cuthbert's to an afternoon guided tour at the National Museum of Scotland. The one-hour tour is entitled "The first 1000 years of Christianity". It will take place on Wednesday 3 May at 14.30. The tour costs £5 per person, and we need a minimum of 10 people. We plan to gather for tea after the tour in one of the museum cafes. (Please note that the museum lends folding stools to those who find standing difficult.)

If you are interested, please contact either Margaret Kieran or Jean Haskell

THE LEPROSY MISSION SCOTLAND

TLMS NEWS

The total raised from the Blue Tubs and donations is £200. I have sent a cheque for this amount to TLMS. As always, our contribution to the ongoing work in the areas of the world affected by leprosy will be gratefully received and used wisely.

There is interesting information in the Prayer Diary ASK 2017 for the month of April. The countries written about [from page 24] are Switzerland, Niger, Democratic Republic of Congo, Southern Africa and New Zealand showing the wide variety of people who support people affected by leprosy either by fundraising or working directly in hospitals and clinics.

Please have a look at these articles to learn more.

Many thanks as always for your ongoing support.

Barbara Tatlock

WESTGARTH WALKERS

The dates are as undenoted. Please refer to Church Notice Board, The Sign and Pew Notes for up-to date information.

Dates for your diary:

Suggested dates:

14 May

9 July

10 September

12 November

10 December Christmas Lunch

As ever this group is open to everyone in the congregation, walkers (dogs welcome) non walkers, children.

June Bungay

THE MARCH DIOCESAN SYNOD

Patricia Brignall, our new Lay Rep, Alex Stewart and I, as Diocesan Lay Members of the General Synod and Sarah Shaw all attended the March Diocesan Synod. The morning session began with the Bishop's

Address, which was interesting and challenging. There is a transcript of it on the Diocesan website.

There then followed the Annual Reports from the Standing and Finance and Management Committees. Alex Stewart, as Convener of the Diocesan Buildings Committee, presented its report and drew attention to the new St Andrew's Building Fund, established from the sale of St Andrew's Church, Prestonpans, which has been established to award grants, normally up to £1000, to assist charges with limited resources in dealing with urgent and unexpected repairs.

SAME SEX MARRIAGE.

There then followed a debate on the Motion to Approve the Revision to Canon 31 on Marriage, the First Reading of which had been passed at the General Synod in June 2016. I reported on this in the July/August 2016 edition of The Sign and there was, of course, a considerable amount of coverage on this issue at the time in the press and on television. The revision of Canon 31 deletes the original doctrinal statement that marriage is a union of one man and one woman and permits the solemnisation of marriage in accordance with the civil law of Scotland which, of course, includes marriage between two people of the same gender. Only clerics who have been nominated to the Registrar General on behalf of our church to solemnise same sex marriages will be permitted to do so and no cleric shall be obliged to conduct any marriage against their conscience.

All those who wished to speak on the Motion were permitted to do so and a wide range of views were expressed. The Synod then voted in all of its 3 houses in favour of the Revision to Canon 31. The votes were as follows:- the Bishop - in favour, the Clergy 35 in favour, 17 against with 3 abstentions and the Laity 39 in favour, 14 against with 1 abstention. The Revision to Canon 31 will now go for a Second Reading to the General Synod in June, where it will require a two thirds majority in each of these three houses to pass.

MISSION and MINISTRY REPORT

John Conway, Convenor, presented the Report, which together with all the other Reports can be found by downloading the Synod Agenda and

Papers on the Diocesan Website. The Annual Report of the Youth and Children Officer, Claire Benton-Evans is of particular interest.

Representatives from various charges who had received funds from the St Hilda's Fund to support mission developments spoke of what these funds had been used for. All that was required from the Fund at St Mary's Grangemouth, one of Willie Shaw's interlinked churches, to enable a lunch club for the elderly to continue in compliance with the local authority's requirements was £1000 for a sterilising dishwasher.

There were presentations to, and much applause for, Revd Susan Macdonald as retiring Dean and Canon David Palmer, on his retirement as Diocesan Secretary.

Margaret Kieran

THE SIGN Subscriptions

A reminder that subscriptions are now due

The annual subscription for THE SIGN is £10, £16 if you want THE SIGN posted to you, and £10 for the new magazine "Inspires" – the successor to "The Scottish Episcopalian". Cheques should be made payable to St Cuthbert's Church and handed in or sent to The Rectory, 6 Westgarth Avenue, Edinburgh EH13 0BD. Thanks to all our regular subscribers. We value your support.

St Cuthbert's Episcopal Church

Westgarth Avenue, Colinton, Edinburgh EH13 0BD

Phone/Fax: 0131-441 7580

E Mail: stcuthbertscurate@gmail.com

Website: www.stcuthbertscolinton.org.uk

Usual Sunday Services

8.30am Holy Communion

10.30am Sung Eucharist

A sung service, with sermon

Children & Young People during term-time

Mattins on occasion (see notices)

6.00pm Evensong

On the first Sunday of each month

Weekday Services

Wednesdays

10.30am Holy Communion *followed by coffee*

Thursdays

2.30pm The Thursday Service

A short Ecumenical service designed with elderly people in mind. Followed by tea.