

**THE SIGN**

**December 2017 & January 2018**

**St Cuthbert's Episcopal Church  
Westgarth Avenue  
Colinton  
Edinburgh EH13 0BD**

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.



**From our Rector  
Nicki McNelly**

Dear Friends,

I am writing this at the end of Remembrance Sunday and would like to thank you for your kind words

following the service and the emails I received afterwards.

Remembrance for me is a very emotional time and, to be honest, at the end of it I find myself totally exhausted, physically and emotionally, so words of thanks from you have really helped. Having had friends who have been injured or killed in conflict is not easy, as I know some of you have experienced yourselves and it is important that we continue to remember the sacrifices made.

But now we look forward. We are about to begin the season of Advent, a time of expectation and preparation, as the Church prepares to

celebrate the coming of Christ. As we journey through this season of Advent together, praying 'Maranatha', our Lord, come, I hope and pray that the Holy Spirit works among us in the advent of our journey and that we pray together for love, unity and growth within our family at St. Cuthbert's – and where there is division and difference, as there always is amongst humans, we pray for love and grace.

Over the last few weeks on a number of occasions the good people of Colinton have commented to me, 'it must be coming up to your busy period now'. I smile in response and wonder silently, 'when is the quiet period'? But that question is not a negative one, as it is a great honour and privilege to serve God and to serve you, here in this place. I am still working my way through visiting everyone on the nominal roll and enjoying a great welcome from all. However, throughout Advent and Christmas this may ease off a little, as I do have other commitments to fulfil.

I hope you will be able to join us at the extra services throughout the season, Advent Carols, Nine Lessons and Carols, Crib Service, Midnight Mass and Christmas Day. However, one different additional community service will be taking place on Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> December between 7pm and 8pm in the Colinton Inn.

The community of Tiphereth (an independent community for people with learning disabilities and other support needs) visit the Colinton Inn each Wednesday and we have agreed to have Carol Singing in the pub to coincide with their weekly visit. If you are free and able to join us to bring Carols to these lovely people, you are more than welcome.

Please speak to me if you would like more information.

As this magazine covers December and January, I will have to wish you a blessed Advent, a happy and peaceful Christmas and every blessing for the New Year. The next magazine will be produced just before the start of Lent but information about Lent Study Groups will be publicised in the New Year.

I look forward to seeing you at our AGM on December 10<sup>th</sup> and hopefully at worship sometime during the week. (Keep telling me your names – I'm getting there!)

Love and blessings.

Nicki

# **Christmas Services at St. Cuthbert's**

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>**

7.30pm Nine Lessons & Carols

**Christmas Eve**

8.30am Eucharist

10.30am Sung Eucharist

4.30pm Crib Service

11.30pm Midnight Mass

**Christmas Day**

10.30am Family Eucharist

**All Welcome**

## **Mission Shaped Intro**

Six Mondays 7.30 - 9.30pm 6, 13, 20, 27 November  
and 4, 11 December

Walpole Hall, St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh

Our world and our lives change at an ever faster pace, but how can the church respond to this change? Are new ways of engaging with people and being church in the 21st century possible?

If so, what might they look like?

*Mission Shaped Intro* is a creative six session course using videos and stories to help explore mission and church life in our current context. With space for small group discussion, it is a great opportunity to come with others from your church for the most benefit, but individuals welcome too.

Facilitated by the Rev Annie Naish, Bishop's Enabler of Mission. For more details contact Annie

[mission@dioceseofedinburgh.org](mailto:mission@dioceseofedinburgh.org) or 0131 346 9089. There is no charge but please book via

[www.msi2017.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.msi2017.brownpapertickets.com)

# VESTRY REPORT

At the October Vestry meeting held 17 October 2017 the following items were discussed;

Vestry agreed to go ahead with the purchase of a new digital projector and screen

Martin Fairley announced his resignation as treasurer with effect from the AGM and as paying officer with effect from April.

Under Property it was noted that a second tender for the glazed entrance was still being sought. Work is to go ahead on the choir vestry roof in the summer of 2018 and refurbishment of the choir vestry is also being considered. There is to be a fire safety check on the Rectory. The Rector signed the Health and Safety policy document.

Arrangements for the AGM were agreed and a list of vacancies noted.

The Rector reported that the Youth Alpha course was to start on October 29, and that a new wedding leaflet had been drafted.

Details of all services up to Christmas were given.

The vestry secretary announced her resignation with effect from the AGM.

The full minutes are available at the back of the church or from the vestry secretary

# Dates for your diary

## ADVENT CAROLS

**SUNDAY 3 DECEMBER 6.0pm**

Followed by Wine and Nibbles

## Thursday Service 21 December at 2.00pm

There will be a special service of **Christmas readings and carols** followed by **Afternoon Tea**.

*Everyone most welcome.*

## NINE LESSONS & CAROLS

**THURSDAY 21 DECEMBER at 7.30pm**

## CRIB SERVICE

**SUNDAY 24 DECEMBER at 4.30pm**

*ALL CHILDREN and FAMILIES WELCOME*

## NOTES FROM THE CHOIR

Thank you to Andrew and Julian for covering all services in December and January. Now all we need to do is choose the music!

Donald Mackintosh

### READINGS FOR DECEMBER 2017

Year B

<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>– First Sunday of Advent</b>
First Reading	Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm	80:1-7, 16-19
Second Reading	1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Gospel	Mark 13:24-37
<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>– Second Sunday of Advent</b>
First Reading	Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm	85:1-2, 8-13
Second Reading	2 Peter 3:8-15a
Gospel	Mark 1:1-8
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>– Third Sunday of Advent</b>
First Reading	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Psalm	126
Second Reading	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
Gospel	John 1:6-8, 19-28
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>– Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>
First Reading	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Psalm	The Magnificat
Second Reading	Romans 16:25-27
Gospel	Luke 1:26-38
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>– Christmas Eve – Midnight Service</b>
First Reading	Isaiah 52:7-10
Psalm	98
Second Reading	Hebrews 1:1-4
Gospel	John 1:1-14
<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>– Christmas Morning</b>
First Reading	Isaiah 9:2-7
Second Reading	Titus 2:11-14
Gospel	Luke 2:1-14
<b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>– First Sunday after Christmas</b>
First Reading	Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Psalm	148
Second Reading	Galatians 4:4-7
Gospel	Luke 2:22-40

## READINGS FOR JANUARY 2018 Year B

### **Sunday 7<sup>h</sup> – First Sunday after Epiphany: the Baptism of the Lord**

First Reading Genesis 1:1-5

Psalm 29

Second Reading Acts 19:1-7

Gospel Mark 1:4-11

### **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> – Second Sunday after Epiphany**

First Reading 1 Samuel 3:1-10

Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Gospel John 1:43-51

### **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> – Third Sunday after Epiphany**

First Reading Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Psalm 62:6-14

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Gospel Mark 1:14-20

### **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> – The Presentation of the Lord**

First Reading Malachi 3:1-4

Psalm 84

Second Reading Hebrews 2:14-18

Gospel Luke 2:22-40

## READINGS FOR FEBRUARY 2018 Year B

### **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> – Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

First Reading Isaiah 40:21-31

Psalm 147:1-12

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Gospel Mark 1:29-39

# FLOWER ARRANGERS' NEWS

## DECEMBER & JANUARY FLOWERS

For most of December there will be no flowers in church. But, on Christmas Eve, the church will be a hive of activity when the Flower Ladies decorate every available surface. If you would like to join us, please come along. It would be lovely to see new faces and you would be made most welcome.

The new rota will be available in mid December. Please consider doing an arrangement in 2018, perhaps in memory of a loved one, a special occasion or join us as we decorate the church for one of the Festivals.

Margaret Holmes

### **A Brew & A Blether**

Please join us in the hall on the first Saturday of each month from 2.00 – 4.00 pm for a cup of tea, a piece of cake, a game of scrabble and a natter.

**Saturday 2 December**

**Saturday 6 January**

### **A RELAXED BURNS SUPPER**

**Saturday 27 January 2018**

*Look out for more information!*

# THE OPEN FORUM

Topics from Adrian Smith's book "Tomorrows Christians; A Framework for Christian Living".

**3<sup>rd</sup> December.** The Evolving Person Facilitator, John Hampton

**7<sup>th</sup> January.** The Jesus Person  
Facilitator, Alex and Wendy  
Stewart

**4<sup>th</sup> February.** The Seeking Person Facilitator, David Ferro

**4<sup>th</sup> March.** The Free Person Facilitator, Marion Goldsmith

Wendy Stewart

## The Open Forum 5 November

The starting point for this month's exploration and exchange of personal perspectives was the short chapter entitled "Tomorrow's Christian is an ecologically - aware person" from the book by Father Adrian B. Smith.

The main thrust of the chapter is to point out that we humans are just one small part of the huge and intimately interconnected web of life on our planet. This view accords very well with the findings of modern biology (although the author displays a woeful ignorance about science). He contrasts this with message we are meant to take away from the creation stories in the book of Genesis. These stories tell us that we are superior (in the image of God) to all other created things, which are there for our benefit. He quotes: "They will have *power* over the fish, ..." and "... fill the earth and *conquer* it" [his italics].

In a lively exchange of views, mainly around issues relating to climate change, we touched on topics such as:

- Population growth (not mentioned in the chapter)
- Climate-driven mass migrations and the political response
- Can we cope by employing mitigation measures?
- Do we need to have recourse to complex theological argumentation when the facts are so obvious?

The friendly and constructive discussion did not, of course, lead to a solution to all the world's problems!

On 3 December the topic for discussion will be "Tomorrow's Christian is an evolving person". As usual, any member of the St Cuthbert's community is welcome to participate.

George Haskell.

# AGM

St Cuthbert's AGM will be held in the church hall on **Sunday 10 December after the 1030 Service.**

There will be vacancies for ordinary members of the Vestry and church office bearers. Please begin to think and pray about the work of the Vestry. If you are interested in serving the church in this way ask the Rector's Warden for an information sheet on the duties of a Vestry member, or speak to any member of the Vestry about their role in the church community. Nomination papers are at the back of the church, please ensure that you ask anyone you may wish to propose.

*If you have questions you would like to ask at the AGM it is requested that you give them in writing to the Vestry Secretary, Hilary Pritchard, by Sunday 3 December.*

## **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.

We meet on the last Saturday of the month at 10am in The Lady Chapel. All are most welcome to join us for a time of quiet prayer and reflection followed by coffee and cake.

Jean Myers

## **PHEONIX GROUP**

CHRISTMAS LUNCH at 12 30 pm on Wednesday 6 December at The Royal Scots Club. All women in the congregation are welcome to join us and there are still some spaces left for this traditional Christmas Lunch.

The cost is £28 inc a small gratuity. Please contact me or Jean Myers if you would like to come along.

We are most grateful to Julia Roberts for the 4 Group Sessions she led on the Alexander Technique in October and November. Julia is an experienced practitioner of this Technique and very good at teaching and explaining the principles of it in a helpful and practical way. She was able to give each one the group of 12 quite a bit of individual attention and much to take forward and incorporate into our daily lives.

Margaret Kieran

## **CHRISTIAN AID Carol Singing Monday 18 December 7 - 8pm**

Can you sing? Could you collect?

Meet at the junction of Bonaly Crescent and Bonaly Rise at 6.55pm.

and

look out for information in January about

## **The Quiz Night**

# **THE LEPROSY MISSION SCOTLAND**

## **TLMS NEWS**

I hope you have enjoyed reading the articles in DOCHAS. If you have not yet picked up your copy, please do so - there are still a few left on the shelf by the Font.

I shall have copies of the 2018 ASK Prayer Diaries in January; so please look out for them and take a copy if you would like one.

I wish you all the blessings of the Christmas Season. Barbara Tatlock

## **WESTGARTH WALKERS**

Westgarth Walkers wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. Interest in walking has not been as strong as in previous years and no walks are planned in the immediate future.

Our prayers are for peace throughout the world.

June Bungay.

## **THE SIGN Subscriptions**

The annual subscription for THE SIGN is £10, £16 if you want THE SIGN posted to you. 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**

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### ***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.*

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