

THE SIGN

JULY & AUGUST 2017

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.

Arrivals and Departures

The first week of July will be very busy here at St Cuthbert's, Sarah and Nicki will be working together during that week.

Here are some dates for your diary:

Sunday 2 July our Sarah Shaw will preside and preach for the last time here as our Curate, we will then have an opportunity to share lunch with her in the Church Hall after the 10.30am service.

In the evening, there will be a **Choral Evensong at 6.00pm.**

The Institution of Nicki McNelly will be on the evening of **Thursday 6 July at 7.30pm.** (There will be a rehearsal for those involved on the evening of **Monday 3 July at 7.00pm**)

9 July Nicki will have her first Sunday with us and it will be Sarah's last day before she goes on holiday and retreat prior to her move to Christ Church Falkirk.

Sarah's Institution at Falkirk is on **1 August.**

Please keep Sarah and Nicki in your prayers .

From our new Rector

Nicki McNelly

As I sit at home in Oban, surrounded by boxes and packing paper, it gives me great pleasure to be able to write this quick introduction to you before I actually arrive in Colinton. I was absolutely thrilled to be offered the post as your Rector and very much look forward to joining you in your journey in faith.



I will be joined by Iain, my husband of nearly 33 years and daughter, Ceri (Welsh Kerry) 21. Our eldest daughter, Anya, 24 is already living in Edinburgh. We have two young border collies, Bramble and Nala and we look forward to exploring walks for them in the area.

Iain served over 30 years in the army and I left my career in the army to follow him. Since his retirement, he now follows me, while working as an Account Project Lead with DXC.

I was ordained at St. Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh, where I served my curacy before moving on to be Provost at St. John's Cathedral, Oban. A great experience and steep learning curve.

I have felt called to St. Cuthbert's for a number of years but when your vacancies arose, the time wasn't right. I couldn't believe it when I heard of Maurice's retirement, which, very sad and difficult for you as a congregation, was a God given opportunity for me, as now, the time is right.

I think in these last few years you have had to experience too many changes here at St. Cuthbert's, going through

interregnums you weren't expecting. I'm not saying I have the answers, or am the answer, but I will do everything I can to serve you in this beautiful place, with the unconditional love and grace given freely by God.

I look forward to joining you on the 6th of July and meeting you all in the near future and thank everyone who has been involved in the preparations for my arrival.

Love and blessings.

Nicki

From Sarah Shaw

Dear Friends,

It feels appropriate on this occasion to write a letter rather than 'Sarah's View,' as this is my final time of writing for The Sign. I will be moving on to Christ Church, Falkirk, as the Rector there, on 1st August.

I write this with mixed emotions. One of the costs of ministry is that you have to say 'goodbye' to people, and as the Curate here at St Cuthbert's it was always inevitable that one day, I would move on. I hadn't anticipated how sad this would be, however much I am excited by the prospect of ministering at Christ Church and getting to know new friends there!

It is because of all of *you* that I write this with emotions welling up, as I think about my time at St Cuthbert's over these last

three years. I remember when Maurice first showed me round the Church, and how I admired its beautiful ceiling, carved wood, and pleasing proportions. But what has stolen my heart is all of you, who have been such a wonderful church family to be a Curate amongst. There are so many highlights of the last three years that I can't list them all here. But what I want to say that you have inspired me with your faith and courage despite all the challenges and griefs that life can bring, and your generosity and care of others; you have ministered to me with your openness and willingness for us to share this journey together; you have encouraged me with your love, in words and action.

There are so many of you to thank for your particular input to my formation over the last three years and I hope I get the chance to thank each of you before I leave. But it feels fitting to mention three people here. A thank you to Maurice, who was so generous with what he allowed me to do and with what he passed on in my first two years of curacy; a thank you to Fred, for his generosity with his time and support, as well as words of wisdom in this last year; and a thank you to Joan, who has been an absolute rock throughout my curacy.

St. Cuthbert's has its own unique place in the Kingdom of God. It is a family which is able to hold people of various theological views and understandings together in an extraordinary way. I have found this immensely enriching and inspiring. It is also a church where the pastoral care is a real strength; many participate in the practical and prayerful caring of others in this congregation and respond quickly to need as it arises. Furthermore (and this must have a special mention!), it is a Church in which the young people are trusted and encouraged

to participate fully in worship – including leading it, and I would like to applaud all those who have enabled that to happen over many years. All these things are to me a measure of what it means to be a true family - brothers and sisters in Christ, and in all their wonderful diversity.

Thank you to you *all* for everything you are, and for all that you have given me during my curacy. St Cuthbert's will always have a very special place in my heart, and I pray for every blessing on you and Nicki, as you continue to minister and reach out in the love of Christ to this area of Colinton and beyond.

Sarah

Some Memories of Sarah

There will be opportunities to say our goodbyes to Sarah at lunch on 2 July and although we will have different, happy and special thoughts of Sarah's time with us, we all know she likes cake!



Growing Together

As I wrote about in the last edition of 'The Sign,' the Diocese of Edinburgh is engaged in a process of building our Vision and Objectives for the Diocese - and all of our contributions are encouraged! This is not to be a 'top down' process but one in which we all engage in together. The engagement is happening through a series of roadshows with Bishop John, the first of which I attended at the end of May in Bo'ness.

Around 20 people attended from the West Forth area and beyond, and we enjoyed worshipping together, eating together, as well as getting to know what is happening in our various churches. After a chat by Bishop John about his hopes for the Growing Together process, several people (who had volunteered in advance!) shared a 'good news' story from their own context – truly inspiring. After lunch we split into groups and debated objectives and priorities for our Diocese, the content of which was fed back to the Diocesan Enabler of Mission to help shape future visioning and planning. As is usually the case, I think people particularly enjoyed hearing about what was going on in other churches; sharing the challenges of being Church in today's world; and sharing fellowship and food together. There are several more of these roadshows over the Summer and you are warmly encouraged to attend one.

Please see the flyer for details.

Sarah Shaw

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 6

The three windows of the Lady Chapel which were discussed in last month's article are dedicated to William Francis Hodgson, David Henry Simson and Sir Henry Duncan Littlejohn.

William Hodgson's father was a leading member of St Cuthbert's serving as a member of the vestry. He also held the posts of churchwarden and lay representative in the 1930's. The central light of the window is dedicated to their young son who died of scarlet fever in 1921.

I have been unable to discover anything about David Henry Simson who died at the age of 24. The window was a gift to the church from his mother.

Sir Henry Duncan Littlejohn was Edinburgh's first Medical Officer of Health. His report (1866) On the conditions in the Old Town of Edinburgh brought to light the enormous problems which had developed the area. In the late 18th century new suburbs were developed to the south and later to the north (New Town). The spacious flats in the tenements of the Old Town were sub-divided into smaller and smaller flats. One five storeyed tenement in the Cowgate contained 53 rooms. Here lived 170 men, woman and children without a single sink or toilet. Led by Lord Provost William Chambers the Council set out to improve conditions in the Old Town of Edinburgh – a process that was to last a hundred years.

Sir Henry's daughter, Jessie Harvey Littlejohn, married an Episcopal curate called William Perry. After serving as Rector in Alloa, Stirling, Selkirk and Aberdeen Perry was appointed Principal of the Theology College. In 1929 he accepted the posts of Dean of Edinburgh and Rector of St Cuthbert's. Jessie Perry died in 1938 and her name can be seen in our Book of Remembrance.

VESTRY REPORT – MAY

At the May Vestry meeting held on Tuesday 9 May 2017 the following items were discussed:

- Some ideas had been received regarding the tree stump. It was agreed to defer a decision to allow for further options to be considered.
- Growing Together Roadshow. Information was circulated about this Diocese initiative. It is hoped that at least 5 people from each congregation will attend one of the Roadshows. The nearest is St Peter's Luton Place on 2 September 2017. A member of the congregation is to be asked to talk.
- The Church Accounts for 6 months to 31 March were received
- Information was received from the Property Committee on planned and progress of work required in Rectory. Discussion on the glazed doors was deferred till June.
- An update was given on arrangements for the Institution of Nicki McNelly.
- The Interim Paster Fred Tomlinson reported on his ongoing work with Sarah Shaw, and what his final duties would be before the arrival of the new Rector.
- A request had been received from Claire Benton Evans for St Cuthbert's to host Play Church in the summer of 2018. The Vestry agreed in principle to support this and to consult those in the congregation working with children and young people.

A copy of the full minutes will be found at the back of the church or obtained from Hilary Pritchard, Vestry Secretary.

As you will all have noticed the cupresses outside the hall has been felled with just a three foot stump remaining. It was suggested that it might be possible to incorporate this stump into a garden feature and suggestions for this are being sought. If you have any ideas about how this might be achieved, perhaps a garden seat, a wooden sculpture, a base for a plant or for climbing plants, please let Vestry know :

An outing for our young people

Our young people enjoyed an end of term outing on Sunday 11th June. They ate like kings at Pizza Express (courtesy of Tesco vouchers!) and enjoyed catching up on all their news in addition to deciding who had the best pudding. The next part of the trip involved finding the Holy Grail whilst being locked in a room! Escape Edinburgh was the destination and our fearless 6 had one hour to solve logic puzzles and find clues in order to be released from the Da Vinci Room. At 59 mins 50 seconds they burst out triumphant. They enjoyed the experience feeling they all had an opportunity to contribute, finding it interesting to watch each other figure out puzzles, liking the mix of easy and difficult pictures and are asking when they can go again.

Megan Emmerson



Church School Test

For a church school exam, young children were asked questions about the Old Testament, these are some of the real results. (not from our young people!)

1. In the first book of the bible Guinness, God got tired of creating the world so he took the Sabbath off
2. Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was called Joan of Arc. Noah built an ark and the animals came on in pairs
3. Lot's wife was a pillar of salt during the day, but a ball of fire during the night
4. The Jews were a proud people and throughout history they had trouble with unsympathetic Genitals
5. Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the Apostles
6. Moses led the Jews to the Red Sea where they made unleavened bread which is bread without any ingredients
7. The Egyptians were all drowned in the desert. Afterwards, Moses went up to Mount Cyanide to get the ten amendments.
8. The first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.
9. The seventh commandment is thou shalt not admit adultery
10. The greatest miracle in the bible is when Joshua told his son to stand up and he obeyed him.

Discovered by Judith Churchill

NOTES FROM THE CHOIR

The choir have a busy time ahead with Sarah's farewell Choral Evensong on 2 July and our new Rector's Institution on the following Thursday. With the holiday season upon us I am very grateful to our visiting organist Alastair Hair for coming to our rescue on 9 July.

Donald Mackintosh

**CALENDAR FOR JULY 2017
YEAR A**

Sunday 2nd		Pentecost 4	
		8.30am	Holy Communion
		10.30am	Sung Eucharist
		6.00pm	Choral Evensong
5 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion
		4.00pm	The St Raphael's Prayer Group
6 th	Thursday	2.30pm	The Thursday Service
		7.30pm	Institution of Revd Nicki McNelly

Sunday 9th		Pentecost 5	
		8.30am	Holy Communion
		10.30am	Sung Eucharist
11 th	Tuesday	7.30pm	Vestry
12 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion
		2.00pm	Service at Cairdean
		3.00pm	Service at Thorburn Manor
13 th	Thursday	2.30pm	The Thursday Service

Sunday 16th		Pentecost 6	
		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		Pentecost 7	
		8.30am	Holy Communion
		10.30am	Sung Eucharist
26 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion
27 th	Thursday	2.30pm	The Thursday Service

Sunday 30th		Pentecost 8	
		8.30am	Holy Communion
		10.30am	Sung Eucharist

CALENDAR FOR AUGUST 2017 YEAR A

2 nd	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion
		4.00pm	The St Raphael's Prayer Group
3 rd	Thursday	2.30pm	The Thursday Service

Sunday 6th The Transfiguration of the Lord

		8.30am	Holy Communion
		10.30am	Sung Eucharist
		6.00pm	Evensong
8 th	Tuesday	7.30pm	Vestry
9 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion
		2.00pm	Service at Cairdean
		3.00pm	Service at Thorburn Manor
10 th	Thursday	2.30pm	The Thursday Service

Sunday 13th Mary Mother of God

		8.30am	Holy Communion
		10.30am	Sung Eucharist
16 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion
17 th	Thursday	2.30pm	The Thursday Service

Sunday 20th Pentecost 11

		8.30am	Holy Communion
		10.30am	Sung Eucharist
23 rd	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion
24 th	Thursday	2.30pm	The Thursday Service

Sunday 27th Pentecost 12

		8.30am	Holy Communion
		10.30am	Sung Eucharist
30 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion
31 st	Thursday	2.30pm	The Thursday Service

READINGS FOR JULY 2017 Year A

Sunday 2nd	– Pentecost 4
First Reading	Ezekiel 34:11-16
Psalm	87
Second Reading	2 Timothy 4:1-8
Gospel	John 21:15-19
Sunday 9th	– Pentecost 5
First Reading	Zechariah 9:9-12
Psalm	145:8-14
Reading	Romans 7:15-25a
Gospel	Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
Sunday 16th	– Pentecost 6
First Reading	Isaiah 55:10-13
Psalm	65:9-14
Second Reading	Romans 8:1-11
Gospel	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
Sunday 23rd	– Pentecost 7
First Reading	Wisdom 12:13, 16-19
Psalm	86:11-17
Second Reading	Romans 8:12-25
Gospel	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
Sunday 30th	– Pentecost 8
First Reading	1 Kings 3:5-12
Psalm	119:129-136
Second Reading	Romans 8:26-39
Gospel	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

READINGS FOR AUGUST 2017 Year A

Sunday 6th – **The Transfiguration of the Lord**
First Reading Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14
Psalm 99
Second Reading 2 Peter 1:16-19
Gospel Luke 9:28-36

Sunday 13th – **Mary Mother of God**
First Reading Isaiah 7:10-15
Psalm 132:6-10, 13-14
Second Reading Galatians 4:4-7
Gospel Luke 1:46-55

Sunday 20th – **Pentecost 11**
First Reading Isaiah 56:1, 6-8
Psalm 67
Second Reading Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Gospel Matthew 15:21-28

Sunday 27th – **Pentecost 12**
First Reading Isaiah 51:1-6
Psalm 138
Second Reading Romans 12:1-8
Gospel Matthew 16:13-20

READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER 2017 Year A

Sunday 3rd – **Pentecost 13**
First Reading Jeremiah 15:15-21
Psalm 26:1-8
Second Reading Romans 12:9-21
Gospel Matthew 16:21-28

The General Synod Debate- Same Sex Marriage

Sarah Shaw, as a Diocesan Clergy Member and Alex Stewart and I, as Diocesan Lay Members of the General Synod, all attended the recent General Synod on 9 to 11 June when, as you will know from the media, the General Synod voted in favour of altering Canon 31 on Marriage. The first decision we took was not to allow the television cameras to be present during the debate but only to allow them in when the vote was announced. This decision was made as a result of concern, particularly from those opposed to the change, that parts of what they said could be taken out of context and quoted in a detrimental way. It was agreed that it was important that the final debate on this matter be as full and open as possible, as indeed it was.

After such a debate, the Synod voted by a two thirds majority in each of its 3 Houses (Bishops, Clergy and Lay) to delete from Canon 31 the doctrinal statement that marriage is a union between a man and a woman and to add a new section that acknowledges that there are different understandings of marriage in our church and permits the solemnisation of marriage in accordance with the civil law of Scotland, which, of course, permits marriage between two people of the same gender. Only clerics who have been nominated by a Bishop to the Registrar General to solemnise same sex marriages will be permitted to do so and no cleric shall be obliged to conduct any marriage against their conscience.

After the vote, the Primus, Bishop David Chillingworth, addressed the Synod and I would recommend you read his full text on the Diocesan website link given here.

<http://www.scotland.anglican.org/church-votes-allow-equal-marriage/>

He began by saying that this was the end of a long journey including the Cascade Conversations and the Doctrine Committee Paper which explored whether a Christian understanding of marriage could extend to same sex couples. He said that we had studied, thought and prayed.

Bishop David said that it was a momentous step and that, by removing gender from our marriage Canon, our church now affirmed that same sex couples are married in the sight of God and could express in marriage a lifelong commitment to one another and a belief that for them too a calling to marriage was a calling to love, forgiveness, sacrifice and truth. He appreciated that this decision was difficult and hurtful for others whose integrity in faith told them that this decision was unscriptural and profoundly wrong.

The next journey we must now begin, the Primus went on to say, was one of reconciliation. Every faith community must face the issues bound up with human sexuality in their own way and time and the Anglican Communion, to which we were committed, will have to explore whether its historic commitment to unity in diversity can embrace this change.

Bishop David went on to affirm that we are a church of diversity and difference, bound together by our oneness in Christ and carrying forward in our life two different understandings of marriage. This was now the church's journey and calling which we must address with truth, graciousness and acceptance of one another.

I was personally very pleased with the decision and proud of our church in making it and in the way it had been made after much thought, discussion and prayer. This was my 7th General Synod and through the years I have got to know and supported many of those who have given so much of themselves in speaking in favour of the change in various debates and group conversations and who have shared their personal experiences, disappointments and hopes, as gay clergy and members of our church. I have much respect also for those who took a different view and who did so in a compassionate and respectful way.

Margaret Kieran

**Please join us in the hall on
Saturday 1 July from 2.30 until 4.30
for a Brew, a Blether and a Strawberry Tea.**

All Welcome

**The next Brew & Blether will be on
Saturday 5 August at the usual time of 2.00-4.00
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 will be meeting as usual on **Saturday 29 July and Saturday 26 August**, in The Lady Chapel at 10am for a time of quiet and reflection.

Wendy Pearson and Jean Myers

THE OPEN FORUM

The Open Forum met as usual between the services on June 4 continuing our consideration of the BEATITUDES from St Matthew chapter 5 vs 1-10.

The discussion centred on "Blessed are they who hunger and thirst after Righteousness as they will be filled."

We debated the original meaning and nuances of this beatitude before discussing how it might to our own lives in 21st century Scotland.

The **next meeting** will be on **Sunday 9 July**. Peter has agreed to facilitate discussion of the 5th and 6th Beatitudes – "Blessed are the merciful" and "Blessed are the pure in heart".

All members of the Congregation are welcome to join us.

Wendy Stewart

PHEONIX GROUP

The GROUP SESSIONS on the ALEXANDER TECHNIQUE to be led by Julia Roberts, a fully qualified practitioner, will be on Wednesday Mornings after the Wednesday Morning Service on 20 September and 4 and 18 October and 1 November. They will take place in the church hall and will last for an hour and a half. The precise times have still to be agreed. There is a limit on the numbers and so please contact me as soon as possible if you would like to come along.

We are always looking for suggestions for future gatherings, outings or activities and so please contact Jean Myers, Margaret Temple or myself with any ideas.

Margaret Kieran

THE LEPROSY MISSION SCOTLAND

I have started collecting the Blue Tubs; so if you have a full one which you would like to hand in to me, please do so. If I am not in church when you bring the Blue Tub, please hand it in with the Collection so that it can be left in the safe for me to collect later.

Thank you for your continuing support of this worthy cause.

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:

NOTE: CHANGE OF DATE now SUNDAY 16TH JULY

Elisabeth and Christopher Davies have very kindly offered to host a Wimbledon Men's Final Day t.v. viewing at their house. Please bring your own packed lunch. Weather permitting we should be able to enjoy eating in their beautiful garden,

I will place a list on the Church notice board and if you wish to take up the kind offer please add your name to the list.

10 September Roddy Clark will lead this date

12 November June and George Bungay will lead this date

10 December Christmas Lunch

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

THE SIGN

After a year of looking after the Sign I intend that this will be my last issue. I should like to say a very special thank you to all those who have faithfully provided rotas, information and articles. A magazine such as this would not be possible without your support and input.

It has been an interesting task but my role has only ever been as a temporary compiler and now it is time for others to take the magazine forward.

Joan Smith

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.

Usual Sunday Services at St.Cuthbert's

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.