

THE SIGN

JUNE 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.

Arrivals and Departures

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

All are welcome to celebrate with Sarah Shaw at her Institution as Rector of Christ Church, Falkirk, on Tuesday 1st August at 7 pm (55 Kerse Lane, Falkirk FK1 1RX).

Please keep Sarah and Nicki in your prayers as they both prepare for the changes to come.

Our Interim Pastor Fred Tomlinson



Dear Friends

So, you've got a new Rector.....

Sounds rather like the title of an instruction manual for a new purchase, does it not?

Perhaps that might not be an entirely inappropriate final image from me as I sign off as your interim pastor and commend Nicki to your care and support.

If such an instruction manual for congregations and new rectors existed, what would it say?

A shared journey – you and Nicki are about to travel into the future together. The rest of us will gather in July to see you off and then you're on your own. Well, not quite – it's important on any journey to know who your companions are and in this case God is the third partner on the way. More than that, God has much to teach you on the journey, much that you and Nicki will discover about yourselves and one another, if only you can stay open to Him.

Generous listening – often when couples I've married come to me at a later date with troubles in their relationship it's because either they've stopped listening to one another completely or have stopped listening generously, thinking the best of the other. You will be as aware as I am that the same communication issues can exist in churches. Listen generously to Nicki and she will do the same to you.

Of course it makes us feel good to fire off that e-mail and put someone else right – much harder but much better to wait and listen and talk face to face, avoiding the misunderstandings and wrong motives which might otherwise emerge.

Allow Nicki to be fully present – and fully absent – all relationships need space. Please do encourage Nicki to spend time with her family, but also to make use of the wonderful hills around Colinton, so that she can have time to reflect and think. Both you and she will benefit from it. Similarly, when Nicki is with you, encourage her to bring the insights she has gained from her ministry so far to you. Often congregations fear “He/she is going to change everything!”. You’ll be glad to know that’s rarely the case, so don’t hesitate to bring out into the open even your most cherished ways of doing things and be ready to discuss/adapt.

Ultimately, God is the pastor of the flock – it’s sometimes said that the rector of a charge needs to be someone who daily spends time with God with the people on her heart, and spends time with people with God on her heart. As that is true for Nicki, let it be true for yourselves also - never hesitate to commend her to God’s care every day too.

As July approaches, be assured of my prayers for both new rector and congregation.

Fred

SARAH'S VIEW

This is our first spring in the house where we've been living since last September, and one of the joys has been seeing what comes up in the garden. It's been fun going to the local garden centre and buying bedding plants too, only to find that 32 little plants don't go very far, and another trip to the garden centre has been necessary! And then there are the unknowns. How much space should I leave between each plant?* What should I pull out? - only weeds, hopefully! What mysterious-looking plant should I leave in, in expectation of it producing beautiful flowers at some point? The questions of the inexperienced gardener... So I've done my best with my limited knowledge, in the hope and expectation of borders of pretty plants in full bloom in due course. In the meantime, I hope I've not planted anything unsuitable for our Grangemouth soil, or pulled out anything potentially precious and lovely.

Our efforts to live the Christian life can be rather like what happens in an amateur garden. We try, hopefully, to act kindly, generously and lovingly, but we don't always know which of our words and actions will bring God's Kingdom of justice, peace, mercy and love closer, and which might mistakenly push it away. Sometimes our best intentions can go awry, be misunderstood, or abused. But sometimes the little things we do or say can, like the most delicate Alyssum plant, produce abundant joy, enriching all who experience it.

It can be easy to be downhearted when we feel unappreciated or misunderstood, especially when we've tried our best and gone beyond our comfort zone. But just as a garden requires patience, persistent care, and work, we shouldn't give up trying. There will be times of struggle – but there will, inevitably, be times of blessing when our hopes for justice, peace, mercy and love are fulfilled.

Over the coming months our Diocese is running a series of roadshows with Bishop John entitled 'Growing Together', where we will share stories to encourage each other, and importantly, seek to discern our vision and priorities as a Church family. Like our garden, this is an exercise that will take time, care, patience, and a willingness to try things out without knowing the outcome. Everyone is welcome at any of the roadshows - please do attend one if you can. Details are given in this edition of The Sign. Thank you – and happy gardening!

**Sage advice from those experienced gardeners among you is most welcome!*

Thoughts to Ponder

Do we need a devil?

The concept of a devil comes comparatively late in the Judo-Christian tradition. There was no devil in the Garden of Eden, that was just the serpent, and the idea of a devil only appears in later Old Testament books such as Job and in the Apocrypha.

In the New Testament the concept of a devil, or Satan, or Beelzebub, or the Antichrist or whatever you want to call him is well developed both in the Gospels and Paul's Epistles, and the book of Revelation is really a vision of the fight between the forces of good and evil. I do call Satan him. Feminist theologians may complain of many things, but the devil being portrayed as a man is not one of them!

Once we reach the time of St Augustine we start to see the intellectual problems concerning the existence of a force for evil in the world. If God is the creator of everything he must be the creator of the devil as well, and why would the God of love make an evil tempter?

However these intellectual problems did not trouble the Western church which continued to warn the punters in the pews about the dangers of the evil one which turned the devil into a kind of bogeyman and helped to keep the laity in line. Though this may have been morally questionable, it did not do any great harm until we reach the 12th century when the church administration was trying to unify its own orthodoxy, and anyone stepping out of line was deemed a heretic and possessed by the devil and ended up by being burned at the stake. In later

years witch hunts rooted out odd people, many of whom probably had psychiatric problems, and many of whom suffered horrendous deaths, justified by the concept that they had been taken over by Satan.

So do we need to hang on to the idea of a devil? I do not think so. An alternative explanation for human evil comes from natural selection. We may be at the top of the evolutionary tree, but are still genetically animals.

Humankind may have learned both as individuals and as communities how to compete, survive and reproduce, but virtually all our sins stem from not controlling our animal instincts which leads to things like violence, rape, cheating, stealing, lying, pride, egotism and a general lack of sympathy and empathy. So the way of God is not the way of even the top of the animal kingdom.

Some of you may be thinking “I haven’t believed in Satan for years, so why go on about it now?” There are fashions in religion like everything else and a casual look at the internet will show that exorcism is still very much alive and well especially in the growing Pentecostal churches of the West and the expanding churches of sub-Saharan Africa. The Christian church has carried out horrendous acts in the past justified by the concept that some people were possessed by the devil and we do not want that kind of thing to happen again.

Bryan Dale

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 5

The Lady Chapel was added to the church in the early years of the 1930's. Much of the furnishings of this chapel were provided by members of the congregation. The cross and candlesticks were designed by Mr Ochterlony who was not only a church warden but also Secretary and Treasurer. The cross which is dedicated to Lady Ochterlony (Her husband, Sir David Ochterlony, was a founder member of the church.) is now placed on the high altar. The two candlesticks were given in memory of the two children of Mrs Maitland Moir.

The window was made by Miss Chilton. The central light shows the Madonna and child. This is flanked by St Margaret, Queen of Scotland and St George, the patron saint of England. It was dedicated by Rev. Harry Reid, Bishop of Edinburgh and a former Rector of St Cuthbert's.

St George lived in the Middle East (possibly Palestine) during the second half of the 3rd century. It is believed that he was martyred in 303 when the Roman Emperor Diocletian turned against the growing Christian Church. Stories about a dragon and his image as a warrior developed in medieval times.

St Margaret was the granddaughter of Edmond Ironside, the last Saxon king of England. She was thus a descendent of King Alfred, the first king of England. She married Malcolm Canmore, King of Scots. Margaret set about reforming (bringing it into line with the Roman traditions) the church in Scotland. Like her son, King David, Margaret was a patron of the new monastic movement and is particularly linked with the abbeys of Dunfermline and St Andrews. It is believed that the queen set up the ferry known today as Queensferry.

John Peacock

VESTRY REPORT – APRIL

At the April Vestry meeting held on Tuesday 11 April 2017 the following items were discussed:

- Donations to Charities: After consultation with the congregation it was agreed to make donations to several charities: Our Neighbours Project; MND Scotland; ACNE; Mary's Meals; SECMA.
- The picture of St Hilda will be hung in the Lady Chapel
- The Vestry were pleased to record that Nicki McNelly had been chosen as Rector. Thanks were given to all those who had been involved.
- There was some discussion regarding the relocation of the organ speakers when the new glazed doors are installed. Advice had been sought and options were considered. The Property committee were thanked for their work on this. Some work will be required in the Rectory before the new Rector arrives.
- It was agreed not to participate in Doors Open Day this year.

Hilary Pritchard, vestry secretary

NOTES FROM THE CHOIR

Organists for June

Sunday 4 June am and pm.

Julian Jefferson

Sunday 11 June

Andrew Matheson

Sunday 18 June

Philip Rossiter

Sunday 25 June

Philip Rossiter

We enjoyed a very successful Songs of Praise on 7th May. My thanks go to all those who introduced the hymn of their choice. Maybe we shall have another one in six months time.

Donald Mackintosh

CALENDAR FOR JUNE 2017 YEAR A

1 st	Thursday	2.30pm	The Thursday Service
Sunday 4th		Pentecost	
		8.30am	Holy Communion
		10.30am	Sung Eucharist
		6.00pm	Evensong
7 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion
		4.00pm	The St Raphael's Prayer Group
8 th	Thursday	2.30pm	The Thursday Service
Sunday 11th		Trinity	
		8.30am	Holy Communion
		10.30am	Sung Eucharist
13 th	Tuesday	7.30pm	Vestry
14 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion
		2.00pm	Service at Cairdean
		3.00pm	Service at Thorburn Manor
15 th	Thursday	2.30pm	The Thursday Service
Sunday 18th		Pentecost 2	
		8.30am	Holy Communion
		10.30am	Sung Eucharist
21 st	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion
22 nd	Thursday	2.30pm	The Thursday Service
Sunday 25th		Pentecost 3	
		8.30am	Holy Communion
		10.30am	Sung Eucharist
28 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion
29 th	Thursday	2.30pm	The Thursday Service

**JUNE 2017 ROTA
READINGS FOR JUNE 2017
Year A**

Sunday 4th	– Pentecost
First Reading	Numbers 11:24-30
Psalm	104:24-34, 35b
Second Reading	Acts 2:1-21
Gospel	John 7:37-39

Sunday 11th	– Trinity
First Reading	Genesis 1:1-2:4a
Psalm	8
Reading	2 Corinthians 13:11-13
Gospel	Matthew 28:16-20

Sunday 18th	– Pentecost 2
First Reading	Exodus 19:2-8a
Psalm	100
Second Reading	Romans 5:1-8
Gospel	Matthew 9:35-10:8

Sunday 25th	– Pentecost 3
First Reading	Jeremiah 20:7-13
Psalm	69:7-10, 16-18
Second Reading	Romans 6:1b-11
Gospel	Matthew 10:24-39

**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

FLOWER ARRANGERS' NEWS

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You will notice that there are a number of spaces on the Flower Rota over the summer.

If you feel at all able and would be willing to do an arrangement, please add your name to the list. Alternatively, perhaps you would be willing to water the flowers during the week.

Any help is very much appreciated.

Margaret Holmes

**Please join us for
A Brew & Blether
on
Saturday 3rd June at 2pm
in
St Cuthbert's Church Hall
with entertainment by
Angela Watson School of Dance**

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.

Please let Wendy know if you would like to join a small group of us, who will be meeting at the Water of Leith Visitor Centre at 2pm on **Sunday 18th June**.

Shalom will be meeting as usual on **Saturday 24th June**, in The Lady Chapel at 10am for a time of quiet and reflection.

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.

Our Neighbours Project

Fiona Blair, Merchiston Castle School

Sometimes we can feel upset and helpless when we hear of suffering in the world. There are shortages of food, water, medicine, political unrest, discord and war. We can feel that individually we cannot make a difference. In the spring of this year, volunteers from St Cuthbert's Scottish Episcopal Church, Colinton Parish Church, Bonaly Primary School, Merchiston Castle School, Angela Watson School of Dance, Colinton Library and All Nations Fellowship in Oxfangs, as well as many others in the community, came together to fundraise for a very worthwhile charity. The effective and eclectic team decided to pool their skills, resources and time to make a difference to people in Zimbabwe.

They were supporting Our Neighbours Bulawayo Zimbabwe, which is a partner of British registered charity SALT-UK (registered charity number 1163009). Our Neighbours seeks to care for the poorest of the poor in Zimbabwe. They do this in several ways including caring for orphaned and abandoned children in an orphanage, a soup kitchen twice a week, a school for those who have not managed to enter or to benefit from state education, working with homeless teenagers and family groups and individuals, as well as supporting a women's empowerment group that makes jewellery. The project is

making a very significant positive impact in many people's lives in Bulawayo. Why not look up SALT-UK to find out more? - at www.salt-uk.org

What did we do in and around Colinton to make a difference? Four different initiatives were planned and carried out to raise funds for Our Neighbours.

In March at St Cuthbert's there was an Art Exhibition featuring local artists. 14 local artists gave of their time and talent to support this and well over two hundred people attended, enjoyed a coffee and traybake or glass of wine with cheese, and bought lots of fabulous paintings! There was also an impressive display of art work from Bonaly Primary school children. There was a lovely atmosphere with bagpipers at the door at three points, and beautiful live classical music too.

A week later, Colinton Parish Church hosted Colinton Arts Festival. This was an event aimed more at families and children. It was a fun and creative afternoon that included dancers from the Angela Watson School Of Dance, the Bonaly School choir, creative workshops including glass artwork, mothers' day gifts such as origami box making, jewellery making as well as face painting. There was a buzzing café, books and Fairtrade stalls. Towards the end of the afternoon there was live foot-tapping Zimbabwean music!

In April, there were also three very moving musical performances of 'I Knew a Man – A Passion Play for Easter' by Jeanne Sowinski. These were held at St Cuthbert's, Colinton Parish Church and All Nations Fellowship in Oxfords. The feedback was all very positive for these local volunteers who came together to practice 6 weeks before.

Lastly, some of the local Beavers, Brownie and Cub packs decided to make a difference by rising to the challenge of reading more – pages, books, magazines, to collect sponsor

money for Our Neighbours. This effort is ongoing with other children still joining in to make a difference in Zimbabwe.

In conclusion, there has been over £6000 raised over the last couple of months and the money continues to come in. SALT-UK/Our Neighbours are thrilled and very appreciative of the partnership with many people in and around Colinton. The money raised will make a tangible positive difference to children and adults in Bulawayo. A massive thank you to everyone who joined in with this community venture. Watch this space!

PHEONIX GROUP

We are very grateful to Julia Roberts who gave a very interesting introductory talk to our group on the ALEXANDER TECHNIQUE, its history and basic principles and the benefits its practice can bring. Physically, by re-learning how best to sit, move, stand and walk, existing tension and pain can be alleviated and other problems prevented. It produces better posture, greater ease of movement and improves balance. It is also a way to relieve stress and have more stillness in our lives. There were lots of questions and much interest from our group. Julia is a fully qualified practitioner and has kindly offered to provide group sessions beginning in September. The details still have to be finalised but it is likely that the group will meet fortnightly on Wednesday afternoons. There will have, of course, have be a limit on numbers. Please contact me if you would like to come along.

Many thanks also to Jean Haskell who organised a most successful and informative guided tour, open to all, at the National Museum of Scotland, where we looked at and learned about some of the early Roman, Christian, Viking and Celtic exhibits in the Museum's Collection. It was a very good afternoon ending in the cafe.

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

TLMS NEWS

I hope you found copies of DOCHAS magazine on the shelf by the Font and have enjoyed reading the articles.

I am not planning on sending any donations to TLMS yet but if you have a full Blue Tub, please let me have it at anytime convenient to you.

There are spare Blue Tubs on the shelf.

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.

June Bungay

THE SIGN

I have been helping to put together The Sign since last September. It has been an interesting project and I am very grateful to all those who have continued to provide content, both the important details of rotas and information which keep the wheels of the church running and also those who take time to write interesting often thought provoking articles. I appreciate the tolerance of my not infrequent errors!

The time is now coming when the task of preparing our magazine should be handed over to someone, or some people, who can begin to take it forward.

Interest in taking on the role of Editor has been expressed but there may be others who feel that contributing to this significant part of our church community is something they would like to do. So if you would enjoy being involved in producing our magazine please speak to me sometime during the coming month.

Joan Smith

THE SIGN Subscriptions

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.