

THE SIGN

MAY 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.



**Our Interim Pastor
Fred Tomlinson**

SARAH'S VIEW

“I have seen the Lord”!

As I write this it is Holy Saturday, that strange, flat day between Good Friday, the day we remember Jesus' death, and Easter Day, when we celebrate the joy of his resurrection. It is a time of waiting in the old world – hopes and dreams of something better - gone, with as yet, no sign that something has substantively and eternally changed. Added to that, the world news brings the threat of war, conflict and stand offs between unpredictable nations. It might be easier, today, to accept that nothing *has* changed with the death of one man in Palestine around 2000 years ago.

But then I read the account of Mary, weeping outside Jesus' tomb when she comes early, the day after the Sabbath, to minister to his broken body - and finds it empty. And I am moved to tears yet again as I always am, to read the account of her recognition of Jesus – surely one of the greatest reunions in all history: ‘Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?’ Supposing him to be the gardener, Mary said to him, ‘Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She turned and said to him in Hebrew, ‘Rabbouni!’ (which means Teacher)’.

How can we make sense of this story, a man come back from the dead? I am reminded of a film ‘Risen’ which came out last year, starring Joseph Fiennes. He plays a Roman Tribune, Clavius, tasked with finding Jesus's body once it is clear that the tomb is empty. Having witnessed Jesus' crucifixion he cannot understand the faith of the disciples he tracks down and questions. Except that something *has* substantively and eternally changed. For, one day, he, too, meets Jesus. Still struggling to believe, he says to Jesus, ‘I can't reconcile this with the world I know.’

Who could? It doesn't make sense. But perhaps that is the story's greatest strength. It is the absolute unlikeliest thing - so unlikely, that for me, it is persuasive. And also there is this. At the end of 'Risen,' Clavius takes off his Tribune ring and lays it down. 'I can never be the same again,' he says. His meeting with Jesus has changed him for ever. Perhaps he still cannot reconcile what has happened in his mind, but he knows that he will never be the same again. And throughout the ages many of us have experienced that same meeting with Jesus, knowing him, no less – that means that the strange, flatness of Holy Saturday can never remain the truth, for there is a new truth and a new hope, made possible in the knowledge that yes, Jesus is alive. He is Risen – Alleluia!

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.

Vacancy Update: our new Rector

The Vestry is very pleased to announce that they have decided to welcome the Very Revd Nicki McNelly to be our new Rector. Nicki was a Curate at St Mary's Cathedral in Edinburgh and is currently Provost at the Cathedral in Oban.

In response to a query we thought it would be useful to tell you about the final selection process which took place at the end of March. In the course of a long day for them the candidates were interviewed by two panels, selected to represent different perspectives within the congregation. Both of these selection panels met in advance, on more than one occasion, to discuss the questions they would wish to explore. The first group concentrated on matters relating broadly to theology, liturgy, music etc and the second to the more practical aspects of ministry, pastoral work etc. The Bishop attended on the day and interviewed each candidate. Sarah, Martin, as our Treasurer, and Mary Moffett all met and talked to each of the candidates. As well as the formal interviews candidates were shown round the church and the Rectory and there was an opportunity to meet the whole Vestry informally over a meal, which the Bishop also attended. All those contributing on the day, except of course Sarah, were invited to voice their thoughts. In all about 20 people were involved.

Two days after the interviews, in accordance with the guidelines to give some time for reflection, a meeting was held which included all those in the two selection groups and the Vestry. The Bishop attended the first hour of this meeting to give his own thoughts and help guide ours. A full open discussion was held and a consensus was reached that evening. We are grateful to Bishop John for his support throughout this final stage of the process, to all those who gave their time and much careful thought to the task of finding our new Rector and to John Hampton for his wise words. Special thanks to Sarah Donaldson and Mary Dale who kept us well supplied with food and hot drinks throughout a long day.

We are sure that you will all, with open hearts and minds, wish to make Nicki and her family feel very welcome at St Cuthbert's as we get to know her and she us. She is looking forward very much to coming here. The date for the Institution is not yet fixed but may be late June or early July. Please keep Nicki in your prayers as she prepares for her new life among us.

The Wardens: Joan Smith, Jayne Churchill

The Reverend Ruth Scott gave our St Cuthbert's Lecture on Friday 17 March 2017

Her lecture gave some insight into the difficulties of working with conflict in many parts of the world and facilitating two and three-day Shared Conversations across the Church of England around often polar and conflicting opinions. She shared many examples from friends she had worked alongside in this field. These together with some graphic slides gave us a lot of food for thought.

“I have not failed 700 times. I succeeded in proving that those 700 ways will not work. When I have eliminated the ways that will not work... I will find the way that will work”

Thomas Edison on inventing the light bulb

Ruth encouraged us not to use Humpty Dumpty's approach, his sense of superiority, his inability to listen and understand, and his habit of twisting the conversation to suit his own point of view but to develop a different response where we speak to the heart and listen and explore different attitudes and actions which enable us to be the Good News. What we most condemn in others are the drive and behaviours we cannot own up to in ourselves. We need to find room for honesty, for shades of grey, for confusing complexity, and for complicated identities, all of which not only characterise times of conflict, but are part of everyday life, if we could but be honest about that.

We looked at what forgiveness meant. Was it re-finding peace that has been stripped from us – or does that let the perpetrators off the hook and betray what has happened? Good news enables people to rediscover the power and regain control over their own world.

“Forgiveness is not allowing the inhumanity of another human being to diminish or destroy my own humanity.”Ruth Scott

Those who resort to violence generally feel humiliated and helpless. What they need is space to make constructive choices without losing face and to feel enabled to embrace conflict and transforming change. Seeing the world in terms of “them” and “us” allows no room for doubt or question. Yet God will always be greater than our limitations of understanding. We are cast into a land of doubt, question, uncertainty, conflicting complexity and situations that have no easy answers. This can be painful because of how that impacts on our sense of identity. Like Adam and Eve, we really can learn to be creative in this

environment of “knowing” and “not-knowing” as we wrestle with new ways of understanding that enrich our lives and faith.

As Kahlil Gibran wrote, “Your pain is the breaking of the shell that encloses your understanding.”

Ruth’s strong message was that conflict and creativity are not mutually exclusive and may be interdependent: conflict is part of life.

“They have treated the wound of my people carelessly, saying, ‘Peace, peace’, when there is no peace.” (Jeremiah 8:11)

From the Bible we recognise a dialogue between our woundedness and wisdom with their woundedness and wisdom. Exodus shows us people changing from the mentality of slaves to liberated children of God. This could take many generations as well as much pain and concessions from both sides. Jacob must wrestle with his destructive repeating patterns of deceit in his story before he can return into right relationship with Esau. That kind of self-awareness remains as key now as it did then, if we are to transform conflict and build peace.

God’s grace is mediated often by people who feel themselves inadequate – Moses, David, Jeremiah, Elijah – imperfect people like us. It is respecting a person’s right to have and tell their story – a gift of a new start. As we wrestle with “knowing” and “not knowing” we are called to take responsibility for our actions and those most vulnerable in our society.

We can make a difference not because we are good but rather because we acknowledge our flaws and failures and work with them and thereby enable others to do the same. We learn from the past but knowledge is constantly developing leading to new challenges and questions. Jesus created space for imperfect people who knew their struggles only too well even if they had no idea how to deal with them.

Like Humpty Dumpy we need to recognise life’s complexities, to listen and understand and see ourselves as servants rather than superior to others. In conflict it is the ordinary but extra-ordinary men and women who make a difference as they work with the mess, despite or because of all their imperfections.

Jean Myers

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 4

The funds to build our church were provided by Sir Oliver Riddell who was one of our original members. He also gave the rectory to the church. Lady Riddell donated the font with its ornate cap to St Cuthbert's. The window at the west end is dedication to Sir Oliver and his wife. It was gifted to the church by their friends and bears the date, 1923. Sir Oliver spent all his working life with Andrew Usher & Co. who were distillers and brewers. He became chairman of the company succeeding Andrew Usher who provided the funds for the building of the Usher Hall. Sir Oliver was deputy-Lieutenant of the city and the county of Edinburgh as well as being a Justice of the Peace in Midlothian. Colinton did not become part of the city until after 1920. He was also a member of the Royal Company of Archers, the Queen's (or king's) Bodyguard in Scotland. This was a ceremonial role which had outlived its military purpose.

Sir Oliver was a generous supporter of the N.S.P.C.C., the lifeboats and the university (particularly the Students' Union). The University of Edinburgh awarded him an honorary L.L.D. and in 1904 he received a knighthood for his services. He was also a member of the Liberal Unionist Association. The party governed the country in the years leading up to World War I.

In the grounds, outside the church, stands a memorial cross dedicated to the memory of Sir Oliver and his wife. Sir Oliver died in November 1918.

John Peacock

VESTRY REPORT – MARCH

At the March Vestry meeting held 14.3.2017 the following items were discussed :

It was agreed to look for a memorial book in which the names of all those connected with the church who have died would be recorded.

Vestry agreed to replace the digital projector and to seek advice on the most appropriate model.

Arrangements for the interviews for Rector were finalised.

Suggestions for the annual charities donations were sought.

A copy of the full minutes will be found at the back of the church or obtained from from hpritchard@care4free.net

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 :



NOTES FROM THE CHOIR

Organists for April

Sunday	May	7am.	Andrew Matheson	
Sunday	May	7pm.	Julian Jefferson	Songs of Praise
Sunday	May	14	Philip Rossiter	Peace I leave with you
Sunday	May	21	Andrew Matheson	Ave verum
Sunday	May	28	Julian Jefferson	Come, Holy Ghost

READINGS FOR MAY 2017
Year A

Sunday 7th	– Fourth Sunday of Easter
First Reading	Acts 2:42-47
Psalm	23
Second Reading	1 Peter 2:19-25
Gospel	John 10:1-10

Sunday 14th	– Fifth Sunday of Easter
First Reading	Acts 7:55-60
Psalm	31:1-5, 15-16
Reading	1 Peter 2:2-10
Gospel	John 14:1-14

Sunday 21st	– Sixth Sunday of Easter
First Reading	Acts 17:22-31
Psalm	66:8-20
Second Reading	1 Peter 3:13-22
Gospel	John 14:15-21

Sunday 28th	– Seventh Sunday of Easter
First Reading	Acts 1:6-14
Psalm	68:1-10, 32-35
Second Reading	1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11
Gospel	John 17:1-11

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

FLOWER ARRANGERS' NEWS

MAY FLOWERS

I am sure that you would agree that the spring flower arrangements for Easter were lovely and that the church looked really beautiful. Each week there will be flowers from now until the beginning of Advent. There is a rota board at the back of the church so, if you would like to do an arrangement, perhaps in memory of a loved one or of a special occasion, please add your name as there are a number of empty slots. If you feel that you are unable to do an arrangement, but would like to help in some other way, perhaps to water the flowers, or help prepare the oases for the church festivals, please let me know. All help is most appreciated.

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 27 May, 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 Week 14-20 May 2017

Last year we raised over £7400 through door-to –door collecting which is a fantastic total. This is only possible with the support of volunteers offering a few hours during the week to deliver and collect envelopes. If you are able to help with this important task, please contact Patricia Brignall it can even be fun, and it's certainly good exercise!

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

St Cuthbert's gives big welcome!

You may remember that probably the warmest and sunniest day yet was the Saturday before Easter, when spring was very much in evidence. And it was a perfect day for welcoming 65 Edinburgh newcomers, mostly adults and children from Syria, to St Cuthbert's and Colinton Village. Our guests started arriving around 2pm and then most set off to explore Spylaw Park and part of Colinton Dell.

We had 18 local Scots to welcome and support The Weekend Project for the afternoon, including 10 of us from St Cuthbert's who worked extremely hard preparing and serving a sit down meal for 80 folk later in the afternoon.

It was wonderful to see our church garden enjoyed by so many children, excited as they hunted for chocolate eggs, (for the first time!) and adults sitting outside basking in the very rare warm sunshine. Some of our guests have been in Edinburgh for nearly one year, whilst others have arrived only a few weeks ago, so English language skills and conversations were varied. However, it was amazing to see how quickly the children have adapted to new schools, culture, and they certainly lead in speaking English.. 'Thank you, thank you, thank you,' was the common refrain as we served chips, couscous and delicious vegetarian food from Cook at Morningside. This was followed by a fantastic selection of home baking and fruit, completing what was the first experience of a traditional 'High Tea'. It was definitely an atmosphere of celebration and partying, as the children had their faces painted, enjoyed games in the park and adults had a chance to relax, chat with new friends and those of us helping all felt privileged to be part of it- though definitely ready for a seat afterwards! A big thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make the afternoon run so smoothly and for the financial backing to enable us to offer hospitality to so many. Some comments from our guests: ' We had such a wonderful

day!' 'I was so excited to visit some new place', One particular mother of three summed up the afternoon with a smile, 'Today I am happy, so happy'.

If you would like to join The Weekend Project again, and continue to offer welcome and friendship to new arrivals, we meet on the third Saturday of each month. Our next activity will take place on Saturday 20th May, when we plan to visit Edinburgh Zoo. Please speak to Wendy Pearson if you are interested in befriending a family or coming along.

The Weekend Project is organized by Scottish Churches Action For refugees, and it aims to offer new arrivals to Edinburgh a variety of activities one Saturday a month. The weekend is when all other support services, like social workers, school support, health visitors etc, are not working and this is the time when refugees can be most lonely. Wendy Pearson

And from the Weekend Project team... a lovely card
Dear St Cuthbert's Thank you so much for Saturday; your hospitality, welcome and generosity. Thank you for hosting us and providing the food. We are all so grateful and I can't thank you enough. Thank you to all the volunteers for their hard work, the participants really had a blast!

PHEONIX GROUP

At the time of going to print, Julia Roberts still has to give her talk entitled: THINKING and MOVING with the ALEXANDER TECHNIQUE We are very pleased that so many women are going to come along and thank Julia for offering to do it.

We are always looking for ideas for any talks or activities and so please make any suggestions to Margaret Temple, Jean Myers or myself.
Margaret Kieran

THE LEPROSY MISSION SCOTLAND

TLMS NEWS

I received a letter from Mhairi Dawson [Support Services Administrator] thanking all the TLMS supporters for the £200 I sent from St Cuthbert's. TLMS was very pleased to receive the donation in support of the work being done to help people affected by leprosy.

There are copies of the Spring/Summer edition of DOCHAS [the TLMS magazine] for you to take home and read. There are several interesting articles, including one about Blue Tubs and one lady's surprise when she found one coin in a blue tub which turned out to be a gold Victorian half - sovereign from 1864 embossed with the image of Queen Victoria!

So please help yourself to a copy of DOCHAS from the shelf by the font. There are also a few spare blue tubs there too.

Many thanks 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

BOOK SALE

Perhaps you have been spring cleaning and are wondering what to do with books which you have read and enjoyed many times. If that is the case, please bring them along to church for the next book sale on Sunday 7 May.

Any books which are left will be taken to St Paul's and St George's Christian Aid Book Sale later in May.

Proceeds from St Cuthbert's Sale will be given to Colinton Christian Aid Group.

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

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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.