



Dear Friends

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

No, I've not lost my marbles, it is still Easter and will continue to be so until we reach the Day of Pentecost. And what a wonderful Easter we had. 7.30am service of light followed by croissants and coffee. The usual 8.30am service and then the main service with a full church followed by Prosecco to celebrate our Risen Lord. It was lovely to welcome guests on the day and to have so many children present.

My thanks go to all who worked so hard arranging flowers, helping with the cleaning of the church, providing refreshments and helping with worship. In between the snow falls, I even saw brave people tidying up the gardens. The organists and choir also had a busy schedule over this time. We are blessed to have so many people able and willing to do all they can in the church.

In recent days I have been surprised by a number of people saying to me, 'well that must be your busy time over and you've got a big break now until the next festival'. I assume they are talking about Advent and Christmas being the next festival but I can assure you that there is no 'quiet' time when running a church and I love every minute of this wonderful privileged position I have and am lucky to have so much support.

This month we will celebrate Ascension, Pentecost and Trinity Sunday. I don't know about you but when I was a child, Pentecost, Whit Sunday, was a huge day in the church and for the family. We all had new (hand-me-down) clothes, went to church and then paraded through town and it usually ended with a picnic, followed by Monday being a holiday. Sadly, no longer but wonderful memories nonetheless.

On Trinity Sunday we remember the triune God who is with us always, who shows us perfect love, and who never abandons us. In Jesus Christ, we see everything there is to see about God's love. We see a person who entered our world in the humblest, most ordinary way

possible. We see a person who loved everyone and who challenged everyone to be transformed. That's an important point: Jesus invited every person to be transformed by the power of God's love. Using prayer book language, Jesus invited everyone to "grow into the full stature of Christ."

That invitation to be transformed by God's love is always there and I ask you all to consider it, as we continue to grow and journey together, discerning God's will here for us at St. Cuthbert's. The Vestry will be meeting on Saturday, May 12th to pray together and discuss our future, so I ask you to keep the Vestry in your prayers at this time. Hopefully Spring has finally arrived and I wish you all a wonderful month.

Love and blessings. Nicki

Thank you very much to all those who collected in small jars and gave in other ways to the Bishop's Lent Appeal. We were able to send £610 towards the appeal this year.

Welcome

We welcome Marie Neil as our new Church Administrator. Marie's normal working hours will be 9am – 1pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Contact details are in the 'Who's Who' list. We wish her well here at St Cuthbert's.

A message from Cliff Dalley

Dear Colleagues

As many of you may know, I am leaving my positions as People's Warden and member of the choir at St Cuthbert's.

Although I have very much enjoyed my time here at St Cuthbert's, it is time for me to move on and take my service in Christ in a new direction.

I wish to express my deepest gratitude to you all for the friendship you have shown during my tenure here. The welcome I and my family receives and the support and fellowship you have shared in our mutual endeavour is invaluable to me, which I'm sure will carry on and keep me in good stead.

I wish especially to extend my heartfelt thanks to the clergy, Maurice, Sarah and Nicki for their spiritual guidance and inspiration, to Joan for her unfailing encouragement and support, and to Donald, Archie and the choir whom I consider my choral mentors and friends. I have learned so much and, like other former choir members hope to join on occasions.

Kay and Alice will still attend and hope to remain a part of the Sunday School and congregation of St Cuthbert's.

As a final note, I shall keep up-to-speed with the news at St Cuthbert's and look forward to seeing where, under Nicki's wise and keen guidance your future path takes you.

Blessings Cliff

Thank you from Donald Mackintosh

To Nicki, the Vestry and Congregation of St Cuthbert's

Since it took me seventy years to settle fully into the choir, you will not be surprised that it has taken me three months to write this thank you letter! My 80th birthday, 70 years in the choir and retirement as Music Organiser were followed on the 23rd April by the presentation of the St Cuthbert award. I was overwhelmed by an amazing love and generosity in the form of presents, speeches, congratulations, a musical biography performed by the choir and of course, a plethora of cakes!

Thank you all so much. By the way, I shall not be leaving the choir: it is a little known fact (ie only known to me!) that in the early 60's our then Rector James Lawson, appointed me to a hitherto unknown position, that of Choir Warden.

In the absence of further instructions, therefore, like the Roman soldier at Pompeii, I shall remain at my post.

Donald Mackintosh

From the Archivist 4

The Story of the Episcopal Church

The Years 1689 to 1715

The Revolution of 1688-9 proved a disaster for the Scottish Episcopalians. To them, James VII (James II of England) was not only the rightful king but also head of the church. This was a difficult position to take as James was a Roman Catholic and not a member of the church. Episcopalian clergy refused to pray for the new king and his wife. (William and Mary – Mary was the daughter of James VI)

Samuel Nimmo, the vicar of Colinton, was removed from his benefice for refusing to accept the authority of the Presbyterian Church. James Scrymgeour at Currie took the keys of the door thus preventing the Presbyterians gaining access to the building. Eventually the authorities broke in. He also refused to pray for the new king and queen. A similar situation occurred in South Leith. Episcopalians continued to worship, possibly in the homes of their former clergy or in rented accommodation. Bishop Rose, the last Bishop of Edinburgh, under the new regime continued to act as their leader.

In 1709 a group of Episcopalians invited James Greenshields, an Episcopal clergyman from the diocese of Down and Armagh in Northern Ireland to Edinburgh. He opened a meeting house (in his own home) and the congregation used the English Book of Common Prayer. At this time the Scottish Episcopalians used the 1637 Scottish Prayer Book. The Town Council, at the instigation of the Presbytery of Edinburgh, arrested Greenshields. He appealed to the Court of Session. The Scottish law lords, all good Presbyterians, supported the Town Council. However this was 1710 and Greenshields appealed to the highest court in the land. The good Anglican law lords in London supported him.

The result was a Toleration Act allowing Episcopalians to worship freely if they used the English Book of Common Prayer. This of course included prayers for the monarch. The majority of Episcopalians believe James VII was the rightful king and head of their church, even though he was not a member of it. Thus the church became aligned with the Jacobites.

John Peacock our Archivist has been researching the history of the Scottish Episcopal Church in Edinburgh. This will be in the Sign during the next few months.

VESTRY REPORT

March 2018 Vestry

- Ideas and arrangements for our stall at the Diocesan Celebration at St Mary's Cathedral on the 28th April were discussed. Jean and Margaret agreed to coordinate our stall. It is to focus on our work with the elderly.
- Bob Pritchard attended on behalf of the property Committee. Nicki thanked him for his work in this capacity. Dave Willis (Architect) is to be encouraged to quickly get a second quote for the Church doors so that the work can take place during the summer. Nicki's neighbour does not want to go ahead with major repairs to the North Rectory wall. She is to obtain a letter from them to this effect.
- All pastoral visitors bar one now have their PVG certificates. Christine Nimmo in her role as PVG co-ordinator is to be invited to a future Vestry meeting to present her annual report.
- Nicki proposed that an additional notice board should be provided in the Church for giving details of Church events.
- In November 2018 we celebrate 100 years since the end of WW1. Nicki proposed that we do something as a visible act of remembrance.
- Nicki has written to the Chair of Court at Napier University about developing links with Napier students, and is awaiting an answer.
- Vestry was asked to consider a twinning act with Dalo's family church in Syria. It was agreed that her Church would be mentioned in our intercessions.
- Vestry is to have a Development Day at the Rectory on the 12th May, 1-5pm to discuss possible ideas for mission and future development plans for St Cuthbert's.
- Julian Jefferson and Nicki are investigating the cost of buying 'Anglican Hymns Old and New' to replace our current Hymn Books.
- Nicki is to check with Gavin that the Fire Alarm is tested weekly and that this is recorded.

*The full minutes are available in the folder at the back of the Church. An electronic version can be requested by email, contact:
julia.roberts01@btinternet.com*

NOTES FROM THE CHOIR

What is a Canticle?

On first Sunday in the month in addition to the morning Sunday Eucharists the congregation comes together to worship God in the form of Evensong. At evensong the word of God is enriched through the singing of hymns, psalms and canticles. You may ask 'What is a canticle?'

A canticle is a song or hymn of praise using biblical texts that are not psalms. Like psalms they can be sung to Anglican chant or set to music. At evensong the canticles are referred to as Gospel canticles as the text comes from the Gospels. The canticles usually sung are the Magnificat - Mary's great hymn of praise, her big affirmative yes to God and the Nunc Dimitis or song of Simeon reassuring us that as we enter the hours of darkness we like Simeon can rest in the knowledge of the redeeming power of Jesus Christ.

Julian Jefferson

FLOWER ARRANGERS' NEWS

MAY FLOWERS

There are usually flowers in church from Easter until the beginning of Advent. However, the rota board at the back of the church has quite a number of gaps, which may mean that there will not be any flowers on some Sundays.

Please consider doing an arrangement and add your name to the rota, perhaps in memory of a loved one or of an occasion special to you. 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.

Margaret Holmes

CALENDAR FOR MAY 2018

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 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

		8.30am	Holy Communion
		10.30am	Sung Eucharist
		6.00pm	Evensong
9 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion
		2.00pm	Service at Cairdean
		3.00pm	Service at Thorburn Manor
10 th	Thursday	7.30am	Said Eucharist followed by breakfast
	Ascension Day		
		2.30pm	The Thursday Service
12 th	Saturday	1pm	Vestry Developmental Day

Sunday 13th – Seventh Sunday of Easter

		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 – Day of Pentecost

		8.30am	Holy Communion
		10.30am	Sung Eucharist
		6.00pm	Songs of Praise
23 rd	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion
24 th	Thursday	2.30pm	The Thursday Service

Sunday 27th – Trinity Sunday

		8.30am	Holy Communion
		10.30am	Sung Eucharist
		6.30pm	Youth Alpha
30 th	Wednesday	9.30am	Prayer for the life, work and witness of St. Cuthbert's
		10.30am	Holy Communion

READINGS FOR MAY 2018

6th May - 6th Sunday of Easter

First Reading Acts 10. 44-48
Psalm 98
Second Reading 1 John 5. 1-6
Gospel John 15. 9-17

13th May – 7th Sunday of Easter (Ascension)

First Reading Acts 1. 1-11
Psalm 47
Second Reading Ephesians 1. 15-23
Gospel Luke 24. 44-53

20th May – Day of Pentecost

First Reading Acts 2. 1-21
Psalm 104. 25-35, 37
Second Reading Romans 8. 22-27
Gospel John 15. 26-27; 16. 4b-15

27th May – Trinity Sunday

First Reading Isaiah 6. 1-8
Psalm 29
Second Reading Romans 8. 12-17
Gospel John 3. 1-17

3rd June – Pentecost 2

First Reading Deut 5. 12-15
Psalm 81. 1-10
Second Reading 2 Cor 4. 5-12
Gospel Mark 2. 23 – 3. 6

**St. Cuthbert's
Scottish Episcopal Church
Colinton
9.30am**



**Last Wednesday
of the month
30 May**

**Join us to pray for the life, work and
witness of our church**

A Brew & A Blether

Please join us in the hall from 2-4 pm

Saturday 5 May

for

A Brew and A Blether,
a game of scrabble, or just a natter.

Everyone is most welcome

CHRISTIAN AID

Michele Civile sits in front of his destroyed house in Descade bei Jereme, 17 October 2016. Photo: Christian Aid/Thomas Lohnes

Prospéry Raymond, Christian Aid's country manager for writes:

You could be forgiven for associating Haiti with disaster: when the country is mentioned, it is usually alongside words like **'earthquake'**, **'hurricane'**, **'political turmoil'** and **'cholera'**.

In October 2016, Hurricane Matthew's 146mph winds swept across the south of our country, leaving a trail of destruction. Hurricane Matthew caused an estimated damage \$2.5bn worth of damage, and the total aid provided was only about 10% of this. Today **35,000** households (each with approximately seven people) still need shelter, with many squatting in schools or living with family members. While there is a great sense of solidarity among Haitians, many simply want their own place to call home.

While NGOs like mine are in place to respond to disasters, by providing water filters and repairing roofs, the focus is now on preparation and education, to limit the potential damage. Planning is key: the predicted death toll from Matthew was in the thousands, but with good preparation from the local authorities, the fatalities stopped at 546.

Haiti does not want to depend on handouts; our people want to be able to stand on their own feet. That's why Christian Aid and its local partner, KORAL, are committed to empowering communities to do more for themselves. Following Hurricane Matthew they provided cash grants, so that locals could get small businesses up and running, and provide for themselves.

They also supplied farmers with seeds that are less affected by wet conditions: bananas, sweet potatoes and different types of beans. We saw the benefit of this following the heavy rains and floods in April and May of this year, when the crops withstood the impact of the deluge.

Yes, Haiti has been a troubled country, but in that trouble are stories of people who are looking forward, becoming resilient and preparing: people who want to ensure that when they are knocked down, they have what they need to get back up again. (19 August 2017)

Christian Aid Week 2018 is focussing on **Building Disaster-proof Homes**

Jocelyne lost everything when Hurricane Matthew tore through Haiti: her home, her livestock, and her hope. Now, just tarpaulin sheets shelter her from the elements. She fears that she won't survive the next hurricane season.

Patricia Brignall

SHALOM (In the presence of God)

Our usual pattern is to start with a short welcome/stilling exercise then 20 minutes of shared silence or a reading and reflection and finishing with a prayer of thanks Everyone is welcome to suggest new ways of exploring, sharing and praying together. It's an enriching part of the life of the church and a way of encouraging one another to grow in our spiritual lives. You are free to come and go in silence but we often end with coffee, cake and a chat!

We seek to provide a 'sacred space';
a space to reflect, to pray;
a space to find peace, stillness and refreshment.

Our meetings are usually
on the last Saturday of each month
We meet from 10am to 11am in the Lady Chapel –

Our next meeting – 30th June 2018

We will be meeting on Cumbrae at the beginning of May to discuss future plans. Contact Jean Myers for further details

THE OPEN FORUM

Programme

May 13	Sin (Failures in Love)	Facilitator	Mary McMahon
June 10	Judgement	Facilitator	John Hampton
July 1	Origins of the Creeds	Facilitator	David Ferro
August 12	The Creeds in Today's World	Facilitators	Jean and George Haskell

NB By general consensus it was agreed to move the meetings to the second Sunday in the month. All the meetings apart from the July one will therefore take place on the 2nd Sunday of the month

Wendy Stewart

PHOENIX GROUP

We very much enjoyed Dr John Gooding's Talk entitled "Russia : 1917 and Now - Part 2".
We have nothing else planned at the moment and would welcome suggestions for future gatherings. We are also happy to organise events, like John's talk which are open to all in the congregation.
Please make any suggestions to Jean Myers, Margaret Temple or myself.
Margaret Kieran

THE LEPROSY MISSION SCOTLAND

TLMS NEWS

I received a thank you letter for the cheque I sent on your behalf in March. The heading stated:

**Somewhere in the world, someone is being told "you have leprosy".
Because of you, a caring hand helps.**

So we know our contributions in the blue tubs and from donations are helping with the ongoing work in the hospitals and rehabilitation centres.

Please continue to fill your tubs and hand them in to me when convenient. Thank you for your continued support.

Barbara Tatlock

Correction - Membership (Personal data) forms

It has been brought to our attention that on our forms the definition of a Communicant member is incorrect. This should have read .. “receiving Holy Communion once in each year”. The year will run from 1 December to 30 November.

We sincerely apologise for this error. For most people who attend St Cuthbert’s this will not be of significance, however if anyone would like to complete a new form with the correct definition included please speak in to either Joan Smith or the Rector who will ensure that you are able to do this.

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

Westgarth Avenue, Colinton, Edinburgh EH13 0BD

Phone: 0131 441 7580

Email: stcuthbertsrector@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

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.

Scottish Charity Number: SC007578