

# THE SIG

## ST CUTHBERT'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH COLINTON

**THE SIGN**

**November 2017**

**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,

The old saying goes, 'time flies when you're having fun' and that certainly seems to be happening to me right now. November already; I really don't know where the time has gone – and I've even managed to have a week's holiday with one of my daughters, Ceri, in Corfu in October.



We had a lovely time but it is always good to get home. I would like to thank Revd John Hampton for leading Sunday worship in my absence. We are now in the time of Remembrance, beginning with All Soul's on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, when we remember all those we have loved and lost but see no longer. I feel this is such an important service to remember our loved ones, whether they died this year or fifty years ago. We all suffer grief differently and there is no right, or wrong way. So please, if you would like a loved one remembered, write their names on the sheet at the back of church and it will be read out during the service.

Over the period 30<sup>th</sup> October until 6<sup>th</sup> November, we will be hosting a photographic exhibition, 'To Absent Friends', organised by the 'good life, good death, good grief group', who are working to make Scotland a place where there is more openness about death, dying and bereavement. You can find more at [www.goodlifedeathgrief.org.uk](http://www.goodlifedeathgrief.org.uk).

The church is open Monday – Thursday between 10am and 4pm, so please pop in and take a look. You will find the display in the area behind the Lady Chapel.

This is, of course, followed by Remembrance Sunday on the 12<sup>th</sup> November, when we will have an Act of Remembrance during the service. The service will begin at the usual time of 10.30am, which, I believe, is different to past years.

I am still working my way through the congregational list, visiting people at home. If I haven't made it to you yet, please accept my apologies but I think it is going to take a few months to get around to everyone.

In the meantime, I hope you are able to join us at St. Cuthbert's throughout November and, while remembering those we have loved and lost, we remember the one who made the ultimate sacrifice for us, each time we receive Communion together.

Love and blessings.

Nicki

## **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). There is no charge but please book via [www.msi2017.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.msi2017.brownpapertickets.com)

## Memories of Catherine Smith

We were all very sad to learn of Catherine's sudden death on 11 September. Although she and Keith left Colinton and moved to Devon in 2009, she is well remembered here as a pillar of St. Cuthbert's. For some time she helped to edit The Sign, sang in the choir, organised the Veranda Club team and served as Vestry Secretary.

Music played a large part in Catherine's life, singing in the Edinburgh Bach Choir, our church choir and later at a choir in Devon. Recently she had started to learn to play the cello, and her cello teacher played a solo at her funeral.

Before moving to Edinburgh in 1973, when Keith took up a lectureship at the University, Catherine had lived in the south of England. However before the move north the family lived in the U.S.A. for a short time. Catherine and I discovered that, by extraordinary coincidence, we had both lived in Iowa thanks to our scientist husbands' work.

Catherine had an interesting career, taking a degree in Sociology at Exeter University followed by a specialist certificate in Medical Social Work in London. She worked at several hospitals in England, then as a social worker in Edinburgh and later in a University of Edinburgh Department of Psychiatry project. Voluntary work filled any gaps in her schedule and over the years has worked for Shelter, Oxfam bookshops and as a fundraiser for UNICEF. Not only charity work but political activism marked her life, first in the SDP then the Lib Dems, supporting Keith in parliamentary campaigns. Earlier this year she went on a political demonstration in London for the first time in her life. She was a dedicated "Remainer".

The Order of Service for Catherine's funeral is a joyful reminder of a full life. Many photos of happy times figure on the service sheet. However, her life with Keith was not without great sorrow. Their son-in-law, Caroline's husband, died of cancer in 2002 leaving Caroline with two young children. After Keith retired they moved to Totnes, Devon, to be near Caroline. Their older daughter, Stephanie, had moved to New Zealand in 2000.

Keith has received messages of sympathy from people here in Colinton and would like to thank you. They have been a great help to him. We send our best wishes to all Catherine's family as they mourn a special person.

Jean Haskell

### **Happy memories of Catherine from the choir:**

Catherine gave a lot to the choir: she was a faithful and capable member of the Alto section for many years. She also gave us plums and parties!

We always looked forward to the autumn when Catherine would arrive for choir practice laden with the most delicious plums from her garden, to give to her friends.

Many of the choir were already familiar with No 1 Dreghorn Loan as its former owners were our onetime organist Gordon Jamieson and his family. He had regularly had a Christmas party for the choir, and to our delight Keith and Catherine upheld this tradition with gusto!

Oh what happy memories!

Donald Macintosh

## **VESTRY REPORT**

At the September Vestry meeting held Tuesday September 12 the following issues were raised:

It was noted that the memorial book was being updated by the calligrapher; that the young people would assist at the service on November 19 for the toilet twinning charity; that both food and money raised at the Harvest service and lunch would go to the local food bank. Vestry was updated on prospective changes to data protection legislation due in May 2018.

A report from the treasurer highlighted a decline in congregational giving. Vestry requested an allowance for both clergy and lay training costs and for the purchase of a digital projector and screen. It was agreed to reappoint David Willis as church architect. Work is needed on the north garden wall at the Rectory. A health and safety inspection of the Rectory is to be carried out.

The Rector is to investigate the possibility of supervising a student in 2018 and employing a curate in 2019 onwards.

It was agreed to apply for membership of the eco-congregational scheme but not to go for an award immediately.

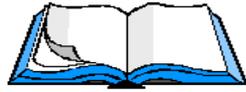
The Rector reported on forthcoming events, a display planned by Good grief, Good death, and hosting Play Church in 2018. Plans are being made to relicense the ministrants and to celebrate Mary Moffet's 20 years service with St Cuthbert's. The full minutes are available at the back of the church or from the Vestry Secretary.

## CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER 2017 YEAR A

Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	7.00pm	<b>Service for All Souls</b>
<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>All Saints</b>	
	8.30am	Holy Communion
	10.30am	Sung Eucharist
	6.00pm	Evensong
7 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion
	4.00pm	The St Raphael's Prayer Group
8 <sup>th</sup> Thursday	2.30pm	The Thursday Service
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Remembrance Sunday</b>	
	8.30am	Holy Communion
	10.30am	Sung Eucharist
13 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday	7.30pm	Vestry
14 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion
	2.00pm	Service at Cairdean
	3.00pm	Service at Thorburn Manor
15 <sup>th</sup> Thursday	2.30pm	The Thursday Service
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Toilet Twinning Sunday</b>	
	8.30am	Holy Communion
	10.30am	Sung Eucharist
21 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion
22 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday	2.30pm	The Thursday Service
<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Christ the King</b>	
	8.30am	Holy Communion
	10.30am	Sung Eucharist
29 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion
30 <sup>th</sup> Thursday	2.30pm	The Thursday Service

# READINGS FOR NOVEMBER 2017

## Year A



<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>– All Saints</b>
First Reading	Revelation 7:9-17
Psalm	43
Second Reading	1 John 3:1-3
Gospel	Matthew 5:1-12
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>– Remembrance Sunday</b>
First Reading	Job 19:21-27
Psalm	90
Reading	1 Corinthians 15:51-57
Gospel	John 6:37-40
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>– Toilet Twinning Sunday</b>
First Reading	Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18
Psalm	90:1-8, 12
Second Reading	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Gospel	Matthew 25:14-30
<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>– Christ the King</b>
First Reading	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm	95:1-7a
Second Reading	Ephesians 1:15-23
Gospel	Matthew 25:31-46

# READINGS FOR DECEMBER 2017

<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>– First Sunday of Advent</b>
First Reading	Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm	80:1-7, 17-19
Second Reading	1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Gospel	Matthew 13:24-37

# FLOWER ARRANGERS' NEWS

## NOVEMBER FLOWERS

I am sure that you will all agree that the church looked stunning for Harvest Festival, due in no small measure to the hard work and creativity of the "Flower Fairies".

The next festival will of course be Christmas. Should you wish to help, please let me know.

Until then however, there are a number of spaces on the rota. Perhaps you would like to do an arrangement. If so, please add your name.

Margaret Holmes

**SUNDAY 26 NOVEMBER**

**T**ime, after the 10.30 service

**I**n the hall

**R**elax

**U**nwind

**P**icnic lunch

Books    Cards    Home produce  
Christmas Tombola    Shunting Challenge

**Proceeds to Toilet Twinning**

Please join us on Saturday 4 November  
in the hall between 2- 4 pm for

## A Brew & A Blether

a cup of tea, a piece of cake, game of  
Scrabble or just a natter

Everyone most welcome.

**For your diary**

### **ADVENT CAROLS**

**SUNDAY 3 DECEMBER 6.0pm**

Followed by Wine and Nibbles

## **HARVEST**



Thank you to everyone who made Harvest so special, the Flower ladies, Margaret (and her other team) who provided a wonderful meal, and Susan who as usual took all the provisions donated to the Food Bank. We were able to give £200 to the Food Bank to support the work that they do. Also a thank you to the choir for a marvellous Choral Evensong .

## **PRESERVES FOR CHARITY**

I have recently sent a donation of £700 to Cancer Research UK from the proceeds of sales over the last year. Many thanks to all for your continuing support and the generous donations of fruit and preserves. Usual sales will be on the first Sunday of the month.

Ross Addison

# THE OPEN FORUM

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

<b>5<sup>th</sup> November.</b>	The Ecologically aware Person	Facilitator, Jean and George Haskell
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> December.</b>	The Evolving Person	Facilitator, John Hampton
<b>7<sup>th</sup> January.</b>	The Jesus Person	Facilitator, Alex and Wendy Stewart
<b>4<sup>th</sup> February.</b>	The Seeking Person	Facilitator, David Ferro
<b>4<sup>th</sup> March.</b>	The Free Person	Facilitator, Marion Goldsmith Wendy Stewart

## Open Forum 8<sup>th</sup> October 2017

The basis for the discussion at the Open Forum meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> October was Chapter 1 of Adrian Smith's book "Tomorrows Christian" which argues that Tomorrows Christian is a questioning person, quoting St Paul; "When I was a child my speech, feeling and thinking were all those of a child: Now I am grown up I have no more use for childish ways".

As facilitator Peter provided an erudite introduction to the topic, including some different interpretations of St Paul's reference to "now seeing through a glass darkly", such as "puzzling reflections". He pointed out that as people move from childhood to adulthood they develop (or should develop) different ways of thinking, learning to ask "what if" and developing hypothetical thinking. Individuals learn to develop cognitive adjustment as they assimilate new information and knowledge and check it against their own reasoning.

That being the case it raises the question as to why so many adults are resistant to taking on new ideas and approaches and, with particular reference to our own situation, why so many Christians either do not or will not challenge or question the authorised wisdom with which they are presented.

A number of ideas were suggested as to why this might be the case, the reasons for which will vary between individuals, including a reluctance to challenge "authority", bowing to social pressures or a fear of having to

jettison long held ideas and adjust to new thinking as they grow older. Discussion on the creeds touched upon whether these were dogma (therefore dogmatic), stifling fresh thought and challenge, although it was pointed out that it has been suggested that the creeds were originally part of the learning process for early Christians. Adrian Smith points out that dogmas are a limited expression of aspects of the truth, regarded as a definitive expression of the truth they can become an intellectual prison.

The question was then raised as to how questioning and challenge among Christians can be carried forward in organisations – i.e. the Christian denominations - which, to most of the public at least, have not developed their thinking for several hundred years and generally give the impression of being unwilling to do so. Despite debate, fresh thinking and new approaches being carried on by substantial minorities in those organisations, the Churches seem reluctant to recognise this publicly.

The next meeting of the Open Forum will take place at 09:15 am on 5<sup>th</sup> November when the topic for discussion will be based on Chapter 4 of Adrian Smiths book “Tomorrow’s Christian will be Ecologically Aware”.

Alex Stewart

## **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 Saturday 25 November 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.

All are very welcome to join us..

Jean Myers

# **PHEONIX GROUP**

Our CHRISTMAS LUNCH will be served at 12 30pm on WEDNESDAY the 6th of DECEMBER at the Royal Scots Club in Abercromby Place. All women in the congregation are very welcome to join us. The 3 course lunch with coffee and tea and mince pies, served in a private room, will cost £28 (the same price as last year) which includes a small gratuity. Those who wish to do so are welcome to meet earlier in the lounge bar downstairs, where drinks can be bought. Drinks can also be bought upstairs with lunch.

The Club has been an ideal venue for this popular event in the last few years. Please contact Jean Myers or myself if you would like to come along and let us have your deposit of £10 by 29 October or as soon as possible thereafter. If you are unable to sign up now, but decide later that you wish to join us, please just ask Jean or myself, as there may still be places. We will also require to pre-order nearer the time.

SOGETSU IKEBANA (Japanese Flower Arranging) EXHIBITION and DEMONSTRATION by Deborah Hathorn in the Braid Suite at the Braid Hills Hotel at 7pm - 8.15 pm with Viewing and Raffle afterwards on THURSDAY 9th NOVEMBER. Irene Harkness has suggested that this would make an ideal outing and a group of us will be going along in the evening. Tickets are £10 for the Exhibition and Demonstration. Please contact Irene Harkness if you would like to join us. Lifts can be arranged. The Exhibition can also be viewed between 3pm and 5pm (tickets are £5).

Margaret Kieran

## **THE LEPROSY MISSION SCOTLAND**

### **TLMS NEWS**

The latest edition of DOCHAS for Autumn/Winter 2017 has now been sent to me. You will find copies on the shelf by the Font. Please take one as there are several interesting articles in it about the work of TLMS.

One of these [pages 14-17] is written by Emma Bean who is a medical student. She spent a month in Anandaban Hospital in Nepal in the summer to learn about the work done in that hospital for people diagnosed with leprosy. As she says at the end of the article:" I have had an incredible experience overall...and learnt so much, not only about leprosy but other health and social issues in Nepal...". I'm sure you will find it as inspiring as I did.

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:

**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

## ADVANCE NOTICE

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.

The next edition of the Sign will be for December & January  
The deadline for copy will be a little earlier. **Monday 6 November**. Please send all essential information and reports to Joan Smith [jfsscot@aol.com](mailto:jfsscot@aol.com) in good time. Thank you.

### 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.

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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.*