

THE SIGN

NOVEMBER 2016

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 is
Fred Tomlinson**

SARAH'S VIEW

“Manners maketh man”

It was a couple of encounters in the local Tesco supermarket that started me thinking about the function of manners and what politeness is for. On one particular visit, two things happened that made me smile, because they were – well, so polite. I was at the checkout waiting for my chosen items to be checked through when the cashier asked me if I had my own bag. ‘Oh dear,’ I replied, ‘I don’t seem to have my shopping bag with me today – usually it’s folded up in my handbag!’ The cashier said ‘Oh – I’m sorry about that,’ (entirely unnecessarily as it wasn’t her fault – but nevertheless, a pleasant expression of fellow-feeling). The second incident happened in the Costa cafe in the same supermarket. I asked a passing barista if I could borrow a pen, and he readily agreed. When I returned it to him with thanks, he too said ‘Thank you very much,’ – again, unnecessarily, but there was something rather nice about it.

There seems to be a significant cultural element to all of this. What are considered good, or even necessary manners in one culture, would be considered strange or ridiculous in another culture. When I used to teach English as a Foreign Language, some of my students got quite impatient with the number of expressions they were told could be used to express themselves politely in English. The ones that received particular scorn were ‘Please could I possibly trouble you to pass the ...’ and ‘Do you mind if I...?’ ‘What’s wrong with being *direct*,’ I was often asked.

I’m assuming we would all have different ideas about what manners do: ‘Oil the wheels’, one person might say. ‘Convey respect,’ another might say. ‘Aid communication,’ could be yet another valid answer. And we have all, I’m sure, known people who have excellent manners, but yet these do not reflect their real intentions or actions. Rob Titchener, the ‘bad man’ of *The Archers*, would be the archetypal (if fictional) example.

What do *you* think manners are for? How necessary are they? Are the British overly wordy in their efforts to be polite? Is there a relationship between ‘goodness’ and manners? Put simply, do manners, in the words of William Horman (1440-1535), ‘maketh man’?

A Book to Ponder

At least 200 people crowded into the main lecture theatre during this summer's Edinburgh Book Festival to listen to Richard Holloway talking about his latest book, "A Little History of Religion".

As always Holloway's talk was both informative and entertaining, his style relaxed and free of theological jargon and,, with a mischievous sense of humour, occasionally designed, one suspects, to shock. His joking comment about the difference between his relationship between God the Father and His Son raised probably quite a few eyebrows.

The book is equally interesting. It spans , as the title implies, the whole of world religions, starting by asking why man, unlike all other animals, shows a need for a belief in something above and beyond himself, moving literally from Moses at the end of chapter one to the role of humanist celebrants on the penultimate page. It is remarkable for its lack of bias towards any one religion, its willingness to engage in the perennial thorny problems such as the extent to which religious belief across the centuries has been responsible for hatred and violence, and the sheer depth of understanding of so many faiths.

Above all to me the most important message from the book was the open mindedness it displayed. Implicit in the book was the view that the most dangerous stance for adherents of any one religious group was to assume that their beliefs were the only true ones , and the danger that all religions tend to cling to the old rather than face up to the new.

Possibly not a bad message to keep in mind as we face changes in our own church community.

Richard Holloway: A Little History of Religion. Yale University Press. 2016. ISBN:9780300208832.

Hilary Pritchard

Refugees: what can we do?

At the moment the UK has only taken in a small number of refugees. Germany has accepted a million. It is a disgrace that we are not playing our part. I suggest that we write to our elected representatives and ask them to put pressure on the government over this issue. Whether we voted for them or not, our MP/MSP is there to represent us, and our views. For every letter or email they receive they consider that there are a hundred others with the same opinion.

A short, polite letter or email is sufficient. There is no need to write an essay! Email addresses can be found on line.

The postal address for MPs is: House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA. For MSPs: The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh EH99 1SP.

“We should be good but not uncritical citizens... and speak up for the forgotten. This is not the time for Christians to be silent”. Bishop John Armes, The Edge autumn 2016

Jean Haskell

Update on actions to support refugees and migrants

Fourteen of us met at the end of September and identified some next steps – as a church, and as individuals, in terms of supporting refugees and migrants.

Many of us expressed an interest in helping with a church event to be run with The Weekend Project. This would involve using our Hall at the weekend for a social event for refugees/migrants. An idea which is being taken further is to put on a traditional afternoon tea as that's something we're already adept at. We are proposing doing this with SFAR in the New Year. Also the possibility of a fundraising event in aid of UNHCR was discussed, as they have 'reach' into many, if not all, of the places where refugees are camped in poorer parts of the world. Something that is happening *now* is a collection for Edinburgh Direct Aid. **Collections are being held on Sunday at the Church on October 23rd and 30th.**

VESTRY REPORT – SEPTEMBER

At the September Vestry meeting the following issues were discussed:

The Dean, Susan Macdonald, attended the meeting and outlined the schedule for the process of seeking a new Rector. Ideas from the Big Conversation and the Five Marks of Mission would be incorporated into the congregational profile and this, together with a job description, was being drafted. Both documents would be sent to the Bishop who would add a cover page and then the post would be advertised on both the Provincial and Diocesan websites and in The Church Times.

It was noted that the first shortened edition of The Sign had been well received and that someone to chair an editorial team was still being sought.

A lone worker policy was being drafted and advice sought on a human resources policy.

The property report was accepted and the final letter of approval for canon 35 regarding the proposed church doors was due to be sent within a week. Measures to ensure security of the empty rectory and basic maintenance of the garden were agreed.

Canon Tomlinson outlined his responsibilities as the interim pastor and Sarah detailed her schedule
Vestry agreed to buy a communion set for the Diocesan Play Church scheme.

Papers on the purchase of trees to offset the church's carbon footprint and on motions passed by Synod to be discussed by vestries were held over until the October Vestry meeting. A copy of the full minutes may be found in the folder at the back of the church.

Absent Friends Supper

Good Life Good Death Good Grief is an organisation which works to make Scotland a place where there is more openness about death, dying and bereavement. During the first week of November they promote a Festival of Storytelling and Remembrance, with Absent Friends 'Suppers' a key feature.

St Cuthbert's *Good Grief Group* is planning to host such a meal in the Rectory at 12.00 on Saturday 5 November.

Do join us to remember someone in your life - a partner, a child, a grandparent, a colleague - who you would like to celebrate with a toast and a story, or a photo, an artefact of theirs or a wee performance or tape recording of their favourite music, or whatever you feel captures some of their specialness. But of course you don't have to tell a tale if you don't want too. Just joining in is enough.

It will be a pot luck meal. So please bring a dish. And please put your name on the list at the back of the church so we know how many to lay for.

Since the Rectory kitchen and dining room will be heated for the occasion, and since we also plan to provide a little wine or ale according to taste, we would suggest a donation of £5 a head.

Marion Goldsmith

SERVICE FOR ALL SOULS

2 NOVEMBER at 7.00pm

There will be a service for **All Souls** when we will remember those who have died. Please come and bring a memento (a flower, or a photo, for example) to lay in remembrance of your loved one. Please add the names of those you wish to be remembered to the list at the back of the Church.

Celebrating 90 Years

On the morning of Sunday 2 October we were delighted to share with Margaret Cowan her 90th Birthday. Margaret has sung in the choir for very many years and in honour of this special occasion Donald Mackintosh wrote a new psalm which the choir sang to Margaret at the start of the service.

MARGARET

Today the choir has an / extra / target : to mark the birthday / of
our / dearest Margaret.
Her attendance in the choir for / many a / year : has been / quite
with / out a / peer.
She never likes a service of any / kind to / pass : she'll sing at
Mattins, Funerals / Weddings / and at / Mass
And once a month at Evensong she / will not / baulk: in snow and
gale from / Redford / Road she'll / walk.
On Sunday mornings she doesn't often stay for coffee / or some /
juice : the reason why is / puzzling / to de / duce.
But I think I / have a hunch : she's invited / fifteen friends to / lunch.
Completed now is Margaret's / ninth de / cade : and many / compli –
ments / have been / paid.
Now here's a thought to / end our / rhyme : we'll see you / here in /
ten years' / time.

and **Margaret** writes:

Margaret Cowan would like to thank everyone for the many cards and expressed good wishes she received at her recent significant Birthday.

NOTES FROM THE CHOIR

Organists and Music for November

Sunday 6 am Philip Rossiter: Holy is the true light, William Harris

Sunday 6 pm David Turner: Here, O my Lord, Alan Viner

Sunday 13 Julian Jefferson:

Remembrance: So they gave their bodies, Peter Aston

Sunday 20 Philip Rossiter: O King, and desire of all nations, John Stainer

Sunday 27 am Julian Jefferson: Lift up your heads, Goss

Sunday 27 pm Julian Jefferson: Advent Carol Service

The anthem for Remembrance has very fitting words “So they gave their bodies to the commonwealth, and received praise that they will never die, and a home in the minds of men. Their story lives on, without visible symbol, woven into the stuff of other men’s lives.”

These words are in fact part of Pericles’s funeral oration in Athens in 431 BC. The music too, is unusual, containing haunting echoes of the Last Post.

Donald Mackintosh

CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER 2016

2nd Wednesday 10.30am Holy Communion
4.00pm The St Raphael's Prayer Group
7.00pm **Service for All Souls**

3rd Thursday 2.30pm The Thursday Service

Sunday 6th – Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Sunday 13th – Remembrance Sunday

8.30am Holy Communion
10.45am Sung Eucharist
16th Wednesday 10.30am Holy Communion
17th Thursday 2.30pm The Thursday Service

Sunday 20th – Christ the King

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

Sunday 27th – First Sunday of Advent - Year A begins

8.30am Holy Communion
10.30am Sung Eucharist
6pm Advent Carol Service
30th Wednesday 10.30am Holy Communion

READINGS FOR NOVEMBER 2016

Year C

Sunday 6th – Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading Job 19:23-27
Psalm 17:1-9
Second Reading 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17
Gospel Luke 20:27-38

Sunday 13th – Remembrance Sunday

First Reading Job 19:21-27
Psalm 90
Second Reading 1 Corinthians 15:51-57
Gospel John 6:37-40

Sunday 20th – Christ the King

First Reading Jeremiah 23:1-6
Psalm 46
Second Reading Col 1:11-20
Gospel Luke 23:33-43

Sunday 27th – First Sunday of Advent - Year A begins

First Reading Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm 122
Second Reading Romans 13:11-14
Gospel Matthew 24:36-44

READINGS FOR DECEMBER 2016

Year A

Sunday 4th	– Second Sunday of Advent
First Reading	Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm	72:1-7, 18-19
Second Reading	Romans 15:4-13
Gospel	Matthew 3:1-12

FLOWER ARRANGERS' NEWS

NOVEMBER FLOWERS

The flower rota is looking very sparse at the moment with a number of gaps until the start of Advent on 27 November.

November 6	Volunteer required
November 13	Remembrance Sunday
November 20	Volunteer required
November 27	Advent

Christmas arrangements will be done on Christmas Eve, but more of that later.

In the meantime, if you would like to do an arrangement, please let me know.

Margaret Holmes

Please join us for
A Brew and a Blether
on
Saturday 5 November
from
2pm – 4pm
in the church hall

Everyone is most welcome.

Launch of Play Church Project
12 NOVEMBER 11.00am
at St Mary's Cathedral

The Play Church is designed to help children explore worship and wonder about God and his amazing family - the church. This special service with the Bishop of Edinburgh includes some of our young people who have been especially asked to take part because of their experience of involvement in services.

St Cuthbert's is to give a Communion Set to help set up this project.

**Everyone is welcome, do come and support
this project and our own young people.**

STIR UP SUNDAY 20 NOVEMBER

STIR UP: verb ; to set in motion, to kindle, to instigate, stimulate, provoke, evoke, fire up, agitate

Well, perhaps we won't be able to trigger all of those reactions, but if you would like a chance to socialise (verb; interact, mix, mingle) then this is your chance !

Please join us in the hall after the service for a picnic lunch and the opportunity to browse the book stall, take a chance on the tombola and perhaps purchase some cards.

Play & Pray – *only one letter is different*

When I saw the invitation to join this initiative for under school age children I was intrigued and decided to go along with Theo, my youngest grandchild aged sixteen months. Pray and Play offers something of a taster to what the church can offer very small children as in the event the three infants who were present on the first morning were all less than two years of age.

Claire and Sharon both trained in spiritual direction set an atmosphere which was quiet and gentle whilst offering the most inviting opportunities for play and exploration. On the first week what drew my immediate attention was the Lady Chapel which was laid out with an array of cushions and pillows for mothers or other carers to simply lay with the child or to look at one of the many books on offer. I can remember thinking how very much I would have appreciated that when my own children were very small and I was often totally exhausted; a church that offered that kind of respite would have felt very generous indeed.

For the children the pray was a simple but lovely song with actions about God's love and how it holds us. Then two puppets told us a short story from the pulpit usually about their daily life but with some connection to a bible story and there was no insistence on listening just being present was enough and I thought that perhaps we might be a little more forgiving when we find ourselves drifting off during worship. After this we went to the hall which was set out with four or five brightly decorated water proof mats for a variety of activities including plates of fruit and I thought what a wonderful memory to have of being so generously fed, perhaps the most enduring memory for me however will be the bubbles. Theo became what I can only call entranced in a way that felt quite meditative by the many beautiful bubbles blown so expertly by Claire with a simple tub and wand; affirming for me that smallest children and their capacity for wonder is perhaps one of the first the first building blocks of their valuing of the beauty and fragility of the world around them. The focus was on discovery and experience and how else do we learn to appreciate the world around us? There were small misadventures, small tumbles but with adults to care, reassure and encourage it felt as if this was an experience in life's ventures in all its riches and some of its difficulties. The children grew to know and recognise each other and to welcome two new children with their mummy at week five and Theo's daddy to give him male moral support. There were members of St Cuthbert's at hand. Sarah would pop in after the Wednesday morning service and Joan and Megan were there to join in and to make refreshments for the adults. The children were all very much alert to when the 'grown up' biscuits were going to appear and were often first at the table. I am really sad that 'Pray and Play' is now coming to an end although I know that we have learnt much from Claire and Sharon as well as from one another and I will miss what has become an important part of my week and relationship with Theo. The next 'Pray and Play' is going to be at Christ Church and I've got a feeling Theo and I might be going along there too.

Margaret Temple

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 will meet on Saturday 26th November, in The Lady Chapel at 10am.

Marion Goldsmith will offer us reflections as we move into the season of Advent.

All are welcome to join us and enjoy coffee and cakes afterwards.

Wendy Pearson and Jean Myers

THE OPEN FORUM

The November meeting of the Open Forum will be on

Sunday 6 November at 9.15am.

This meeting will be to discuss the forthcoming programme

WESTGARTH WALKERS

Dates for your Diary:

Sunday 13 November: Lauriston Castle and Kyoto Friendship Garden. Castle Tour is at 2.00pm. Cost £5 or £3 concession. Cars required or alternatively we could take 16 bus at 12.07 or 12.19. Please let me know if you would prefer cars or bus. We can either do the Castle Tour then lunch and the Toby Inn, which is a stone's thro from Lauriston Castle or have lunch first then visit the Kyoto Friendship Garden in the grounds of the Castle.

Please let me have an early response to which ever option you prefer.

Sunday 11 December The Spylaw Tavern I have provisionally booked this venue at a cost of £17.95 per head. Deposits of £10 per person please by Sunday 23 October. I have been asked by the Spylaw Tavern to let them have the numbers and deposits by that date. Balance is due on 11 December. As usual I will collect that money in "my little brown envelopes".

Although it is not always possible to join WW events due to family commitments etc it would be nice if we could make some attempt to keep the group together especially during the interregnum. We all have a part to play in supporting each other and St Cuthbert's. June Bungay

PHOENIX GROUP

Our CHRISTMAS LUNCH will be served at 12.30pm on Wednesday the 14th 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 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 the 1st November, or as soon as possible thereafter. If you are unable to sign up now, but decide later you wish to join us, please just ask Jean or myself, as there may still be places. We also require to pre-order nearer the time.

Margaret Kieran

THE LEPROSY MISSION SCOTLAND TLMS NEWS

Thank you to everyone who has given in a Blue Box recently. The sum total to date is £200. I shall send a cheque for the final amount I've collected by the end of October.

There are new copies of DOCHAS, the magazine of TLMS, on the shelf by the Font. There are some interesting articles to read about the ongoing work of TLMS. So please pick one up and take home to read at your leisure. Barbara Tatlock

VACANCIES

We are all very aware that there is a vacancy at St Cuthbert's, albeit that we are being well served by our Curate Sarah and our Interim Pastor Fred Tomlinson.

The process of looking for our new Rector continues. Drafts of the updated church Profile and the Guidance for Applicants have now gone to the Bishop, the Dean and our Interim Pastor for approval. The next stage, advertising, will depend on any comments made about these documents. Thereafter we will begin to arrange interviews and opportunities for candidates to meet the Vestry. This all takes time.

However, there are other vacancies at St Cuthbert's! In this issue of The Sign three areas are mentioned, the Coffee Rota, Sound & Bells and of course the magazine itself needs an Editorial team. The Welcome team is also in need of some additional volunteers and I am sure that other aspects of church life would benefit from some extra helpers. Many people already do a great deal, looking carefully at what we do demonstrates that so clearly, but if you think you could help fill a gap please speak to the organiser of the group concerned or one of the wardens. It could be only a small involvement, but every little helps!

Do think about what **you** might be able to do.

THE SIGN

There are still temporary arrangements in place for producing the SIGN and a special thanks goes to Elspeth Miller and John Peacock for giving extra time to ensure it is printed and distributed as usual. Thank you also to everyone who is continuing to provide content about activities and events and of course the ongoing rotas. Some interest has been shown in the possibility of an editorial team but we still need to find some who would like to gather and collate articles and information. If you think this is a task you would enjoy please speak to one of the wardens.

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.

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