

Annual Reports

2019



St. Cuthbert's
Scottish Episcopal Church

1. A Brew and a blether
2. Badminton Club
3. Choir
4. Christian Aid
5. Communications Group
6. Eco congregation
7. Flowers
8. Foodbank
9. Garden Team
10. Lay Representative
11. Leprosy Mission Scotland
12. Open Forum
13. Pastoral Visitors
14. People's Warden
15. Phoenix Group
16. Property Group
17. R&R
18. Sacristans
19. Safeguarding
20. St. Raphael's Prayer Group
21. Shalom

22. The Sign

23. Verandah Club

24. Website

25. Young People

A Brew & A Blether

On Saturday 7 September we celebrated the 5th anniversary of A Brew & A Blether with entertainment from the 'Colinton Wekulele Group' who played songs ranging from the Beatles to old time music hall numbers. What better way to celebrate 5 years of socialising, friendship, scrabble, blether and of course tea.

But the ukulele players were not the only group of hall users to entertain us this year. In February the Angela Watson School of Dance gave a wonderful display of many different styles of dance from ballet to modern, jazz and tap. It was especially lovely to welcome the girls' parents and siblings, who were rewarded with gateau and juice!

Later in the year two Community Police Officers spoke to us about the need for vigilance and caution should uninvited or unexpected callers ring the doorbell.

In May Wendy and her therapy dog, Shanti, came to visit. Wendy explained Shanti's role in helping to calm those with anxiety issues. Of course Shanti was richly rewarded with lots of loving and plenty of biscuits. Wendy got a cup of tea and a piece of cake!

In the summer we had afternoon tea on tables covered with beautifully embroidered cloths, tea served in china cups and strawberries served with cream.

But, some months we just simply gather for a Brew and a Blether and perhaps a game of Scrabble. So, if you are at a loose end on the first Saturday of any month, please join us in the hall between 2 and 4 pm when you will be most welcome to join in the chat over a cup of tea, a piece of cake or, if you are lucky, gateau !

The Team : Hilary, Joan, Christine and Margaret

Badminton Club

The Club, founded about 1946, continues. As with any organisation, membership numbers fluctuate however the past year has shown that the kind of 'social' badminton we play has an appeal for those of differing abilities within the community. The club is open to those over 18.

Archie Clark

Choir

With the unexpected resignation of Julian Jefferson at the end of March from the post of Music Director, although I had already been booked to play for most of the Holy Week and Easter services, it was important for the church to find a successor as swiftly as possible. Having previously been the organist of St Cuthbert's when Malcolm Goldsmith was Rector, and a regular on the organ-playing rota since, discussions began with Nicki and Martin about taking up the

post of Organist and Choirmaster. With impending retirement from Merchiston, it was an easy decision to make, and so my appointment took effect from the beginning of May. Hopefully, the transition was a smooth one!

St Cuthbert's is fortunate to have a very committed choir, which rehearses for an hour every Thursday evening, sings an anthem at every Sunday service, and plays a more prominent role in services at the major festivals. In recent months, we have been pleased to welcome some new members, and to see some of our "occasional visitors" attending on a more regular basis. For Harvest Festival, some members of the congregation responded to the request to augment the ranks of the choir, and a similar invitation will be issued for the Nine Lessons and Carols, which will take place on Sunday 22 December.

The choir has a substantial repertoire, to which new anthems are added on a reasonably regular basis. It is rare to find music which is not known by those who have been in the choir for a long time, but this was achieved with a setting of the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis by Parry, which was performed at the Harvest Choral Evensong. To add a little more variety to the weekly Sung Eucharist, we plan to introduce a more reflective musical setting, with a Scottish folk influence, of the Kyrie, Sanctus, Benedictus and Agnus Dei, which will be used during the penitential seasons of Advent and Lent. Similar effort to achieve variety is made in

our choice of hymns, which both reflect the readings set for the day, and traditional and modern styles of hymnody.

My thanks go to all the members of the choir for their loyal support week by week, and to Andrew Matheson and Martin Petty, who have deputized at the organ when I have been away. As ever, we will be pleased to welcome new singers, whether on a regular or an occasional basis.

Philip Rossiter

Christian Aid

There are nine people on the Colinton Christian Aid Committee, four of whom are from St Cuthbert's: Wendy Pearson, Margaret Temple, Jean Wood and Patricia Brignall.

In the past year we have completed our commitment to raising £5,000 for our Partner Project in Ghana: GEOP (Growing Economic Opportunities for Sustainable Development Project).

We raised the money through four events and a very generous gift of £2,000. Our first event was a new one and in a new place: Gin Tasting in the Colinton Inn. Although those who came were mostly already supporters of Christian Aid, we did raise our profile in the wider community through a raffle of a donated bottle of gin in the pub.

The next two events both involved singing carols: the usual evening walk around the Bonaly courtyards on the Monday before Christmas, led by Megan Emmerson, to whom much thanks for her year on year expertise and commitment; and for a second time the Carol Singing in the Colinton Inn, organised by Nicki, and led by members of the Choir. Very similar evenings, but one rather warmer than the other!

Our final fund-raiser for GEOP was our annual Quiz Night. It was as usual great fun and, more to the point, brought in over £700 which meant that we could sign off GEOP some months early.

The annual Door-to-Door Collection in May is a national effort for a particular aspect of Christian Aid's work. This year was for building local health clinics in Sierra Leone. Here in Colinton 57 people collected £7,200, 8 people opened the envelopes (no small task) and counted the money, and 2 people took it to the Bank.

A couple of months ago the Colinton Christian Aid Committee agreed to raise £2,000 by the end of December 2020 for an on-going project in Zambia: *Making Agriculture a Business*. This is mostly being funded by the Scottish Government **in partnership with Christian Aid**.

Two years ago Christian Aid, funded by the Scottish Government, launched a new project in Zambia: **Making Agriculture a Business**. Christian Aid in Scotland was asked

to raise £20,000 to complement the Scottish Government funding of £1.3 million.

Patricia Brignall

Communications Group

The group comprises seven people, including the Rector, Wardens and Church Administrator, who meet five or six times a year to look at how best to communicate with both the congregation and the wider community.

The use of the website and Facebook, and the updating of notice boards are constantly evaluated and extra publicity is prepared for special or larger events. Twitter and Instagram are also being used to share this information.

We had a few difficulties earlier in the year with the website and made the decision to migrate to a different host. This has been completed successfully thanks to the help of Katie and Tim Brown and I hope you enjoy the new look website, which is easier to access for information.

The Communications Group is always looking for volunteers to help drop information through our neighbours' doors at festivals. If you are able to spare 30-60 minutes, maybe you could volunteer to do half a street when needed please? (Definitely needed for Advent and Christmas – see Marie at the AGM).

Nicki McNelly

Eco Congregation: Engaging with Nature for the future

This year Climate Change has become highlighted more urgently with international summits and particularly the Extinction Rebellion protests warning us of the danger of being complacent. Attending the Annual Gathering for Eco-congregation Scotland in Dundee in March was very inspiring in reporting on all the action that is being taken by government and ordinary people in such areas as renewable energy, divestment from fossil fuels and saving energy in our day to day lives.

At St Cuthbert's I have done three sessions with the young children in Sunday school using the seasonal packs from Faith Action for Nature. Focusing on the church garden we looked at 'Home and Habitat' in Spring, going out to see what birds, animals and other wildlife might find a home there, and what kind of habitats we have – eg. lawn, meadow, walls, tree stumps/woodpile.

In Summer, the topic was 'Foraging' – looking at what animals eat and what we can do to provide food for wildlife, eg. seeds from flowers in the wildflower area. We had fun each being a different animal and going to look for our breakfast then bringing it back to show the others.

In Autumn under the theme 'Shelter' we looked at a range of seeds, fruits and nuts indoors and talked about how animals prepare for winter by collecting them. The seeds are a promise of new life and we read the parable of the mustard seed as a picture of faith that it grows into a large tree.

These materials gave many start-up ideas such as providing a log pile for hibernating animals or a bug hotel. Also, planting for wildlife in the meadow area or elsewhere, can be a focus for another session.

The appreciation and observation of Nature as God's Creation is a necessary step to caring for the world around us, and I tried to connect what we did with a Psalm, a prayer, a story of a Saint or a parable. Hopefully deepening our knowledge and care for the natural world will equip us in the future to take the necessary steps with the right priorities when facing the challenges of our changing environment.

Kay Dalley

Flowers

There are flowers in church almost every week, except during Lent and Advent.

This year, in addition to the usual weekly arrangements, we have also celebrated weddings, anniversaries and Baptisms with some beautiful floral displays.

But, I particularly enjoy the Festivals when a team of enthusiastic and talented ladies gather to work their magic, filling every available space with flowers before rounding off the morning with a chat over coffee and cake.

Thanks are due to everyone who has willingly given of their time and expertise over this past year and also to those who have donated to the Flower Fund. On a personal level, I would particularly like to thank Diana and Christine for all their help and enthusiasm.

So, if you have a burning desire to release your inner Constance Spry, please just add your name to the rota or speak to me. Men are also welcome!

With thanks.

Margaret Holmes

Foodbank

This has been the seventh year we have supported the Foodbank at Holy Trinity Church in Wester Hailes. We collected food in our Church on the first Sunday of each month and delivered it to Holy Trinity the next morning. We have a rota of church members who volunteer on the Tuesday afternoon when the food is distributed. Over 200 people have been helped there with food parcels each month.

Although we collect a good amount of food, the quantity has gone down slightly over the years. However, another way to help is by giving them cash to pay for food. The amount of cash donations, from St. Cuthbert's, has gone up slightly over

the years as some members find it easier to give money rather than goods.

Angela Thomson and other members of Holy Trinity Church really appreciate that we support them on a regular basis throughout the year. If you would like more information, please speak to me.

Susan Clark

Garden Team

This year has been successful in the church garden with a reasonable amount of both sunshine and rain.

We continue to make minor changes to the shrubs and perennials in the borders, and can trim most bushes as required. However there are a fair number of mature trees needing attention, and as the combined ages of the volunteers comfortably exceeds 450, we are going to require some fairly expensive help from tree surgeons over the coming winter. We have a duty to make sure our trees do not inconvenience our immediate neighbours, some others have become misshapen or partly diseased, and there are some chance seedlings that are becoming a nuisance as they grow larger. All this, of course, needs prior approval from the conservation area authorities and, for some reason, even the diocesan property committee.

My sincere thanks go to Ross Addison, Vivien Bremner, Nick Brignall, Mary Dale and Margaret Holmes who have worked hard to make our grounds an attractive community resource.

Bryan Dale

Lay Representative

Edinburgh South Area Council began meeting again in February 2019. Jenny Wright associate priest at Christ Church Morningside had organised this revival at the initiation of Bishop John. ESAC comprises Christ Church, St Cuthbert's, St Michael and All Saints, St Fillan's, St Matthew's Roslin, St James' Penicuik and St Mungo's West Linton. Emmaus House is also included. The purpose of the area council is to further the work of the church in their area and act as a channel of communication between the congregations and Synod in both directions. They are required by constitution to meet at least three times a year.

Coming together in this way offers opportunity for representatives of different congregations to get together, to share resources and to generate energy through the mutual sharing of experience and ideas. Part of each meeting is given over to news from the different churches who are also encouraged to share their newsletters or magazines. There were just a few of us at the first meeting in February but when we met again at St Cuthbert's in May more churches were represented and there was a lively discussion about ethical investment which was a main agenda item at the

forthcoming Diocesan Synod. We will meet again at the end of October just before the next Diocesan Synod and although it is early days I am pleased as St Cuthbert's Lay Representative to be part of this revival of Edinburgh South Area Council.

Margaret Temple

Leprosy Mission Scotland

We have continued to support the work of TLMS throughout the year.

The money raised from the congregation for the special appeal to support the HEAL NEPAL CAMPAIGN in the spring amounted to £570 , which was doubled to £1140 by the UK Government under their AID MATCH scheme.

So thank you to everyone who gave so generously. I hope you will continue your support in the coming year.

Barbara Tatlock

Open Forum

During the past year the Open Forum has met on the 2nd Sunday of each month (apart from August). It meets between the Services at 9:15am in the old rector's vestry.

We have around 16 regular members but anyone who has an interest in joining with us is extremely welcome.

This past year we have continued using Peter Singer's book "Ethics in the Real World."

Having selected particular topics we endeavoured to consider critically and analytically some of the problems which face us in the contemporary world in the light of the teachings and example of Jesus of Nazareth.

Themes for exploration have included; Contemporary Morality, Capitalism, Refugees and the Perils of Ignoring Science.

Topics for the coming year will be agreed at our November 2019 meeting and published in The Sign and on the website.

Wendy Stewart

Pastoral Visitors

This group comprises eight volunteers from the church, all PVG'd and continues to be a great support to me in my ministry and in the support of the housebound and sick within our congregation.

Home Communion is taken to those who request it on a regular basis by myself and Margaret Dineley, our NSM.

Ongoing support is given to the volunteers, as requested, on a one-to-one basis, alongside group meetings approximately every three months.

Revd Nicki McNelly

People's Warden

This has been an exciting, interesting and at times challenging year to have been People's Warden.

There have been several opportunities for us, as a congregation, to meet together socially, to share food, and companionship, including the Burns Supper in January and Harvest Lunch in October and of course for A Brew & A Blether each month.

However, none of these events could have been as successful as they have without the help of the Catering Crew, so thank you, Hilary, Judith, Christine, Joan, Mary and Susan.

Margaret Holmes

Phoenix Group

The Phoenix Group provides opportunities for women in the congregation to meet together socially and informally from time to time. We also sometimes organise other events. Although there is a core group of us, we have no

membership as such and all gatherings are open to all women in the congregation and sometimes to all.

Our main event is our popular Christmas Lunch held last year and in recent years at the Royal Scots Club in town. Last year's lunch was again most enjoyable and well attended and we were well looked after by the staff there. We have, however, chosen a new venue this year, **Bia Bistrot** in Colinton Road. The lunch will be on **11 December**.

In February, a group of us had a very pleasant day trip to the new V&A Dundee. We all travelled together by train. There have been mixed reviews of the building itself but most of our group were very impressed with it, both inside and out, and it is, of course, in a beautiful setting and very good for the regeneration of Dundee. The Ocean Liners: Speed and Style Exhibition was outstanding. There was so much of interest there and also in the Scottish Design Galleries.

We were very grateful to Patricia Brignall, who, in February, gave such an interesting talk after church, entitled "The Apocryphal Gospel of Nicodemus: Christ's Descent into Hell". Patricia showed many fascinating slides of art works depicting various scenes from this part of the text of Nicodemus through the centuries. They showed how much this text was widely accepted and part of the church's collective understanding for many years.

In August, 15 of us had a very pleasant and tasty lunch at the Spylaw Tavern in Colinton. In September, a smaller group of

us enjoyed a delicious Afternoon Tea in the very pleasant setting of the John Hope Gateway Restaurant at the Botanic Garden, with some of the group having a walk in the Botanics beforehand. As always on these occasions, there was much good conversation, laughter and camaraderie. Jean has printed off a lovely set of photos of various enjoyable gatherings through the years.

We welcome suggestions for future gatherings, talks or activities.

Margaret Kieran and Jean Myers

Property Group

1 INTRODUCTION

The congregation through Vestry is responsible for the care and maintenance of the church buildings and the rectory.

The Property Group's is answerable to Vestry, and its remit is in broad terms, to plan and implement the maintenance of, and repairs and improvements to, the fabric of our properties. All such work is of course constrained by the annual budget allowance or funding otherwise authorised by Vestry, and by any relevant statutory and Diocesan planning requirements. The Group's last formal meeting as a Property Committee was in May 2015; it currently comprises the Convenor, the property manager, and others when assistance is needed.

The Property Group's activities have been reported for every Vestry meeting. Building condition surveys of the church and rectory buildings fabric, and agreed repair works, have been undertaken by LBC Building Services. Electrical works have been undertaken by Sentry Electrics, and gas heating servicing and repairs undertaken by Thomson Home Services. Other *ad hoc* repairs required at short notice are undertaken by others as necessary (eg joinery, locksmiths, and plumbing work). Other regular checks such as maintenance of the alarms and fire safety equipment are undertaken under annual contracts. Portable appliance testing, and testing of electrical circuitry and lightning conductors are undertaken by contractors when required. Following competitive bidding process, Messrs Tod & Taylor Architects were appointed to undertake the Quinquennial Survey and Report 2019.

The Property Group comprised the following members during the year:

Bob Bent	Convenor from Feb 2009 (ex officio pre 2009)
Bob Pritchard	Property Manager from Dec 2004
Gavin Wye	Odd jobs from Sept 2014
Russell Philp	Vestry member ex officio

In addition to the above, the following have had inputs into the Property Group's activities:

Rev Nicki McNelly	Chair from July 2017	ex officio
Martin Fairley	Church Treasurer	ex officio
Joan Smith	Rector's Warden	ex officio

2 SUMMARY OF ACTIONS OVER THE PAST YEAR

- **Church/Hall Yard** The yard drains and roof gutters required clearing (by Gavin W) only rarely since the large Cupressus was removed. New LED lighting was installed over the two entrances.
- **Routine servicing and repairs** The church intruder and fire alarms and fire extinguishers were serviced under contract. The church and rectory heating apparatus were serviced according to the recommended schedules and repairs carried out as required.
- **Lighting** All the halogen spotlights (MR16 and GU10 fittings) throughout the church and hall have been replaced with LED equivalents, with new controls where needed, and other inaccessible lights (for instance in the tower and cupboards) have been replaced by LEDs. The bulbs in the chandelier have been replaced with LEDs. There are no incandescent bulbs remaining in use. The "low energy" bulbs remaining in the clergy vestry/office will be routinely replaced when they fail.

- **Baptismal font** Frequent visual inspection and manipulation of the mechanism continues. The bowl of the baptismal font was treated to prevent further powdery deterioration of the surface.
- **Church and hall roofs.** Regular inspections and reporting by Jim Lyster (LBC Building Services) continued and repairs were carried out where necessary to the roof coverings and rainwater goods.
- **Rectory works** A new plastic garden storage shed has been installed to replace the old timber shed, which required extensive repair and was unfit for purpose.
- **Choir vestry roof refurbishment** This project is “on hold” for a later time. Planning consent will need to be renewed.
- **Clergy vestry/office** A spyhole has been fitted in the door for the Administrator’s security.
- **Portable appliance testing of electrical equipment**
PAT was carried out in September 2019, by FreshStart. Certification is undertaken every 3 to 4 years.
- **Space Audit Group “fitness for purpose” outcomes**
An audit of the current uses and abuses of the various spaces available within the church and hall buildings (to which the property manager contributed) was completed and a report was supplied to Vestry for consideration.

3 LOOKING FORWARD

The following items are subject to Vestry’s agreement and authority to proceed, in addition to any other outstanding statutory and Diocesan consents.

(a) Matters arising from the 2019 Quinquennial Survey and Report

The Quinquennial Survey 2019 was undertaken by Tod & Taylor Architects and a formal Report was received in January 2019. No “urgent” works were identified. A rolling programme to address the “necessary” works requiring attention during the quinquennial period to 2024 now needs to be drawn up and means of procurement agreed.

(b) Other matters to be addressed

- **The church garden boundary walls** continue to show signs of distress in several places due to pressure from tree roots. We are monitoring this situation. The footpath at the west end of the church was been disturbed by root growth and has been repaired to remove a potential trip hazard.
- **Further lighting upgrades** The external floodlighting (9 units) continue to function with bulbs replaced as necessary but the housings are probably reaching the end of their economic lifespan. They will need to be replaced within the next five years or so with modern LED units. Similarly, the hall uplighters (8 units, for which specialised bulbs are still available but each unit incorporates internal control circuitry which is becoming difficult to repair or replace) and the church downlighters (at least 12 units for which bulbs are still available, but the units themselves are difficult to access) will all need to be replaced in the medium term with more modern fixtures.
- **The church bells and the tower access** A group of bell ringers visited in October 2018. The bells and their supporting frame are reported as basically sound and safe,

but if more use is to be expected of this feature of our church, some maintenance work on the bells and their supports is going to be necessary. Professional advice may be needed. In addition, the access stairway in the tower including the stairs and handrails and trapdoors will all need to be greatly improved or even replaced. The stairway is a serious restriction on potential use of the tower for storage or other purposes. UNACCOMPANIED ACCESS BY INEXPERIENCED PERSONS AND THOSE WITH MOBILITY PROBLEMS IS STRICTLY DISCOURAGED.

- **Lightning conductors** Arrangements have been made to have the conductors checked and certified by Heightsafe Systems early in 2020.

Bob Pritchard, Property Manager

R&R

This new reflective prayer group grew from the 4 week prayer course which was led by Elaine Fyfe and Juliet MacKellaig offering various tools for growing in prayer, using the Ignatian tradition. Most of those who attended desired some kind of follow up, and so R & R was born. The name, chosen by the group reflects its' purpose: taken from Isaiah 30, "In returning and rest you shall be saved; In quietness and in trust shall be your strength." The group initially met fortnightly and weekly during Advent and Lent using reflections and readings from 'Journeying through Advent' and 'Walking Together with Jesus'. There was some desire to continue more regularly and so with additional volunteers

given some guidance to assist with leading, the group now meets weekly. Between 6-11 meet on Wednesday evenings. One of the attendees is now attending a year long training course, Growth in Prayer and Reflective Living, led by The Epiphany group. We enjoyed a 'bring and share' meal followed by fun and games during the summer.

Wendy Pearson

Sacristans

The duty of the Sacristan is to make sure that everything is prepared and ready for services. It involves ensuring that there is wine and wafers for communion that there are candles for the altars and that the linen is laundered. We change the frontals according to the season, or for special occasions. It is very much a behind the scenes, routine, job in the church which is not onerous but is nevertheless very rewarding. This year we especially wish to say a huge thank you to Jan Shepherd who retired as Sacristan. We are very grateful for all that she has done for the church in this role. It is a pleasure to welcome Bev Henderson who has taken on this task. Change gives an opportunity to consider how things are done and we have made some small changes to the weekly routine to make duties smoother and also to allow for any days when neither Sacristan is available. We would of course welcome any one who feels this is something that they would like to do. Please speak to Nicki or Joan.

Joan Smith

Safeguarding

Training courses were organised during the year, and in March Nicki, Margaret Holmes and Russell Philp attended a session in North Berwick. I had attended the same course the previous year and therefore my attendance was not required.

More members of the congregation have joined the PVG Scheme with regard to their various new duties within the Church. My photograph has been included in the Church website as PVG coordinator, and as required I have attended a Vestry meeting to report on safeguarding issues.

A copy of this report will also be set to Simon Filsell who is the Diocesan Protection Officer.

Christine Nimmo

St Raphael's Prayer Group

The good work of the Prayer Group has continued for another year and I would like to thank all members for their faithful support.

Our monthly meeting takes place in church where the still and prayerful atmosphere guides us in our thoughts of those who are passing through times of difficulty.

Judith Mackintosh

Shalom

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

As usual about a dozen of us have met on the last Saturday of each month. Different members of the group have led us, beginning with some minutes of quiet 'stilling' and then using music, art, poetry, prose and scripture in different ways to aide our prayers and reflections.

One Saturday we reflected on The Road to Emmaus and then trekked our way to Bill and Sarah for a shared lunch. We have made use of the beautiful church garden on one or two occasions but continue to use the Lady Chapel as our sacred space. Several of us attended the quiet morning for advent, 'Welcome the Light' and joined R& R during Advent and Lent.

Jean Myers

The Sign

Since taking on the role of editing and producing The Sign, Marie has been kept very busy keeping us up to date with everything that is happening within our Community.

The Sign continues to inform us of duties, forthcoming services and events, what's going on in the local community along with wonderful photographs of events that have taken place. The 'Last month in pictures' introduced by Marie is

particularly good for those who are housebound, as they still get to enjoy the beauty of our church from the comfort of their homes.

If you do not receive a named edition and wish to do so, please contact Marie in the office. The cost is £12 for the year, or £18 should you wish to have a copy posted to you.

My thanks to everyone for their contributions and photographs making The Sign full, informative and colourful church magazine.

Revd Nicki McNelly

Verandah Café and Boutique

Every Thursday afternoon since 1975 volunteers from St Cuthbert's have staffed the café and, more recently, the Boutique in the Royal Edinburgh Hospital. We serve tea, coffee and soft drinks, cakes and rolls, and provide a welcoming space for patients, visitors and staff. Our profits go to the wards to buy extras such as outside visits, art and craft materials and Christmas treats.

2019 has been a mixed year. At the end of April someone dropped a lighted cigarette end into the litter bin in the corridor next to the café and the fire spread causing damage in the pantry and kitchen areas. Both café and boutique were closed until mid-September resulting in a loss of income.

Fortunately the hospital renovated the area, we have reopened and customers are returning.

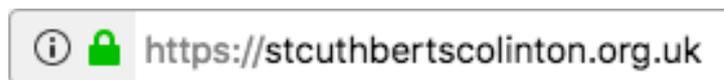
Over the year several volunteers have resigned but we have been lucky enough to find two or three more so hope to continue into next year fundraising for patients. However, new volunteers are always needed.

Hilary Pritchard

Website

The website team continue to try and keep the website as up to date and informative as possible. During the year we changed the events section into a proper calendar with more information about what is happening in our Church. We hope that people find this useful.

The big change this year was moving our hosting site from the one linked to the Dioceses. With a lot of input from Katie Brown (Holmes) our site was migrated to a new hosting site in August. Our web address has remained the same and we now have an added secure layer.



As well as links to the Church's Facebook page the website now has links to the recently added Twitter and Instagram accounts.



If there is something you feel should be included on the website, which is not already covered, please let me know as the information on it is only as good as the information provided. Good photographs of Church activities, with permission to put on-line, are particularly appreciated.

Susan Clark - Web Manager

Young People

This year we have six children of Primary age for whom sessions are run each Sunday in term time during the service. New for this year is a creche area in church with soft mats and Bible themed character toys, puppets and books (newly purchased). We have four children under 5 years old who use this area and it has been useful during festivals or Baptism services for visiting toddlers. It had been hoped to set up a more formal creche session for the toddlers providing a story and song session before returning to church to play but we have been unable to recruit enough people to run a rota. We have six children of Secondary age who meet with Nicki and Joan on a monthly basis on a Sunday evening to explore faith and share pizzas!

The Spring term saw us looking at The Lord's Prayer. We took a line or phrase each week reading stories & chatted about the meaning of the line & how it affects us in 2019. We sang the Lord's Prayer song at the Family Service reinforcing the work & giving more opportunities for the children to join in worship. In the Summer term we returned to Godly Play

starting with stories of Abraham and Moses. We intended to continue Godly Play in the Autumn Term but were short of some equipment (which was lent to us when we last offered Godly Play eight years ago). The vestry have kindly agreed to the purchase of a Temple, Tabernacle and an olive wood Holy Family. These beautiful items have just arrived so we will take up the story in November. Meanwhile we have been using various art techniques (sponge printing, press print, weaving, marbling, origami) to create a frieze about the story of Moses. Kay has also run seasonal sessions connected to eco church.

The children are keen to be involved in the wider life of the church by participating in the All Age Worship on the First Sunday of the month by reading, doing intercessions, carrying the elements and acting as Ministrants. The older children helped run the Good Friday Service for children and ran a slot for the 24-hour prayer event; leading a prayer walk in the village and planting prayer sunflowers.

Socialising is an important aspect of encouraging our young people in church and they have joined in the church Burns' Supper and had fun at an Escape the Room problem solving session followed by pizza at Pizza Express. The mums have also enjoyed an afternoon tea party.

Megan Emmerson