

THE SIGN

SEPTEMBER 2021



**ST. CUTHBERT'S
SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH
COLINTON**

THE SIGN SEPTEMBER 2021

**St Cuthbert's
Scottish 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 concern for those who have been hurt by their experiences of life.



Facebook: @stcuthbertscolinton



Instagram: stcuthbertscolinton



Twitter: @stcuthbertsSEC

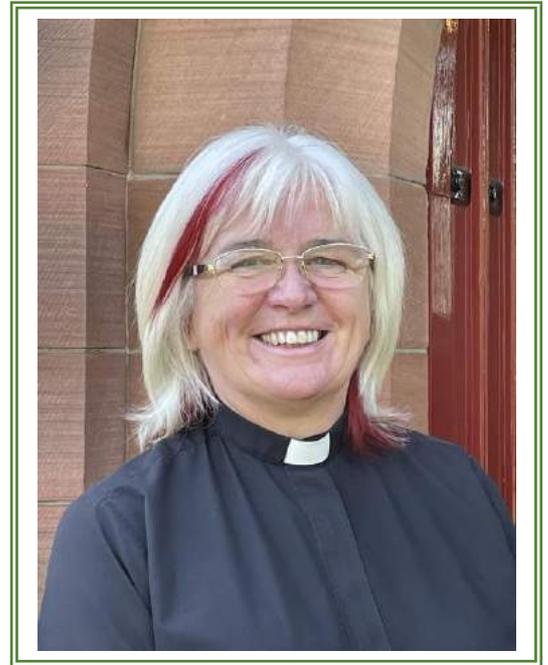


St Cuthbert's Scottish Episcopal Church Colinton

[Front Page Photograph: the St Cuthbert's Wild Flower Meadow in August 2021]

Dear Friends,

I hope this finds you well and enjoying quality time with family and friends as restrictions are lifted. While some will be rejoicing in this, others may be feeling pressurised or anxious, so please continue to be kind to each other and respect the wishes of those who are not yet ready to lose all restrictions.



It's hard to believe that some of our children are already back at school and the others will be returning shortly. I wish them all every blessing as they begin a new school year.



I have just returned from a retreat in Liverpool. Each year I meet with three other ladies I met while studying for ordination at Durham. We choose cathedral cities to enjoy the worship while we are there. While the lack of face coverings was strange for me, I thoroughly enjoyed our visit and found both cathedrals beautiful differently. The Anglican cathedral had a display of peace doves – very apt with the current news from Afghanistan. Not only is this affecting the Afghani people but

also the families of those who lost lives or limbs while serving there over the last twenty years. Please keep all involved in your prayers at this time.

Through September and up to Harvest (10th October) we will be marking Creationtide and will be thinking about the ways we can change how we live to help save God's creation for future generations. Eco Congregation has many resources to help, as we approach COP26 in Glasgow. I am still looking for volunteers to form an Eco Congregation Committee to enable us to participate in the work recommended for churches to help with this huge task. **Please get in touch if you would be interested.**

We will continue with some Covid19 restrictions throughout September, which you will find later in the magazine. While we may be changing more slowly than the government restrictions, this is to help those who may be a little nervous as things change. As I said at the beginning, please continue to be kind.

From October 3rd we will return to the main sung service at 10.30am on Sunday and a said service with hymns at 10.30am on Wednesday. The 8.30am Sunday service will restart for a trial period up to Christmas. The Sunday 10.30am service will be broadcast live through our website and those who are housebound and have no internet will continue to receive a printed order of service, including the sermon and intercessions. Evensong will restart in January, as we have evening services each month (harvest / memorial / Advent / Christmas) until then. My thanks to Philip Rossiter for his support in arranging all this.

On September 26th our curate, Dr Lesley Penny, will be ordained Deacon at St. Mary's Cathedral before joining us in October. You will hear from Lesley in the next magazine but please continue to keep her and her family in your prayers at this time.

Wishing you a blessed Creationtide.

Love
Nicki

VESTRY REPORT

Vestry July 2021

- The matter of investing church money in companies that supports the environment is on the agenda of Synod and Diocesan Synod. Nicki and Vestry will follow this with interest.
- Vestry approved the financial support for Nicki and Lesley (curate) to attend the Clergy Conference in Pitlochry in November.
- Martin had distributed the 9-month accounts (and budget) up until 31 May 2021, via email, and reported that the accounts remain in line with the budget.
- A £95,000 legacy from Miss Colin Murray has been received with a further final payment being made once tax and lawyer's fees have been determined.
- The bill for the repairs to the Church and Rectory roof is now in.
- Iain provided vestry with a spreadsheet summarising the work completed, required, planned and in progress with cost estimates.
- The roof on the rectory entrance is rotting and needs repair.
- The church lightning conductor is faulty. The treasurer has approved its replacement.
- The siting of the Defibrillator is ongoing and Vestry requested that it temporarily be made available for use inside the church/Hall.
Martin and Iain will agree on a place where it can be available.
- Vestry had been sent a sequence of drawings from Tod & Taylor Architects by email, showing a proposed development project for the Church spaces and were asked to comment. The comments were generally positive and the congregation is to be asked for their vision for how the church may be used in the future before presenting these plans to the congregation.
- The latest provincial Synod decided that Clergy should have two days off per week. Nicki intends to take Thursday afternoon, Friday and a half-day on Saturday. She is struggling to get in her holidays this year with only half taken so far.
- Announcements from the First Minister in August are likely to bring changes to the restrictions due to COVID. We are likely to act on these changes from September. We may try to transmit the Sunday service live and Nicki is to get more information from Haddington Church about using a camera (cost around £2200). We would need Canon 35 for the installation of a camera. This is because we cannot transmit live film on to YouTube, as you need 1000 subscribers to do this.
- Lesley is being ordained on 26th September and joins us as Curate on the 10th October.
- Caroline provided a written report via email on her work with the young people. Caroline continues her work both on-line, maintaining contact and communication with our young people and also at Sunday school in person when this has been possible.
- The Diocese has set up a buddy system and Nicki has been asked to support John Vincent at St Martin's, Dalry. Martin suggested from past history that she would need to be in touch to give support at least once a month.
- Thinking forward to the AGM, it was determined on length of office, that it is Patricia and Wendy that are due to stand down as Vestry members this year and that we would then have a possible four vacancies to fill.
- With COP26 being held in Glasgow in November and the aim for zero carbon by 2030, Julia and Bev have agreed to research information available and what is involved in Eco-Congregation membership.
- There are four weddings booked, 18th, 25th, 26th September and 6th November.

The full minutes are available from the Vestry Secretary. An electronic version can be requested by email, contact: julia.roberts01@btinternet.com

Creationtide

This is probably new to most of us at St. Cuthbert's and I have heard people in the church ask what it is, so here is an explanation from the originators (seasonofcreation.org):

This global celebration began in 1989 with the Ecumenical Patriarchate's recognition of the Day of Prayer for Creation and is now embraced by the wide ecumenical community. Prayer is a powerful experience and tool to raise awareness and foster transformational relations and ministry.

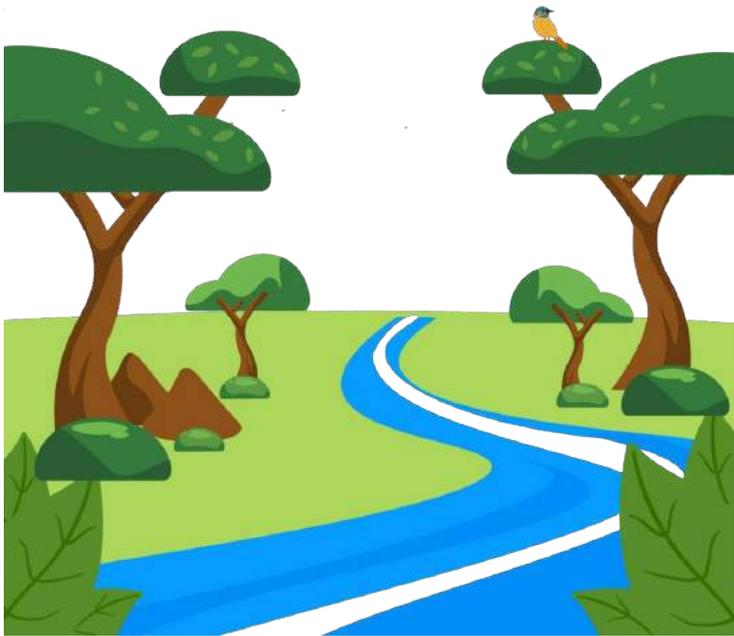
This year our theme is **A Home for All? Renewing the *oikos* of God**. It is our hope to work together to develop a larger Biblical and cosmological horizon, not only to be edified by the texts themselves, but to develop a new way to see Scripture, life, and Earth all in the Oikos of God and to acknowledge the wisdom from countless sisters and brothers helping all to renew our world as an interconnected and interdependent global beloved community.

In Genesis God set a dome over the Earth. The word "dome" is where we get words such as 'domicile' and 'domestic' — in other words, God puts us all in — all people, all life — under the same domed roof — we are all in the house, the *oikos* of God. God gave humans the ministry to take care and cultivate this *oikos* of God. The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and others have called the *oikos* of God "the Beloved Community," a community in which all of life are equally members, though each has a different role.

The *oikos* is a home for all but it is now in danger because of greed, exploitation, disrespect, disconnection and systematic degradation. The whole creation is still crying out. Since the dawn of the Industrial Revolution the geography where we recognize God's creative power has continued to shrink. Today only scraps of the human consciousness recognize God acting to restore and heal the Earth. We have forgotten that we live in the household of God, the *oikos*, the Beloved Community. Our fundamental interconnectedness has been at best forgotten, at worst deliberately denied.

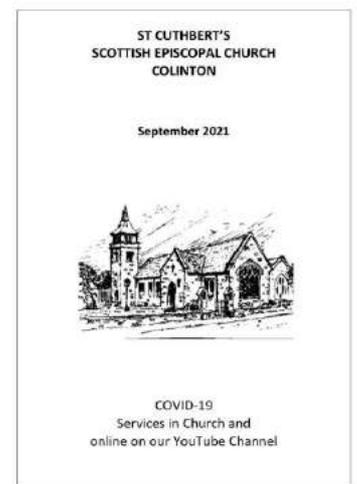
It is our hope and prayer that we can become again this beloved community of intentional discipleship. We hope to move beyond the programmatic and didactic aspects of life to the prophetic and spiritual life, to the action and way of life, which is shaped by Jesus.

May we be the champions to renew life, the servant leaders of all life in the Beloved Community, the *oikos* of God.



Orders of Service

During Creationtide, in a small effort to reduce our paper usage, we are going to use reusable orders of service. These will not have the Collect, hymns, or readings in them. I have been informed that in the past, people didn't like to have a separate sheet with these on, so we won't produce them. However, a pew sheet with the weekly notices will be given out each week. The hymns will be displayed on the hymn boards and the worship leader will announce them.



If you would prefer to have access to a copy of the Collect and readings on a separate sheet when you attend, could you please let Marie know when you book.

Thank you, Nicki.



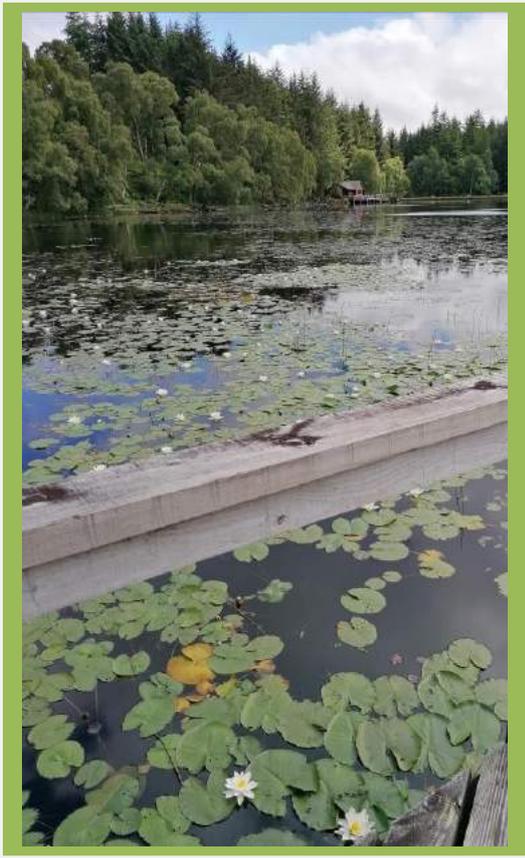
News from the NSM.

This month of September we're recognizing as the Season of Creation, a time for us to renew in worship our commitment to the stewardship of God's wonderful creation, a stewardship which we human beings have sadly neglected or abused, leading to our current global ecological

crisis. That is the Church's stated aim for these weeks of early autumn, but basically one which I'm sure has been on all our hearts and minds in recent times, especially since the start of the pandemic. I know I've become more personally interested in the world of flora and fauna surrounding me, in my garden, in nearby open spaces and in the countryside and shoreline close to Edinburgh. This has been enhanced and strengthened by a holiday I took in early July.

I firmly believe that God has a hand in what could otherwise be regarded as irritating blocks to original plans. When my booked cruises for this summer were all cancelled, despite initial annoyance I felt determined to substitute these missed breaks with something I could do as an individual in Scotland. Early investigations proving fruitless, I'm sure it was God's will that I should suddenly remember an article in my May issue of 'Country Living' magazine. So, it was with utter joy that I found myself able to book a week's holiday/course at the Aigas Field Centre, near Beaully in the Highlands.

It couldn't have fitted more perfectly into my wish to learn more about our natural environment and the importance of conservation and renewal in combatting our global crisis. The founder, Sir John Lister-Kaye, who set up the Field Centre in 1977, is a world-renowned naturalist and conservationist. A man with twinkling eyes



and infectious enthusiasm, he and his wife welcome groups of people from all over the world between spring and autumn every year. Aigas is set in a former baronial estate, comprising extensive grounds with varying habitats, from loch and moorland to forest and meadow. Its highly trained young Rangers, possessing wide-ranging knowledge, lead fascinating tours in the estate and in nearby Highland areas on the West coast, The Black Isle, the Cromarty Firth and Glen Affric. I learned a lot, ticking off a list of 70 different bird species, for example, as well as absorbing the benefits of

environmental renewal for biodiversity and the combatting of climate change.

But, at the same time as gaining valuable knowledge to underpin my wish to do my own, albeit meagre, contribution to slow down the ecological disaster we're all facing, I had so much fun and laughter. Breakfast and dinner were taken in the magnificent baronial hall, being treated to Cordon Bleu standards of cooking. Our picnic lunches were packed in individual, reusable canvas bags, with paper name tags attached – very ecologically friendly.

There's so much more I could say about my amazing experience at Aigas, which has left a lasting impression on me, and a wish to return soon. My interest has inspired me to read some of Sir John's books, which are written in a delightfully poetic and accessible manner. So, anyone who would like to know more about Aigas or Sir John's books, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Blessings, Margaret.



■ HAVE to be honest THAT ■ AM now getting quite excited to START the new term AND ■ AM full of IDEAS which ■ AM looking FORWARD to sharing with the Sunday School And Youth Group. ■ It will be AMAZING to HAVE Sunday School BACK weekly AND get to know the whole congregation more As ■ get to meet you All And TALK A little more.

At the end of the summer term, the Sunday School had A lovely CELEBRATION using Godly PLAY MATERIALS. ■ It WAS lovely to see FAMILIES together ENGAGING AND discussing in the story AS they told it together



on their TABLES AND during their CRAFT CREATION AFTERWARDS. The story we were looking AT WAS Jesus being CAST AWAY from the temple in his own town.

The youth group ALSO met up for pizza AND evensong AT the end of the LAST term AND ■ AM looking FORWARD to worshipping AND HAVING more fun with them over the next term. ■ AM looking FORWARD to discussing our CLIMATE CHANGE Project AS we get closer to COP-26 AND other things they MAY wish to take on or do. A BLANK CANVAS is super exciting WAY to START off And LEAD to lots of new Adventures AS we grow in FAITH together.



It will be fun being with both groups AS we get BACK together AND will be together in person RATHER than over EMAIL for so much of the year.



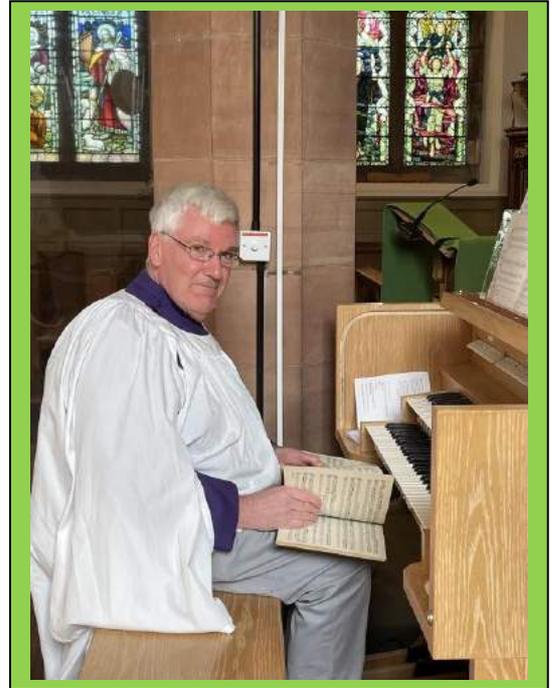
I AM hoping with lockdown EASING, it will be easier to meet with other workers And plan LARGER events AS well AS MAYbe being ABLE to meet with teachers And see if we CAN offer support in schools. **I** will ALSO be on the hunt for volunteers. **I** AM Also hoping to do some LARGER ACTIVITIES AT St Cuthbert's AND we will be looking for people who enjoy doing (AND helping others

do) CRAFT ACTIVITIES, people who like telling stories, BAKING AND people MAKING coffee, TEA AND drinks.

From the 18 – 26 September, it is the CLIMATE Fringe Week AND **I** AM planning on ARRANGING some ACTIVITIES for the website AS well AS HAVING the SUNDAY School do some DRAWINGS for welcome boards. **I**f you ARE interested in getting involved, here is the website AND you CAN see ALL the ACTIVITIES listed: <https://climatefringe.org/>

I AM beginning to PLAN more environmental, Advent AND CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES AND looking to do some bigger events which will Also encourage the LOCAL community to become involved. Hopefully some exciting things to be looking FORWARD to over the next few months!

CAROLINE



Music Notes:

One of the real joys of the months of July and August has been to hear the congregational singing of hymns in St Cuthbert's once again, led by a small choir. It really has given our services such a lift and, I know, has been greatly appreciated by all attending them. However, we have not been totally starved of hearing hymns being sung, and my sincere thanks go to Donald Mackintosh for so willingly taking on the role of solo singer on a number of occasions before congregational singing was permitted.

Looking ahead, we plan to increase gradually the role of singing in our services. From the beginning of September, we will resume the singing of the Gloria and add a final post-communion hymn. In September, we are in the season of Creationtide, which will be reflected in all of the hymns which we sing. The different liturgy which will be used does not include the Sanctus, Benedictus and Agnus Dei, so we need to wait a little while longer to sing these sections of the Mass.

On Sunday 10 October, we will be celebrating our Harvest Festival: if all has gone according to plan, we will resume a full Sung Eucharist at that point, hopefully with an anthem from the choir during the administration of communion. With this Sunday also being Lesley's first Sunday with us as Curate, Harvest 2021 will be an occasion of true thanksgiving.

Philip Rossiter



Update on Zoom Sunday Socials



The announcement of church socials no longer taking place is not normally good news. However, with our Zoom Sunday Socials this is indeed the case! Now that Covid restrictions are being gradually reduced and our Sunday worship is open to all those who wish to attend, we feel there is, at this point, no need to offer a time for socializing online. This is particularly true when we celebrate Harvest in October and begin to enjoy coffee in the hall again. Zoom Sunday Social served an important purpose during Lockdown, when it was so difficult to see our friends, but it is certainly a time for celebration as we slowly move into easier and more relaxed times. Thank you to all those who joined us on Zoom. Hopefully we will have no need of such gatherings again!



If you would like to help arrange the flowers in Church at any time during the year, please let Margaret Holmes know. Thank you.



“Pew News is YOUR News”

If you would like to share your ‘news’ with the congregation, to be printed in the pew notices, and appear on our Website, please just email:



**stcuthbertscolinton@gmail
or telephone: 07305911986**

Photographs from the Garden in July & August...

**“Thank you to our team of Volunteer Gardeners
who keep our grounds looking beautiful,
especially during the summer months,
and enjoyed by many.”**



Covid19 Restrictions for September

(which can be amended at any time)

- Masks will continue to be worn.
- No social distancing, so you may sit anywhere.
- If you would prefer to continue to socially distance in church, please let us know when you book.
- Hymn books and reusable orders of services will be used.
- Communion will be received at the altar. Please be aware of those around you and only move forward when invited by the welcomer. Remember to keep your mask on to receive the wafer, eat it and put your mask back on to return to your seat. We continue to receive the wafer only.
- Plate Donations are resumed.
- We still have to keep a record of those attending for 21 days following, so please continue to book through Marie in the usual manner for all services. (Any visitors will give their details to the welcomers on the day).

How to book:

By Email: stcuthbertscomms@gmail.com

By Telephone: 07305 911986

When to book:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 10am – 1pm

We look forward to welcoming you to a service in church.

READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER 2021 Year B



1 & 5 September – Pentecost 15

Isaiah 35. 4-7a

James 2. 1-10, 14-17 (Not for the family service)

Mark 7. 24-37

8 & 12 September – Pentecost 16

Isaiah 50. 4-9a

James 3. 1-12

Mark 8. 27-38

15 & 19 September – Pentecost 17

Jeremiah 11. 18-20

James 3. 13 – 4. 3, 7-8a

Mark 9. 30-37

22 & 26 September – Pentecost 18

Numbers 11. 4-6, 10-16, 24-29

James 5. 13-20

Mark 9. 38-50

29 September & 3 October – Pentecost 19

Genesis 2. 18-24

Hebrews 1. 1-4; 2. 5-12 (not for the family service)

Mark 10. 2-6

10 October – Harvest

Deuteronomy 8. 7-18

1 Timothy 2. 1-7

Matthew 6. 25-33

A New Thursday Service

On Thursday 2nd September at 2.30pm we shall be holding the first of our new afternoon services. Each service will follow a different theme and will include hymns, readings, prayers and reflection.

Anyone who would like to share in a more informal, shorter, relaxed and engaging mid week service will be most welcome.

They will be led by a team of three, coordinated by Margaret Dineley.

There will be an opportunity to enjoy the company of others and chat after the service. These services will be held on the **first Thursday** of each month.

Dates till Christmas:

Thursday	September	2	2.30pm
Thursday	October	7	2.30pm
Thursday	November	4	2.30pm
Thursday	December	2	2.30pm

Welcome

What is the Church for?



A talk by Bishop Bob in
Church

2pm Wednesday

29th September

All Welcome



Please pray for Dr Lesley Penny as she is ordained
Deacon on Saturday 26th September at St. Mary's
Cathedral, before beginning her curacy with us on
Sunday 10th October.

Please also pray for her husband, Colin and daughters,
Kirsty and Isla. We look forward to welcoming them to St.
Cuthbert's.



***"In returning and rest you shall be saved;
In quietness and in trust shall be your strength."
Isaiah 30***

"a special time of fellowship and spiritual nourishment"

After a break over the summer, R& R resumes again on Wednesday 1st September and will run weekly, on Zoom, in the first instance. Our time together begins with social chat at 7.15pm and the session starts properly with a short time of stilling at 7.30pm.

R&R offers a gentle, welcoming, sacred space of stillness and quiet, in contrast to our busy lives. In the hour spent together, we read and reflect on a piece of scripture, share our thoughts and pray. All of this does offer an opportunity to grow into a deeper relationship with God and each other – the time passes amazingly fast!

If you feel drawn to explore or deepen your spiritual life, or just "Be", please think of joining us. You will be most welcome and as each week stands alone, you can dip in and out as you wish.

The group is led by a team of three, all trained in Spiritual Conversation by The Epiphany Group Scotland. Take a look at the website, if you wish to find out more. www.epiphanygroup.org.uk or contact Wendy Pearson,

wendypearson37@gmail.com



Harvest Festival

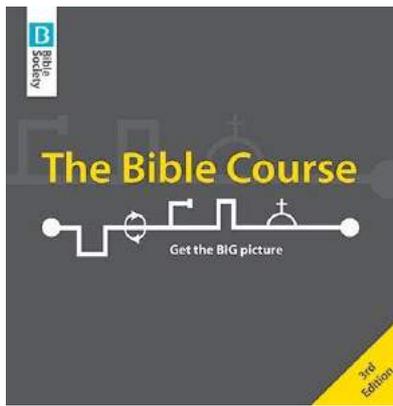
10th October 2021

Please bring donations of non-perishable foods, cleaning or hygiene products for the Trinity, Oxfams and St. Salvador's food banks. If you prefer to give a financial donation specifically for Trinity Food Bank, please pass it to Susan or Patricia.



The service will be followed by a soup and sweet lunch to celebrate our being together fully as a community following the pandemic and to welcome Revd Dr. Lesley Penny and her family, as Lesley begins her curacy with us.





Monday at 2pm
for 8 weeks commencing
11th October

Key features

- *The Bible Course* helps you see how the books of the Bible are part of one big story
- Using a unique storyline, *The Bible Course* will show you how key events, books and characters fit together
- Video teaching, written guides, diagrams and readings will help you grow in confidence as you read the Bible for yourself

Big, complex, old ... just some of the words people use to describe the Bible. Sound familiar? That's where *The Bible Course* comes in. The course will increase your confidence, equip you to read the Bible better and help you to see its relevance to daily life. The course provides a birds-eye view of the world's bestselling book.

Contact Nicki if you would like to join her on The Bible Course.



COP 26

Eco Congregation Scotland

All our food comes from God. As the seasons slowly change crops ripen and are gathered in. Fruits swell on trees and bushes, ready for picking. The smell of jam cooking fills kitchens. Food is stored away in readiness for winter by animals and humans alike.

We rely on the sunshine and the rain to ripen and water the crops. Yet the weather also has the power to destroy crops, high winds flatten wheat, plants in parched soils wither but flooding may wash away crops of winter vegetables, leading to shortages of specific foods. In other countries lack of food leads to severe famines and humanitarian crises.

In Scotland the average household wastes throws away about £460 of food a year, much of it still edible.

What are your favourite foods? Have you ever tried to grow any of your favourites?

God provides food but access to good food is a real issue for many people living in this country. How can we make access to food fair for everyone? How can we ensure that the price we pay for food is fair to the producer as well as to the shop selling the food?

If you have grown food talk about your experiences of planting and harvesting food. What effect has the weather had on your crops?

Do you ever have left over food? What kinds of things have you tried to reduce food waste? Do you have any top tips or recipes that you could share with others?

**Please note - the deadline for information and articles
for the October Issue will be**

Sunday 12 September 2021

Please send to stcuthbertscolinton@gmail.com

Thank you!

One or two volunteers needed!

I am commencing an 8 month course with the Epiphany Group at the end of September, called Spiritual Accompaniment. This follows on from two previous training courses I have completed, and the aim is to further develop skills in helping another to notice, appreciate and become more aware of Gods' presence in every day life.

In order to develop and practice my skills, I am required to meet individually (once a month approximately) with two people over the duration of the course. If anyone would be interested in supporting me in this way, and hopefully experiencing some rich conversations together, I would be very happy to discuss further. Please drop me an email or give me a phone. Take a look at the Epiphany Group website to find out more www.epiphanygroup.org.uk



Thanks, Wendy Pearson

From the Archivist

This is the continued account of the history in the Old Testament after the death of Solomon:

The Rise of Greek Culture and Influence

In the Spring 334 BC Alexander the Great launched his attack against the Persian Empire. The whole empire crumbled as first Asia Minor (modern Turkey) and then Egypt fell to Alexander.

Then the Greek king turned his eyes east, entering Media and Persia before reaching the Indus and the Indian Ocean. He died of a fever in Babylon in 323 BC leaving his vast empire in the hands of his generals. Ptolemy had been appointed governor of Egypt by Alexander and continued his rule of the province after Alexander's death. The remainder of Alexander's Asian territories fell into the hands of Seleucus. For the next 150 years the two families fought each other. The dispute centred on the control of Syria and the neighbouring territories including Judea.

Virtually nothing is known about life in this time. A council made up of priests and nobles ruled the country with the High Priest acting as an intermediary between them and the royal government. It was the king who appointed the High Priest. More and more of these leaders adopted Greek culture and even took an interest in religious matters. One High Priest had the Greek name of Jason.

Of course, there remained many Jews who clung to the old traditions. They studied and followed the Laws of Moses. This group were known as the Pietists. They were prepared to use violence against any Jews whom they considered to be straying from the old ways. By 167 BC the situation was beginning to turn into chaos. Antiochus IV ordered a large body of troops into Jerusalem to restore order and put down these Pietist rebels. Many of them were killed, but others fled into the countryside spreading their ideas.

In a village, called Modin, close of the coast there lived an old priest called Mattathias who was a member of the Hasmonean family. He heard that a Jew in Modin was about to obey the royal commands and make a sacrifice to the Greek god, Zeus. He killed the offending Jew and fled to the hills with his five sons. The Pietists had suffered from a great disadvantage because they would not fight on the Sabbath. Mattathias interpreted the Law differently. Jews were allowed to defend themselves on the Sabbath.

Under ordinary circumstances, the Pietist rebels would have stood little chance against the might of the Seleucid Empire. But times were not normal. The Parthians had established themselves in the eastern part of Alexander's empire. Now they started to push into Media (North East Iran) and into the lands around Babylon. Antiochus had few troops to spare to put down a revolt in Judea.

Judah Maccabee and his Brothers

Mattathias died and the leadership fell to his son, Judah, who was nicknamed Maccabee, meaning hammer. Guerrilla warfare, supported by fanatical fighters, enabled him to capture Jerusalem by the end of 165 BC. He rededicated the Temple and set up an altar for worship. The death of Antiochus IV at the hands of the Parthian invaders weakened the Seleucid Empire's ability to strike back.

Already the long shadow of Rome began to appear in the east. By 166 BC their influence extended into Greece and northern Asia Minor (modern Turkey). Pressure from the Roman Senate forced Antiochus IV to withdraw from Egypt. All this allowed the Hasmonean family to establish an independent Judea.

This still remained a very violent world. In 134 BC, Simon, the last son of Mattathias was murdered with his two sons in Jericho. The perpetrator was his own son-in-law. Unfortunately the assassins failed to kill the third son, John Hyrcanus. He seized power and set about expanding the territory on the new kingdom of Judea.

The new king moved north into Samaria taking Shechem and destroying the sanctuary. Shechem was the ancient meeting place of the tribes of Israel. Here Rehoboam, the son and heir of Solomon, met the leaders of the ten tribes in 922 BC. He also turned south into the land known then as Idumaea. His armies marched east into the land across the Jordan.

A new policy began to appear under the Hasmoneans. Tribes who were conquered, during this period of expansion, were forced to convert to Judaism. This did not meet with unanimous approval by Jewish elders, adding to the growing divisions among the religious elites. It was their religious beliefs and practices which separated the Jews from the rest of the inhabitants of the land. By now, the Hasmonean court began to take the appearance of those in the neighbouring lands. Greek culture and language still dominated the lands of the eastern Mediterranean. John Hyrcanus died in 104 BC and his son, Judah Aristobolus, continued his work of expansion in a reign that lasted only one year.



CHRISTIAN AID

The UK government has broken its manifesto pledge and cut the overseas aid budget from 0.7% to 0.5% of gross national income (GNI). This means **£4bn** less going to the world's poorest people.



This 0.2% is a matter of life and death

"...fewer girls will be educated, more girls and boys will become slaves, more children will go hungry and more of the poorest people in the world will die."

Theresa May

The 0.2% pledge - Christian Aid

We cannot turn our backs on the world's poorest people, especially during a global pandemic. And whilst your gift won't plug the gap left by government cuts, we invite you to stand in solidarity with our global neighbours for the months and years to come.

Take a stand with the world's poorest people and give 0.2% of your income each month

The Christian Aid website has a handy calculator! To give you an idea of the amounts involved, I put in a few numbers:

Annual Income	£15,000	Monthly Gift	£2.50
	£20,000		£3.33
	£30,000		£5.00
	£40,000		£6.67

To find the calculator and how to donate,

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/give/ways-to-donate/0.2-pledge-aid-budget>

A YEAR AGO.....

despite the restrictions imposed by Covid, the Christian Aid group at St Andrew's and St George's Church organised two fund-raising events during the past year - a Sale of Pictures (to which many of you contributed) and a Sale of Jigsaws, Toys, Games and Detective Fiction. Together they raised an amazing £28,000.

AND THIS YEAR....

at St Andrew's and St George's Church, George Street

A SALE OF PICTURES and SCOTTISH BOOKS

Thursday 14th October – Saturday 16th October

Thursday & Friday 10 am – 5 pm

Saturday 10 am – 3 pm

Donations of any framed pictures (if you have any left!) and/or Scottish books will be gratefully received from Wednesday 1 September – Friday 10 September at 9 Thorburn Road, or I can collect from your house. Please phone or email me to arrange a time for drop-off or collection. patriciabriggnall@gmail.com

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**Dear Nicki**

**Just a wee note to thank you and your congregation for having me this morning to talk a little about the Mission to Seafarers. Margaret and I really enjoyed being with you.**



**I would also like to thank you for the cheque for £150 that was handed over to me after the service. This is greatly appreciated not only by myself but by all the Trustees and the Seafarers themselves. Every penny raised in Scotland is used to support our work in Scotland so you can be assured that it will greatly help our work here.**

**I was also handed a bag of hats that will be used by the Seafarers and again we are very appreciative. I have attached to this email a freepost label where hats can be sent at no cost to the church. Would you be able to pass it on to the appropriate person?**

**Once again very many thanks for having me.**

**Best wishes, David Graham-Service  
Finance Director and Chair - Mission to Seafarers Scotland  
Charity No SC041938 and Company No SC389483**

## THE LEPROSY MISSION

### SCOTLAND



**Dear Friends,**

**I hope all is well with TLMS supporters in St Cuthbert's. I look forward to seeing you in church as we return to normal services.**

**I will bring back the Blue Tubs and TLMS literature when permitted to do so. If you have been collecting your loose change in a Blue Tub or other container and would like me to collect it, please bring it when you return to church or contact me and I will arrange to collect it from you.**

**Throughout all these months, the work of The Leprosy Mission hasn't stopped in the Hospitals and Rehabilitation centres in India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Myanmar.**

**Our contributions are needed more than ever; so I hope you will continue your commitment to, and support for, the work of TLMS.**

**I hope to send a cheque at the beginning of October covering any contributions handed in to me during September.**

**With thanks, as always, for your support.**

*Barbara Tatlock*



[leprosymission.scot](http://leprosymission.scot)



## **St Cuthbert's Scottish Episcopal Church**

**Westgarth Avenue, Colinton, Edinburgh EH13 0BD**

**Tel: 0131 441 7580**

**Email: [stcuthbertsrector@gmail.com](mailto:stcuthbertsrector@gmail.com)**

**Website: [www.stcuthbertscolinton.org.uk](http://www.stcuthbertscolinton.org.uk)**

### ***Services:***

#### **Wednesday:**

**10.30am Eucharist**

#### **Sunday:**

**10.30am Eucharist**

**THE WEDNESDAY SERVICE IS CURRENTLY RECORDED  
FOR OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL.**

**PLEASE NOTE: IN ACCORDANCE WITH CURRENT  
GUIDELINES, WE ARE STILL REQUIRED TO KEEP A  
RECORD OF ATTENDANCE. THEREFORE, PLEASE  
RESERVE YOUR PLACE BY-**

**email: [stcuthbertscomms@gmail.com](mailto:stcuthbertscomms@gmail.com) or**

**telephone: 07305 911986**

**(Monday – Wednesday between 10am and 1pm)**

Scottish Charity Number: SC007578