

# THE SIGN

**DECEMBER 2021 & JANUARY 2022**



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

**THE SIGN  
DECEMBER 2021 &  
JANUARY 2022**

**St Cuthbert's  
Scottish Episcopal Church  
Westgarth Avenue  
Colinton  
EDINBURGH**



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: Our Lights in the Darkness of 2020]

Dear Friends,

How quickly this year has gone; already we are entering Advent and approaching Christmas, with a double magazine. There is so much information about forth-coming events, please make sure you read carefully so you don't miss anything. My AGM report was a bit long, so you can find that on the website, or let me know if you would like a printed copy.



The last month was quite busy too! Our Halloween Light Party for youngsters was superb, with a full hall and others having to be sent home with an apology and a slice of cake.

November was marked with a number of services remembering those who have died. The Memorial Service for those who died during Covid was very special, and it was a privilege to have Major Paddy Rice of 51 Brigade speak to us on Remembrance Sunday, sharing personal experiences of his own deployment.

Lesley and I had a good time on Clergy Conference at Pitlochry, spending time in prayer, discussion and worship with our peers. It was good to reflect with others and have some time of rest. The beauty of the area and the season also helped our enjoyment. God's creation in full splendour.

I hope to see or speak to you during Advent and wish you every blessing for a happy, peaceful Christmas and New Year.

With love.

*Nicki*

## Services at St. Cuthbert's

Sunday 8.30am	Said Eucharist, no sermon
Sunday 10.30am	Sung Eucharist (First Sunday being a Family Service)
Wednesday 10.30am	Said Eucharist with hymns
First Thursday each month 2.30pm	An informal service for all

There will be Sunday School at each service, apart from the Family Service.



### Services in December Sunday

5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> – as normal, 8.30am and 10.30am  
(no 8.30am on 12<sup>th</sup>)

26<sup>th</sup> – 9.30am Said Eucharist  
(no 8.30am or 10.30am service)

### Additional Services

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup>, 6.30pm – Army Carol Service (All welcome)

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>, 6pm – Nine Lessons & Carols

#### Christmas Eve:

3.30pm      Crib Service  
11.30pm     Midnight Mass

#### Christmas Day:

10.30am     Family Service

## **Vestry November 2021**

- The Health and Safety document has been updated using general principles by Joan and Philip. However, they feel that a new Health and Safety document is now needed and Jennifer Mackintosh May who works in Health and Safety has agreed to advise on this.
- The Bishop, quoting The Code of Canons, stated that a service must be held each Sunday. There will therefore, be a said Eucharist service at 9.30am on Sunday 26th December.
- Nicki requested ideas for 'Stranger in the Pew' talks and the Saturday afternoon social events.
- Bev confirmed that we have paid our Eco congregation membership.
- Martin presented Vestry with Draft printed copies of the Financial Statements from the Independent Examiner and Vestry were asked to approve the Accounts in principle. He repeated from the last Vestry that the figures are roughly in line with the Budget. He warned Vestry that investments have been static in the past although have done well in the last two years and that we should expect a £100,000 deficit per year for the next two years and that Vestry needed to address this. Several errors in the document were identified. After correction they will be circulated by email for final approval by Vestry before the AGM.
- A letter of thanks to Nicki and St Cuthbert's was noted.
- Vestry had received a letter from Wendy by email encouraging Vestry to spend more of the profit made from investments and legacies on mission.
- Vestry acknowledged with thanks the receipt of Caroline's report for the Young Church; plus a document about her taking over the Monday Playgroup (potentially beginning in January), it's potential benefit to the community and church; plus a document with proposals for buying tables and chairs for the playgroup and Sunday School, and godly play and other resources, using money from a legacy that was requested to be used for young people.
- Vestry had received an email from Ross Addison questioning the safety of the pulpit steps and whether a change was needed. Most of Vestry commented that they had also noticed that the pulpit steps were steep and awkward and had to be used with great care and sometimes assistance. Nicki is investigating if the steps themselves are listed or if we can change them. In the meantime, some people will be encouraged to use the Lectern on safety grounds.
- Iain provided vestry with a spreadsheet summarising the work completed, required, planned and in progress with cost estimate. Scaffolding has been erected at the rectory and the work on the guttering has started. A new leak has been identified in the mezzanine area of the Rectory and so the workmen will be directed to look at this. The electrical contractor is due on the 4th November. The rectory windows are 30% complete and are ongoing. The identified rectory flooring has been replaced. There is a glass door in the rectory that needs safety glass to be fitted.
- The notice board in the hall has been refitted and the defibrillator installation is imminent.

- Nicki began by thanking Martin for all his work during his time on Vestry and all that he will continue to do for the life of the Church. He has resigned from Vestry but is continuing as Treasurer and Chair of the Property committee.
- Nicki also thanked Margaret Holmes for all she has done as People's Warden and Patricia and Wendy as their term on Vestry comes to an end at the AGM.
- Nicki reported that the 10.30am services are going well with the singing in masks and by the choir working as planned and numbers quite good. The 8.30am Sunday service and the Wednesday service have a low attendance at present (usually 4-7/3-12 respectively).
- Non fixed cameras are now in place for filming the Sunday service so that it can be transmitted live via the website. Killian and Marie will collaborate to insert a button onto the website to enable this. Euan and Robert have agreed (and other volunteers will be needed) to control the application and which camera is live, using the iPad. People receiving communion cannot be filmed and a picture will be seen on line at this time. It is planned that Advent 1 will be the first live service to be filmed.
- Nicki reported on the great success of the Halloween Light party that Caroline had organised. Sadly about 20 people had been turned away as the church hall was at maximum capacity to comply with fire regulations. Joan, Bev and Margaret were thanked for helping.
- Nicki will revisit the Pastoral Care Team to see what is required going forward and who wishes to remain as Pastoral visitors and who is willing to be licensed to take home communions.
- Nicki listed the Advent and Christmas Services. These will be printed in the magazine. There will be no Wednesday service between Christmas and New Year.
- AGM- Vestry was asked to encourage people to serve on Vestry and to nominate them if in agreement. A full Vestry would enable more to be done for mission.
- Eco Meeting: Caroline, Bev, Julia - propose to send out a questionnaire to engage with the congregation re their carbon footprint and to plant a tree. Vestry approved both suggestions. We are aiming to have a Fair Trade sale possibly during coffee time after Sunday service.
- Sanctuary Project: Nicki wanted to confirm that Vestry had agreed to putting the plans with the more limited alterations, to the congregation. Vestry confirmed that this was the case for the first phase for the Church interior alterations (Vestry Minutes September 2020) and that the second phase for the hall, storage, choir vestry etc. had some divided opinions on the access and foyer area although Vestry was generally positive about the plans. Nicki commented that the money from Heather Cottage would be used up with the balance coming from the general reserve. It was noted that a legacy left to the church was earmarked for the project as this had been a request.

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

## **Budgets 2021 to 2024**

You will find enclosed the budgets for the church for the next three years. These are based on the current position and known staffing requirements. They include provision for Lesley, our Curate, who becomes a full time employee next September. Obviously the global pandemic has caused significant disruption and it is difficult to predict the future with any certainty. However these three year budgets are the best indication of what is likely to happen.

St Cuthbert's is in the fortunate position that it has a church in a good condition of repair and significant reserves which have arisen as a result of previous benefactors.

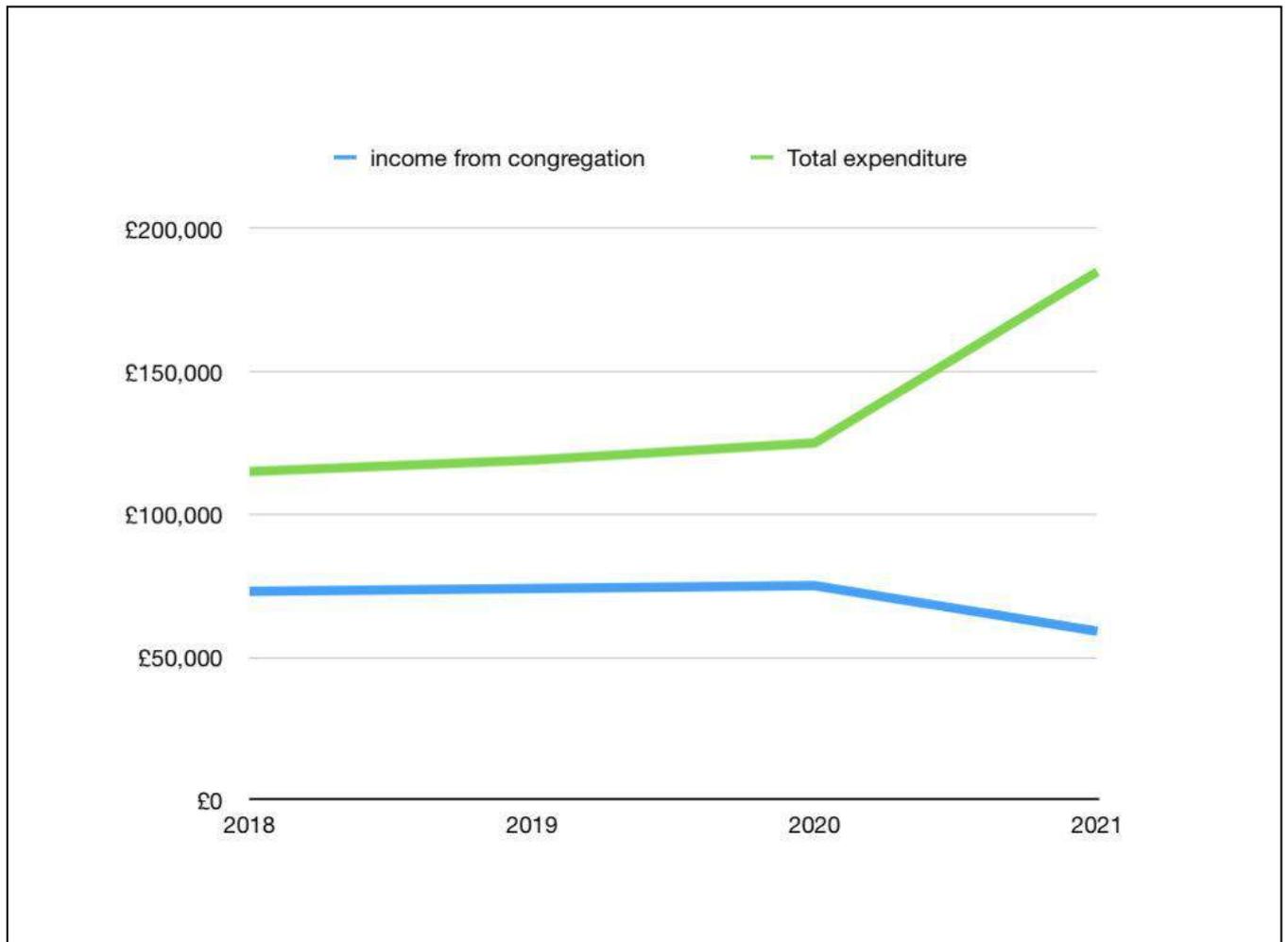
The budgets for the next three years indicate a loss of £68,000, £96,000 and £101,000. These do not include any provision for the potential rise or fall in the value of the investments. These losses are only sustainable by relying on the gains made on the value of the investments and also by using legacies to sustain the church's expenditure. This year, if you ignore the rise in the investment value and the legacy received, the church made a deficit in the order of £60,000.

We are predicting the deficit of expenditure over income over the previous year 2020/21 and for period 2021 to 2024 to be in the order of some £320,000. At this level of deficit you have to wonder whether the church is sustainable in the medium to longer term. Some might wonder about the short term also. Can it afford the current level of expenditure on staffing such as a full time Rector?

We are funding the church by using the paper increase in the value of the investment. To emphasise the point, it is only in the last two years that there has been this significant increase in the value. The market is very volatile at the moment. In fact the value of the investments fell by around £50,000 in September 2021 but has since regained its former value. The investment value is not a guarantee for the future.

The Vestry can control expenditure to a certain extent and has made a number of strategic decisions that hopefully will allow the church to grow both in Colinton and beyond. The Vestry is also considering how the church is used and whether modest alterations would allow better use of the space. The cost of the alterations and the possible increase in running costs is not included in the three year budgets. However any expenditure on the alterations requires the Vestry to consider the business case and at the moment that is hard to make that case given the figures mentioned in this article.

Income for the church is more in the hands of the congregation. Marie can do her best to sell space in the hall but we are dependent on one or two main users and this remains a significant risk to our income. We can hope that the dividends from the endowment increases but if we have to sell some of the endowment to fund the deficits then that will begin to fall.



Over the past few years the income of the church has remained largely static with very slight improvements on a year to year basis. However changes in the congregation and how it contributes have made a considerable dent in the income over the past year. It is difficult to see any substantial increase taking place in the next few years unless current members review their contributions to the church. The Vestry will be considering the issue in its future meetings but in the meantime I would urge you to consider your contribution so that we can get the deficit under control. Failure to do so could mean the church having to make some unpalatable decisions over the next few years.

Martin Fairley  
 Hon Treasurer  
 November 2021

**St Cuthbert's Scottish Episcopal Church  
Colinton Budgeted Income and Expenditure  
Account**

<b><u>Income</u></b>	<b>Budget 21/22 £</b>	<b>Budget 22/23</b>	<b>Budget 23/24</b>
Freewill Offering	5,000	5,000	5,000
Standing Orders	39,000	39,500	40,000
Gift Aid	10,000	10,000	10,000
Cash Collections	2,000	2,250	2,400
Regular Annual Donations	<u>1,400</u>	<u>1,400</u>	<u>1,400</u>
<i>Total from Congregation</i>	<i>57,400</i>	<i>58,150</i>	<i>58,800</i>
Hall rental	12,000	12,000	12,000
Printing and magazines	1,500	1,500	1,500
Dividend income	27,000	27,000	27,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>97,900</u></b>	<b><u>98,650</u></b>	<b><u>99,300</u></b>
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>			
Rector's Stipend (inc NIC and pension)	41,000	42,000	43,500
Curate		39,000	40,000
Clergy expenses	2,000	2,000	2,000
Other salaries inc admin, organists, cleaning	34,000	35,000	36,500
Training Costs	<u>750</u>	<u>750</u>	<u>750</u>
<i>Total Salary costs</i>	<i>77,750</i>	<i>118,750</i>	<i>122,750</i>
Council tax	4,500	4,650	4,750
Insurance	4,500	4,800	5,000
Property repairs	30,000	15,000	15,000
Garden upkeep	2,000	2,000	2,000
Heating and Lighting	6,000	7,000	7,000
Altar Expenses	1,000	1,000	1,000
Administration Costs	5,000	5,250	5,500
Sundry Expenses (Sundry; Housekeeping; Catering)	2,000	2,000	2,000
Sunday School/Young Adults	750	750	750
Choir	1,000	1,000	1,000
Quota	11,000	12,000	13,000
Independent Examiner's fee	2,300	2,400	2,400
Donations	5,000	5,000	5,000
SEI training support	13,000	13,000	13,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>165,800</b>	<b>194,600</b>	<b>200,150</b>
Loss	<b>(67,900)</b>	<b>(95,950)</b>	<b>(100,850)</b>

## News from the NSM

As we approach the second Christmas and New Year of the pandemic, I truly believe there's room for gratitude, even though Covid still has a hold in our country and even more so in many other, less fortunate, parts of the world. As I left the church after taking the service last Christmas Day and closed the doors, we'd no idea when we'd be able to open them again, as another lockdown started on Boxing Day. Fortunately, we returned at Easter and have remained in church ever since, albeit with restrictions, which thankfully are beginning to decrease.

One immense reason for gratitude has been the programme of vaccinations, lessening the chance of catching Covid, or at least lowering its impact. They've been developed through the skill of scientists and medical specialists, using God given gifts to the benefit of others. The time, energy and dedication of those administering these vaccines is again a cause for thankfulness.

Many of us have now been able to take holidays or visit family members living at a distance. We've enjoyed meals in restaurants and other such instances of a more 'normal' existence. But, even if some of us have been unable, for practical or medical reasons, to travel far or to mix freely, the opening up of resources like hairdressers has been beneficial. For me, being on the edge of the city has been both valuable and restorative. As you probably already realize, I'm a country bumpkin and seaside lover at heart! I'm attaching a glorious picture of autumnal trees, disappearing into the seemingly far distance, which I took recently. No, I wasn't up in the Highlands, just in the Dreghorn Woods across the road from our house!

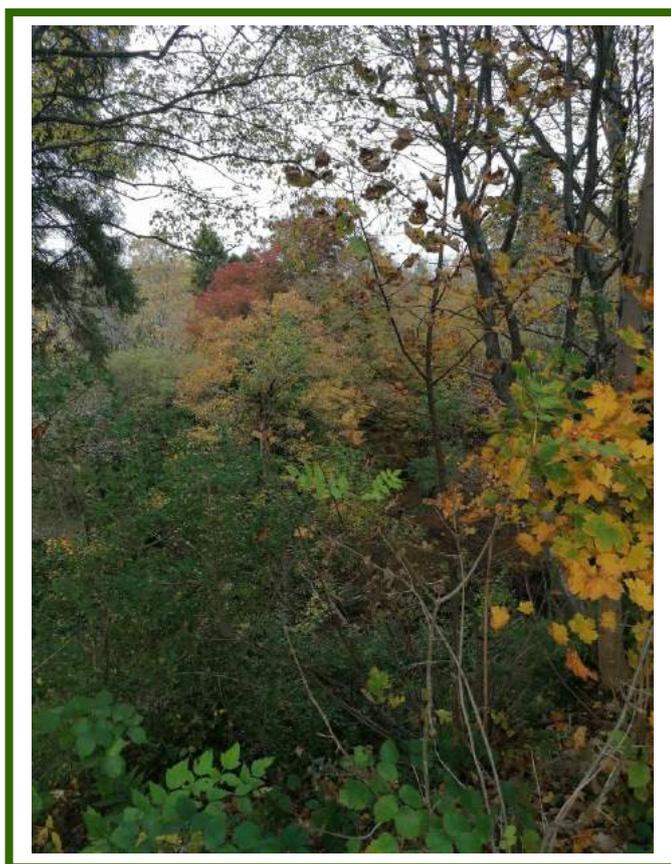
But, as I write, Cop26 is finishing and there's much anxiety as to whether it's achieved enough to slow down the damaging effect humanity has on the earth, God's wonderful creation. Hopefully it's not all been 'blah! blah! blah!' to quote Greta Thunberg. I pray that governmental words will be translated into governmental action across the world, enabling support for those with the skills, initiative and willingness to create and implement a raft of possible solutions. The developing countries suffer the most, but, as the Earthshot programme demonstrated, often have invaluable ideas which need to be

supported and emulated. I was privileged, at a service I took at St. Fillan's during Cop26, to meet a delightful young woman, a delegate from Cameroon staying with a congregational member, and was pleased to learn that she felt her voice **was** being heard. Happily we **too** are realizing that we can help, each little measure we take acting like a pebble thrown into the pond, the ripples widening into a scene of greater impact.

As I feel very strongly about this, I've increased my support of organisations undertaking rewilding projects, reintroducing native species and cutting back plastic use, both through donations and in my choice of Christmas gifts and cards. God has indeed created, and is still creating, an incredible world: it's up to humankind to limit the damage it's doing, to resume with integrity its valuable role of stewardship. There's definite hope, a hope strongly fuelled by our Christian faith and by the knowledge of the invaluable recuperative skills God has given to humanity. So, as we prepare once again to welcome God's Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, this Christmas time, 2021, and look forward to 2022, may we give thanks and praise to our loving, gracious and compassionate God.

My warm wishes, love and blessings for this coming season of rejoicing.

*Margaret.*



~ ~ ~

## St Cuthbert's Youth...

~ ~ ~

November has been a time of planning this year and getting over running our first Hallowe'en Light Party.

A huge thank you to all those who came along and helped. Those who got the word out, definitely did an amazing job and next year we hope to run it again.



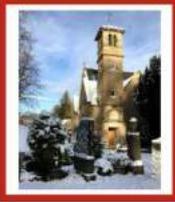
We have been invited to join in with Colinton Parish Church Angel Trail for Advent. The children will be helping me on Advent Sunday put our woolly angels from last year around the garden of the Church.

**Let's create  
Colinton  
Christmas Angels**



In the run-up to Christmas, Colinton Parish Church invites you to make, draw, knit, paint, crochet or sew an angel, and display it on your window, fence, gatepost or school railings.

Visit Colinton Parish Church website for more details:  
[www.colinton-parish.com](http://www.colinton-parish.com)



***Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and looking forward to the New Year.***

*Caroline*

# Ben Emmerson, a member of Edinburgh University OTC, laying a wreath at Remembrance...



Photo Credit: Courtesy of Edinburgh University OTC

*“Thank you to the Emmerson Family for sharing these with us”*

# December/January Music Notes:

Choir members are now getting used to their new routine of Sunday morning rehearsal followed by service, and even singing in masks and behind the perspex screens has become the “new norm”. Our first evening service since the Covid pandemic hit took place on 7 November, a memorial service, and saw a strong contribution from the choir. Apart from preparations for each Sunday, we have been working towards the Advent Carol Service and have started rehearsals for the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols. For each of these services, we will also be holding one weekday rehearsal. If, however, we have any other church members who are willing to swell our ranks for the Carol Service, I will be very pleased to hear from them – it need only involve attending rehearsals on a couple of Sunday mornings at 9.45am. In addition to our musical activities, choir members are very much looking forward to our (early) Christmas lunch, which has been booked at Osteria dei Sapore on Wednesday 1 December.

I am sure that all of us missed the singing of carols last year, which made Christmas a very different experience to any which had gone before. It is therefore a real joy to be rehearsing carols once again: hopefully, our services this Christmas will feel even more special when we can sing them together once again.

The music which the choir is planning to sing in December and January unsurprisingly reflects the Advent and Christmas season, is selected to fit in with the prescribed readings and hymns, and is as follows:

- 5 December - The truth from above (arranged by Vaughan Williams)
- 12 December - Lo, how a rose upspringing (arranged by Praetorius)
- 19 December - Christ, be our light (Bernadette Farrell, arranged by John Barnard)  
(Nine Lessons and Carols at 6pm)
- 24 December, 11.30pm ) Christmas
- 25 December, 10.30am ) Carols
- 2 January - O little one sweet (harmonized by JS Bach)
- 9 January - O Holy Spirit, Lord of Grace (Christopher Tye)
- 16 January - Across the snow (Frederick Bridge)
- 23 January - From the rising of the sun (Gore Ouseley)
- 30 January - Timeless Love (Norman Warren)

Happy Christmas and Happy New Year to all our readers!

**Philip Rossiter**



# READINGS FOR DECEMBER 2021 and JANUARY 2022 Year C

## **5<sup>th</sup> December – Advent 2**

Philippians      1. 3-11  
Luke                3. 1-6

## **12<sup>th</sup> December – Advent 3**

Zephaniah        3. 14-20  
Philippians       4. 4-7  
Luke                3. 7-18

## **19<sup>th</sup> December – Advent 4**

Micah              5. 2-5a  
Hebrews           10. 5-10  
Luke                1. 39-45

## **24<sup>th</sup> December – Midnight Mass**

Isaiah              52. 7-10  
Hebrews           1. 1-4  
John                1. 1-14

## **25<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Day**

Isaiah              62. 6-12  
Luke                2. 8-20

## **26<sup>th</sup> December – First Sunday after Christmas**

Colossians        3. 12-17  
Luke                2. 41-52

## **2<sup>nd</sup> January – The Epiphany**

Isaiah                    60. 1-6  
Matthew                2. 1-12

## **9<sup>th</sup> January – First Sunday after Epiphany: The Baptism of the Lord**

Isaiah                    43. 1-7  
Acts                      8. 14-17  
Luke                      3. 15-17, 21-22

## **16<sup>th</sup> January – Second Sunday after Epiphany**

Isaiah                    62. 1-5  
1 Corinthians        12. 1-11  
John                      2. 1-11

## **23<sup>rd</sup> January – Third Sunday after Epiphany**

Nehemiah              8. 1-3, 5-6, 8-10  
1 Corinthians        12. 12-31a  
Luke                      4. 14-21

## **30<sup>th</sup> January – Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

Jeremiah               1. 4-10  
1 Corinthians        13. 1-13  
Luke                      4. 21-30

## **6<sup>th</sup> February – The Presentation of the Lord**

Malachi                3. 1-4  
Luke                      2. 22-40

**(Readings are taken from the NRSV)**

## Current Covid19 Restrictions

(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.
- Booking is no longer required to attend.  
However we still have to keep a record of those attending for 21 days following, so please make sure the welcomer takes your name on arrival.



**A 'NEW' THURSDAY SERVICE**

**THURSDAY 2ND DECEMBER**

**AT 2.30PM**

PLEASE JOIN US FOR  
THIS SHORT INFORMAL SERVICE WHEN  
MARGARET, CAROLINE AND JOAN  
WILL TAKE US ON  
'A JOURNEY TO CHRISTMAS'

**There will be seasonal refreshments  
after the service.**

**Everyone is welcome  
and we hope to see you there.**

**Future Thursday Service Dates for your 2022 Diary:  
Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January - Epiphany  
Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February – The child Jesus**

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.com](mailto:stcuthbertscolinton@gmail.com)

or telephone: 07305 911986

Seasons Greetings to all our church hall users.  
Thank you for your support – it was good to welcome you back safely to the hall in September!

Contains promotional material

## Five Trust130 donations. One souped-up food bank.

Take out a home insurance policy with Ecclesiastical – one of the UK's most trusted home insurance providers<sup>1</sup> – and we will donate £130<sup>2</sup> to your church or cathedral. And of course the more people who take out home insurance policies, the more funds that are raised. So setting up a food bank could become a practical way to help families get back on track.

Find out more at [ecclesiastical.com/trust130](http://ecclesiastical.com/trust130)  
or call our team on 0800 7830 130  
and quote TrustP21.



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<sup>2</sup> Terms and conditions apply and can be viewed on the offer website page above.

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## Candy Cane Christmas Stockings

During Lent, June Bungay decided not to give something up but to do something to try and make Christmas 2021 more cheerful than last year, when we were unable to visit friends and family.

June knitted 100 Christmas Stockings and will be selling them during coffee on the run up to Christmas, at £1 each, with all proceeds going to Westerhailes Trinity food bank.

Please speak to June if you would like more information.

## Home made jams etc.

We are pleased to welcome back Ross who will be selling his home-made produce for charity, on 5<sup>th</sup> December and 30<sup>th</sup> January.



# ART IN ADVENT

*With Revd Canon Dean Fostekew  
(Bishop's Chaplain & Rector, The Good Shepherd)*

## Lorenzo Lotto's 'Annunciation'



Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December

11am in Church

All Welcome

# 51 Infantry Brigade Carol Service

6.30pm Thursday

9<sup>th</sup> December

You are invited to join the serving members of 51 Brigade and their families, as we host their carol service in our church this year.

They will be joined by members of the Scots Band and mince pies and mulled wine will be served afterwards.

Please support them if you can.





A Service of  
Nine Lessons and Carols  
will take place at  
**St. Cuthbert's Church**  
Westgarth Avenue  
6pm Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December

**All Welcome**



# Crib Service

Written by Val Hawthorne

3.30pm

Christmas Eve

Come and join us to see who is behind the door!

Dress up as your favourite nativity character (or any favourite) and be a part of the greatest story ever told.

We look forward to welcoming you.

Contact Revd Nicki for more information

[stcuthbertsrector@gmail.com](mailto:stcuthbertsrector@gmail.com) /

0131 441 7580



# *Christmas Eve Midnight Mass*

11.30pm

at

St. Cuthbert's  
Scottish Episcopal Church  
Colinton



*O come all ye faithful*

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

**CHRISTMAS DAY  
10.30am**

**FAMILY EUCHARIST**

**All Welcome**





## **Help Needed Please**

Do you enjoy coffee after church?

If you do, and are able to help the coffee ladies set up the tables before the service, could you please speak with Audrey Naden.

Thank you!

## **Flowers**

If you would like to sponsor a Sunday to mark a special event (birthday / anniversary etc) or in memory of someone loved and lost, please speak to Margaret Holmes.

Volunteers are also needed to join the flower rota. Teaching can be given to a willing person.



**THE LEPROSY MISSION**  
**SCOTLAND**



Dear Friends,

Many thanks, as always, for handing in your Blue Tubs in recent weeks. I sent a cheque for £175 to TLMS on your behalf last month.

If you have picked up a Blue Tub from the shelf at the back of the church and which you wish to return in the coming weeks, please will you hand it in to me when you see me or put it on the collection plate so that it can be kept in the safe until it can be given to me at a later date.

The new LEPROSY MISSION PRAYER DIARY for 2022 will be available soon. I will put copies on the shelf alongside the Blue Tubs. As well as the weekly pages of information for countries to pray for throughout the year, there are many interesting articles to read about the work of the Leprosy Mission. There are also inspiring stories about people from all over the world who have been affected by leprosy, been healed and want to share their stories.

Sending you greetings for Christmas and the New Year.

Barbara Tatlock



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

## Impossible Choices

The climate crisis in South Sudan is polluting fragile water sources, killing crops and destroying homes. Combined with years of conflict and the Covid-19 pandemic, it's forcing mothers to make impossible choices for their children.

**Dirty water, or none at all?**

**A morsel of food each, or a bigger portion for one?**

**School fees, or materials to rebuild the family home?**

Adut Mariu is a 27 year-old mother of three young children. The River Makadh which runs through her village used to be the community's only source of water. It is dirty and unreliable.

*"The water has many diseases. There's cow dung, donkey dung, people wash there." The river dries up during long periods of drought. "Then when the flood came," she said "it came at full force. This village was under water. No-one could move. The flood destroyed everything...crops were destroyed, cows and goats were dying because they had nowhere to graze. You would see chickens standing in the water and later see them dying. The flood waters cannot be stopped."*

The flood killed crops and destroyed homes.





**The good news:** Adut's village, with help from Christian Aid's local partner, has been able to drill a narrow shaft into the ground to extract water from a naturally occurring source. A hand-pump is used to drive the water to the surface.

The pump gives the village's 700 families clean, safe drinking water. Waterborne diseases have fallen. Adut and the other women have more time for other activities such as farming.

**The bad news:** this borehole is now being used by three times more people than it should be. *"People come from far away. They use donkeys to fetch water."* They are not turned away. *"But"* says Adut, *"we need to build more to keep up with the need."*

The need for clean water throughout the region is desperate, and the climate crisis rages on.

We all do what we can for the children in our lives. You can stand with mothers this Christmas and help the next generation grow.

If you would like to give to the appeal, you can give to me or to Wendy or online at...

[www.justgiving.com/Colinton-Christian-Aid-Committee-Edinburgh4](http://www.justgiving.com/Colinton-Christian-Aid-Committee-Edinburgh4)

*Patricia Brignall*

**Please note - the deadline for information and articles for the February 2022 issue will be**

**Sunday 16 January 2021**

**Please send to [stcuthbertscolinton@gmail.com](mailto:stcuthbertscolinton@gmail.com)**

**Thank you!**

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