

# **Annual Reports**

## **2022**



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

## **Rector's Report**

**Revd Nicki McNelly will give her report at the AGM on  
Sunday 20 November 2022**

### **St Cuthbert's Reports:**

1. Badminton Club
2. Choir
3. Christian Aid
4. Eco congregation
5. Flowers
6. Foodbank
7. Garden Team
8. Lay Representative
9. Leprosy Mission Scotland
10. Pastoral Visitors
11. People's Warden
12. Phoenix Group
13. Property Group
14. R&R
15. Rector's Warden
16. Sacristans
17. Safeguarding
18. St. Raphael's Prayer Group
19. The Sign
20. Website
21. Young People

## **Badminton Club**

The past year saw us return to playing badminton but under various constraints to reduce the possibility of transmitting Covid. Covid did strike some members but most have since returned to the club.

In the late 1940s, the Club drew its membership from the congregation. Over the years there has been a gradual change with friends within the community joining us. We have rarely advertised for new members, but as our 'church-related' membership seems unlikely to expand at present, this year we have publicised ourselves in the local press.

My term as treasurer has drawn to a close and I am pleased that Julia has taken on that role. We would be pleased to see more people join us for a few games of a Monday evening, while keeping up with the social news at the same time. The Club may not have a 'mission statement' or be consciously pursuing an 'outreach' programme, but it has provided a place for members to chat about significant events in their lives, should they want to.

**Archie Clark**

## **Choir**

Since my last AGM report, we have seen a gradual relaxation of Covid rules and a resumption of the choir's normal activities. This process started last year with our traditional Advent and Christmas carol services, followed by our Lenten, Holy Week and Easter services. We have also seen the return of monthly evening services, which have included, in

addition to the carol services, a commemoration of those who died during the Covid period, a Songs of Praise, two evensongs, and a Service of Thanksgiving for the life of HM Queen Elizabeth II – in all of these, the choir has played a major role. In addition, it has sung at funerals when requested to do so.

Singing has become easier as we have gradually abandoned the wearing of masks, which made it particularly difficult to sing, and with the removal of the perspex screens in front of the choir to prevent the spread of infection. We are now back to having a full Sung Eucharist every Sunday, at each of which the choir has sung an anthem during the administration, and no longer are we reducing the number of verses in every hymn. The choir has continued to have a 9.45am rehearsal every Sunday, and there has been a gradual return to having a weekday rehearsal: these now take place on alternate Thursdays at 5pm, and will move to late morning after the Wednesday eucharist from November, for which the church is heated, in order to avoid unnecessary heating costs.

I have written on numerous occasions in the past about the need to recruit new choir members, even on an occasional basis. If anything, this has become a more urgent need, and is essential if St Cuthbert's is to continue to have a choir to lead its services. Choir anthems now have to be selected extremely carefully, and it is sad that many of the larger-scale anthems that we used to perform are no longer possible. In this, we are by no means alone: in recent years, we have "bucked a trend" in churches of the size of

St Cuthbert's (many such churches no longer have a choir), and not least in our neighbouring church in Colinton Dell, where there are the same concerns about the future of the choir. As I wrote last year, I would be pleased to hear from anyone who feels that they can help with this year's Advent and Christmas Carol Services (or on a more regular basis), which need a strong contribution from the choir – if any of our regular members find themselves unable to sing at these services, radical changes would have to be made.

Finally, I would like to thank all members of the choir for their faithful attendance week by week, and Andrew Matheson, who has covered for me at the organ when I have been away on holiday.

**Philip Rossiter**

### **Christian Aid**

In March we held our annual Quiz Night, on Zoom for the second year. There were 7 teams with a total of 49 people from Edinburgh, England and Chicago. Graham and John as usual produced a great variety of questions, and Marie used her wonderful computer skills to ensure we were all in the correct 'rooms' at the right time! We raised over £500 for our Community Partnership in Bangladesh.

The Community Partnership scheme involves a local Christian Aid group has agreeing to raise £5,000 over 3 years for a particular project. This one in Bangladesh is then match-funded 5:1 by the EU, thus raising in total £30,000.

We organised Christian Aid Week in the same way as 2021: we delivered envelopes, and gave local addresses where they could be dropped off. We raised £3,500.

On the wider front, people in Colinton responded generously to the plea for books and paintings for the two annual sales in St. Andrews and St. George's Church: the Book Sale in May and the Sale of Pictures in October.

The Colinton Christian Aid Committee is made up of volunteers from the two churches, the Parish Church and our own. Join us! From St Cuthbert's you will know Wendy Pearson, Margaret Temple, Jean Wood and Patricia Brignall.

**Patricia Brignall**

### **Eco Congregation: Engaging with Nature for the future**

'As a congregation and as individuals we try to look after the environment' – this is the mission statement as it were of the Eco-congregation movement. Over the year since our last AGM I think we have continued this endeavour in various ways, and with a few of us now involved an application for a silver award is in progress.

We are blessed with a garden to bring us close to nature and this year of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Nicki planted a tree at the congregation picnic on 5 June as part of Her Late Majesty's Green Canopy scheme. It will now be a special memorial to Queen Elizabeth II.

We continue the cultivation of the wild flower section in the garden, and in June the Sunday school also planted some more plug plants there, chosen as bee and butterfly friendly.

A survey of the congregation in terms of members' 'carbon footprints' and ways they are saving energy, reducing travel and recycling was undertaken. Switching to the bamboo toilet paper in the church toilets was a further initiative in this direction.

Julia reports on the questionnaires: We had 18 responses. Everybody is taking some measures to be more environmentally friendly. For example, the majority don't heat all of their rooms and many try to buy more local produce, garden more sustainably and about half consider holidays that involve less travelling abroad. A full summary will be prepared for the Sign for the New Year.

We have continued to have eco-theme Sunday school sessions periodically. In February around St Valentines we made Green hearts to mark Gods love for us manifested in nature and our corresponding love for our green planet. On Mothering Sunday in March we sat together in the garden and talked about home and habitat, the tree as home to many creatures and the unseen connections of its roots below us, and signs of new life in its fresh new leaves.

In September and October our services have once again been marking Creationtide, an ecumenical initiative to think yearly about God's Creation. In Sunday school we have been taking the elements Water, Fire and Earth (Air still to come) and exploring their importance and in particular the many references in Bible passages and stories, and their use as

symbols of God's power and also provision of all that we need. For Earth week, we planted bulbs and look forward to some new life next year in our garden.

It is in rising sea levels, wild fires and drought that we are warned of climate change and realise how precious are the elements in balance, and the need to protect and nurture the earth against harmful practices.

**Kay Dalley**

### **Flowers**

I am sure that we all appreciate and enjoy seeing flowers in church. For this we have the Flower Fairies to thank.

On a personal level, I am especially grateful to Diana and Christine, both of whom are willing to "fill in the gaps" on the rota and to provide pedestal arrangements for weddings, festivals and other special occasions. This has often resulted in their visiting the flower market at the crack of dawn to find flowers the same shade of pink as the bridesmaids' dresses.

If you would like to do an arrangement, to mark an occasion important to you or in memory of a loved one, please add your name to the rota at the back of the church. Perhaps you would like to help to decorate the church for one of the festivals, Easter, Harvest or Christmas when we all meet for coffee, biscuits and of course a natter, just let me know, you would be made most welcome and don't worry, I am not expecting you to get up at the crack of dawn to visit the market, Tesco's (other supermarkets are available) stock flowers of all shades and varieties.

**Margaret Holmes**



## Foodbank

**St. Cuthbert's Church Year –  
1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022  
Holy Trinity Foodbank**

Members of our congregation have now supported this Foodbank, in Wester Hailes, for 10 years. Growing numbers of people are in food poverty and, the way things are going, it is very likely that more people will be looking for help to feed themselves and their families in the coming year.

Every month, Patricia Brignall and I have collected cash from anyone who wished to contribute and, over the year, I have been able to transfer £2,611 to the foodbank account. I also know that quite a few members of our congregation send regular monthly donations, directly to Holy Trinity, so that gift aid can be collected.

Patricia and I plan to go on collecting, money rather than food, at the beginning of each month. If you would like to contribute, we will be very happy to receive your donations. If you would like more information, about supporting, this outreach project of ours, please contact me.

**Susan Clark**

## Garden Team

A slightly enlarged garden team has continued to meet on the second and fourth Monday's of the month.

We have had a glorious summer with little rain and although a few shrubs and our new Platinum Jubilee tree required

fairly frequent watering, there has been less need for hedge trimming, grass cutting and annual weed control.

The new project has been to improve the bed between the two double gates on Westgarth Avenue. Following the removal of a rogue tree two years ago this area now receives much more sunlight and has now been planted up with more interesting ground cover plants and bulbs.

My sincere thanks go to Ross Addison, Vivien Bremner, Nick Brignall, George Bungay, Susan Clark, Mary Dale, Margaret Holmes Susan Leishman and Caroline Seville who have all contributed greatly to making our grounds attractive.

**Bryan Dale**

### **Lay Representative**

Edinburgh South Area Council (ESAC) comprises, in addition to our own church; Christ Church Morningside, St Fillan's Buckstone, St Matthew's Roslin, St Michael and All Saints Tollcross, St John's West End and the joint charges of St James' Penicuik and St Mungo's West Linton. Each of the seven Diocese in the Scottish Episcopal is divided into a number of Area Councils that meet three times a year to discuss matters of common concern. These meetings usually occur shortly before the spring and autumn Diocesan Synods and in the summer before the General Synod which is a gathering of representatives from the seven diocese. Area Council meetings focus on the main agenda items of upcoming Synods and a rich variety of experience and views are shared. As Lay Representative of St Cuthbert's I come

away feeling that I have learnt so much from others and hope that I make a meaningful contribution to the shared dialogue.

This year ESAC has met only twice, in March and October and at the time of writing the October Diocesan Synod is yet to meet, however there are continuing themes. Mission and Ministry; five mission principles were established in 2018 but limited resources has meant that only two of them could be given priority at the current time, namely Enabling Ministry and Developing Disciples.

This includes helping congregations to see other ways of 'doing' church and 'doing' mission. For example, in the Season of Pilgrimage to include a pilgrimage towards becoming carbon neutral by 2030 as part of our understanding of pilgrimage. Another aspect of mission is concern for our young people and the impact of the pandemic upon them. A concern that has resulted in the need to build and rebuild relationships in new and innovative ways.

In the Bishop's address he reflected on the war in Ukraine and our response to it, both theological and practical. Support for his Lent Appeal, 2022 being for the Welcoming; a charity to welcome 'New Scots', refugees and asylum seekers and support them in accessing services and to feel welcome and part of a diverse Scotland being one way we can respond. He urged us 'to pace ourselves, to endure, to be a people who do justice, act with kindness and walk humbly with the God we know in Jesus Christ.' It seems to me that is what our congregations aim for and for me meeting with the representatives of the charges in our Area Council never

ceases to be strengthening and a source of inspiration in the imaginative, creative, and often simple but effective ideas and initiatives that we share in fellowship.

**Margaret Temple**

### **Leprosy Mission Scotland**

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

I have sent cheques, amounting to £645, from the accumulated contributions from the Blue Tubs and donations. The work of The Leprosy Mission is ongoing and will continue until leprosy is finally eradicated. Thank you to everyone who has supported this worthy cause. I hope you will continue to do so in the coming year.

**Barbara Tatlock**

### **Pastoral Visitors**

Over the last year, most of the visiting has been carried out by me, with Revd Margaret caring for a few in the congregation. As the list extended to 30 people living in homes or being at home alone or sick, it was becoming more difficult for me to see everyone regularly, especially with the added responsibility of St. Fillan's.

Revd Margaret is now standing down from visiting, so in October I re-established a Pastoral Visiting Team and am very grateful to all the volunteers who offered to become a part of that group.

This is a valuable ministry and if this is something you feel called to do and would like to join the team, please get in touch. To visit as a representative of the church, you must have a PVG for St. Cuthbert's.

**Revd Nicki McNelly**

### **People's Warden**

It has been a privilege to serve as People's Warden during my first year - 2022. I have found it interesting, challenging and rewarding and I am grateful for the enormous amount of support given by members of the Congregation and Vestry.

The fundraising/events team held 'Brew & Bingo' in April which was enjoyed by everyone. Many thanks to the local shops for kindly donating the prizes. A special thanks must go to Georgia who was excellent in her role as Caller! In June, to celebrate our late Queen's Jubilee, we held a picnic on the Church lawn when we planted a tree in commemoration. Both of these events, and Lesley Penny's Ordination Service on 21<sup>st</sup> September were catered for by Margaret Holmes and her 'Catering Crew', and my thanks go to them for an excellent job. We also hosted 2 events for the Afghan and Ukraine families who we are supporting. Thank you to Wendy Pearson for co-ordinating this.

Plans are in hand to hold our Christmas Fayre on Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible to support this.

I would like to thank Marie Neil for her administration expertise in printing leaflets and posters, sometimes at very short notice. I did not realise that part of my role as People's

Warden would be to hear from Marie “George would you please help me chase 2 birds from the hall”!!! (Fortunately they were the feather type.) My thanks to Revd Margaret Dineley and Revd Lesley Penny for their encouragement and support throughout the year. Thank you also June for all your help (and patience) throughout the year.

Finally, my special thanks goes to Revd Nicki for her help, support and guidance - and for your prayers. Very much appreciated.

**George Bungay**

### **Phoenix Group**

Our Christmas Lunch last year was in a private room at the Charwood Restaurant. As always, it was a most enjoyable and convivial occasion with delicious food, some drinks, very helpful staff and lots of laughter and chat. Details of our Christmas Lunch to be held this year will be given soon.

We have had a quiet year this year until October when 17 of us met at Margaret Temple's house for lunch. We all brought some food and soft drinks and are very grateful to Margaret for her hospitality which enabled lots of conversation generally and discussion about past events and very good suggestions for future ones. The lunch was excellent too.

All our events can be attended on an occasional basis.

**Margaret Kieran, Jean Myers and Margaret Temple**

## Property Group

Property Group comprises: Martin Fairley (Chair), Ross Addison and Iain McNelly.

The Church continues to be very grateful for their assistance. The Property books, which had been removed during COVID, have been reinstated. If any issues are found, please enter them in the property books in the church or email – [stcuthbertsprop1@gmail.com](mailto:stcuthbertsprop1@gmail.com)

Thanks are due to Ross and Iain who undertake small repairs throughout the church and are also extended to Marie (Church Administrator) for her continued assistance in organising and overseeing most of the annual inspections.

The work undertaken over the past year continues to come from the last Quinquennial report.

- Two significant areas of work identified on the rectory - roof/windows has been completed.
- *Note: A significant leak was noticed in the rectory during the last storms in September. A roof specialist has visited and further investigation is required around the roof cupola.*
- Rectory windows – most of the windows have been replaced with a significant improvement in heat retention being noticed. Three small velux windows and the large cupola roof window are being investigated to confirm whether replacement is possible.

- Work on parts of the church and rectory walls, to straighten up the walls that had been forced out by tree roots, has been completed.
- Rectory drive gate – This has been replaced as old gate and mountings were rotten.
- Defibrillator – Installation was completed in October 2021 and the defibrillator was officially registered in November 2021.
- Church organ – The electrical supply for the old organ has been disconnected. This allowed for the removal of three electrical boxes that were potential asbestos hazards.
- Church main door railing – Work to replace the railing, which was starting to rust from the bottom, is complete less painting.
- Lead was stolen from the Choir Vestry roof. Repairs have been completed.
- All the regular testing and maintenance of equipment has been carried out.

**Property Committee**



## R&R

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

Between 6 and 10 of us have continued to meet weekly on Zoom over the past year, with a break over the summer. We were delighted to meet once again, face to face in September, and marked the occasion with an intimate and prayerful Agape Meal.

We continue to meet weekly on Zoom, but once a month gather in person, in the South Transept of church.

We are very pleased to have welcomed three new members, two from other churches and indeed thanks to Zoom, we include two friends from Suffolk! Our numbers are now 13.

The group shares a rich diversity of prayer offered by Ignatian and other Christian spiritual traditions, with the desire of deepening our own relationship with God and thus loving and serving others more. We are led by trained members of The Epiphany Group.

**Wendy Pearson**

## Rector's Warden

In this past year as Rectors Warden, I have been amazed at the variety of tasks which arrive at Nicki's door - Leading, Planning, Coping and Delegating in a time of change.

It has been an enjoyable challenge to play my part, while acknowledging the support given to all of us by Marie, our administrator.

Nicki and I meet regularly to discuss any new situations that arise.

**Judith Mackintosh**

### **Sacristans**

When I wrote this report last year we were just beginning to return to a more normal routine in church and on Sunday mornings. We have made considerable progress since then and although things are not quite the same as before Covid the weekly duties are now well established again. I find I must continually check supplies and that it surely a good sign!

It is not an onerous task looking after the requirements for services and ensuring linen is clean and frontals are changed, but it is one of the special jobs and it is a real privilege to be able to do it. Many thanks to Bev Henderson for all her support in carrying out these duties.

**Joan Smith**

### **Safeguarding**

With the easing of COVID restrictions Church services are more relaxed although best practice to ensure safety is still observed.

The Vestry had a training day which included a talk on safeguarding led by Donald Urquhart the Diocesan Provincial Officer to which I attended. In addition the diocese held

ZOOM training sessions during January and February for Clergy, Vestry and PVG co-ordinators.

Pastoral visiting to the elderly, housebound and those in need will shortly be undertaken by vestry members and a few existing pastoral visitors. Part of the criteria for this role requires the visitor to be a member of the Protection of Vulnerable Groups scheme and have a current certificate from Disclosure Scotland, thus ensuring safety for both parties.

Information and posters required by the Scottish Episcopal Church are displayed in the church hall and in the church porch.

If you have any safeguarding concerns please feel free to speak to me at any time.

**Christine Nimmo**

### **St Raphael's Prayer Group**

St Raphael's is a small group which meet once a month in church to pray for the sick and needy. Flowers and cards are sent where appropriate.

Our discussions are always confidential.

If anyone feels they would like to join us, please contact myself or Nicki.

**Judith Mackintosh**

## 'The Sign' (Church Magazine)

We hope you have enjoyed another year of 'The Sign' magazine each month (December & January and July & August are double issues).

Each month, hard copies are sent to those who have subscribed for a paper version, (renewal information will be available soon for 2023 – this covers the costs of printing, paper and postage) and it is also sent by email to our online members and others – currently around 130 email addresses. There are various internet 'links' printed in each issue, and 'clicking' on a link directly connects to the page of interest. The Sign can also be viewed on our Website, and is offered to any visitors to St Cuthbert's.

The Sign continues to inform us of forthcoming services in church, duties, 'events', and any other information to keep the St Cuthbert's community connected. Each issue contains recent photographs, and these can also be viewed on our website.

Thank you for your contributions and continued support. It is enjoyable putting each issue together, and wonderful to receive positive feedback such as "always a good read".

**Marie Neil**

## Website (and Live-Streaming)

In the year to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022 our website has been visited approximately 9,102 times, and again, September and October were the most viewed months! We have continued to provide a link to St Cuthbert's YouTube Channel enabling people, who have the right technology, to watch the weekly Service online. These live-streamed services have been enjoyed by us, by our congregation, by family members, and other 'watchers'. We will continue to live stream our Sunday 10.30am service and our special services, when possible. If you would like to assist with the live-streaming – please speak to Nicki.

St. Cuthbert's also has accounts with these social media accounts below, reaching further than the website page:



(Facebook, Instagram and Twitter)

**Marie Neil**

## Young People

This year has been nearly a whole year without restrictions which has been great. We have had weekly Sunday School, now we are no longer restricted. A huge thank you to Kay who has helped out and done some fab art projects with the children and some fun outdoor activities.

The children have been really enjoying being a part of the Family Services and reading the readings and prayers. A big thank you to the congregation for baring with them when they occasionally get it wrong. It is great that they are growing their confidence and being given the opportunity to share their faith journey.

We had a great event at Easter. Our Eggcellent Adventure went really well with families enjoying our Easter activities and the Bible Society Easter Story. With the success of these events, we are also looking forward to running a Christmas Birthday Party in December.

We are having another Hallowe'en Light Party in October after the success of last year, this one is already having lots of families registering to come along too.

In February, we succeeded in restarting the playgroup in the Church Hall. This has been well attended by local families. Margaret Temple has been an amazing help making all the snacks and teas and coffees. She has a wonderful time chatting with families and playing with the children. We have had some crossover with families coming to other Church events and to our School Bag Blessing Service.

With the other youth and children's workers for the Diocese, I have opportunities to meet up and share in ideas, best practice and prayer. We also have a quarterly ecumenical prayer breakfast. I have had some great opportunities in online training with Messy Church and the Church of Scotland events. I am also now fully trained to deliver Scottish Episcopal Churches Safeguarding Training.

**Caroline Daye**

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

**Facebook: @stcuthbertscolinton**

**Instagram: stcuthbertscolinton**

**Twitter: @stcuthbertsSEC**

**YouTube: St Cuthbert's Scottish Episcopal Church**

**Scottish Charity Number: SC007578**