

THE SIGN

OCTOBER 2025



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

THE SIGN OCTOBER 2025

**St Cuthbert's
Scottish Episcopal Church
Westgarth Avenue
Colinton
EDINBURGH
EH13 0BD**



St Cuthbert's is a welcoming, loving community, sharing God's love through joyful worship and compassionate service.

If you wish to receive Home Communion,
please contact Revd Nicki McNelly –
Tel: 0131 441 7580



Facebook: @stcuthbertscolinton



Instagram: stcuthbertscolinton



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

Front Page Photo – One September Evening

Photograph: Thanks to Graham Storrie and Louise Stobie

OCTOBER 2025

Dear Friends,

Well, the weather has certainly changed this month with an autumnal chill in the air. The chill also brings the wonderful changes of colour the season brings. One of my favourite seasons for displaying the beauty of God's creation. We will also enjoy the harvest of God's creation at our lunch on the 5th, so please make sure you have your ticket from Judith. After Evensong that day, we will also celebrate, so please come along and support the choir and the Events' Team.



Thank you to everyone who supported Eira (my granddaughter) in her fundraising efforts for SSAFA. She completed the 5 mile Kilt Walk with ease and ended up raising just over £400. In total, £1.6million was raised for 800 charities. What a wonderful event.

In October Bishop Bob will be celebrating his final Eucharist before retiring fully on October 12th.

We will welcome Peter Fitzgerald from Mission to Seafarers to preach on Sunday 19th. He is a little concerned that the

10 minute preaching slot won't be long enough, so please make sure you chat with him afterwards to find out more. We will have a retiring collection for Mission to Seafarers on the day.

November 2nd we will celebrate All Souls. If you would like somebody remembered during the 10.30am service, please print their names on the list at the back of church.

Some of our Ukrainian friends have been applying for humanitarian protection for themselves and their children recently, which sadly has been refused. They have been given fourteen days to appeal. A time of distress and worry, particularly for the children who don't fully understand but truly believe they will be sent back to Ukraine to be killed. I really cannot imagine what they are going through, but it certainly breaks my heart and makes me appreciate how blessed we are, living safely in Scotland. Please keep them in your prayers at this time.

I hope to see you in October.

Love & blessings.

Nicki





**At St. Cuthbert's,
Westgarth Avenue, Colinton**

October Dates –

Monday 6th and Monday 20th

2pm – 4pm

Join us for an hour of music and memories.
Bring a friend or come and meet new ones.

Followed by refreshments.

forgetmenotes.org.uk
stcuthbertscolinton.org.uk

For more information, contact
stcuthbertscolinton@gmail.com

All Welcome

VESTRY REPORT - September 2025



- Reserves Policy- Vestry approved the new Reserves Policy for 2025-2026 as presented by Heather.
- Heather now has full access to the church bank account and documentation has been found so that income from early in 2025 has now been reallocated to the appropriate locations in the accounts.
- Heather had sent Vestry a copy of the simplified Actual vs Budget for the 2024-2025 accounts and proposed Budgets for the next two years. The Actual income was £7262.75 more than the Budget despite standing orders being down by three regular donations. The majority of the increase was from Hall Rental and Regular Annual donations. Thanks were expressed to Marie for her hard work securing Hall rentals. Expenditure was £67,182.00 above budget with the majority of this is due to Property Repairs which included the Floodlights outside, Sound System, Vestry Renovation, Hall Renovations, Preparation and deposit for the Rectory kitchen. Minor amendments were made to the sum in the proposed budgets for property repairs and they were approved by Vestry.
- Vestry approved the extra expenditure of £6900 inc. Vat to Inspire Carpentry to redecorate and make good the area around the new Rectory kitchen. This work was expected when Vestry agreed the updating of the Rectory kitchen could go ahead. This takes the total cost including repairs and insulation under the window and to the back door (previously Minuted) plus the cost of the actual kitchen, to £28,500.
- A large sum has been given to cover the rent for Cletus for 1 year. This is being held in a custodial holding account as is another donation of £1000 for his travel and these will be used as required. Nicki proposed that we use some of our annual local charitable donation to fund a small monthly allowance of £55, (£660 per year) to add to a £20 monthly donation from a member of the congregation. Vestry agreed to this.
- Heather and Vestry have agreed that if we should get a curate in the coming year, the costs will be covered by withdrawing some of our funds provided by the Heather Cottage sale, as detailed in our reserves policy.
- The request for support (£330) from the Diocesan Office for Nicki to attend this year's Clergy Conference in Pitlochry was approved by Vestry.

- AGM-Two members of Vestry need to stand down according to our constitution. No members have served 3 years and so we need two people who have served two years to stand down. Frances and Susan have now volunteered to do this. This will give us a possible 5 vacancies going into the AGM. As usual we will ask for questions to be submitted beforehand. Any questions on the day we will record and try to answer in the days following the meeting.
- Julia requested that we buy a new doormat for the hall porch to collect wet and dirt and protect the hall floor. Vestry approved this.
- It was noted that no hot water is available in the Gent's toilet. Nicki will ask Ross to have a look or a plumber if needed.
- The Rectory Kitchen has been delivered, and fitting starts next Monday.
- Heather informed us that a Smart Meter has now been fitted which provides half hourly readings. We have been advised that this increases our use of green source energy.
- Nicki reminded Vestry to always reply to emails from Marie even if they are unable to help. Marie needs support in opening and closing up for some hall bookings as she should not have to come in at weekends to do this. Nicki has asked Marie to put a note in the pew sheets to ask if anybody outside of Vestry is also able to go on a standby list to help with this.
- Nicki requested that if Vestry are able to help tidy away chairs and tables after coffee on a Sunday, please do so. The ladies in the kitchen are not all able to do this. Please encourage other capable people to help too.
- Events – Nicki asked Vestry to please attend and support the organisers.
- Kay has received possible dates for the new local representative for the Leprosy Mission (Steven McLeish) to come and talk in church. She will see if 30th November is convenient.
- Andrew told us that there is to be an extra General Synod Zoom meeting to ratify changes to the canons on the election of a Bishop.
- Kay offered to write a report for The Sign on the recent Net Zero meeting that she and Nicki attended.

The full minutes are available from the Vestry Secretary.

An electronic version can be requested by email, contact:

julia.roberts01@btinternet.com

Message for October from Revd Margaret.

October already! As I thought about this time of year two particular occurrences sprang to mind – Harvest and Autumn, with their associated qualities of gratitude and reflection.

Harvest and gratitude always seem to go together. Our familiar Harvest hymns emphasise this – ‘Come ye thankful people come’ and ‘thank the Lord, O thank the Lord...’ Also, some very simple words I found in a Wild Goose Publication likewise stressed this reaction to Harvest: ‘This is a feast for all to share, filling our hearts with gratitude for God’s incessant love and care.’

However, these simple words made me pause and reflect further on this festival. Firstly, how remote the vast majority of us are from the actual production of the fruits, grains and livestock which provide the food we eat. We just visit a store or order online, our purses adequately furnished with the necessary funds. With favourable conditions a harvest for those working the land will be good. But climate change, adverse soil conditions and scarce financial resources conspire against the less fortunate across the globe, and so we are reminded to reach out in love and compassion and share our own good fortune. As my quote stated, Harvest is a feast for **all** to share.

Then Autumn: as the year slips rapidly into autumn this month, with its accompanying pleasure of rich colours in trees and shrubs, it too is a time for us to pause and reflect,

this time on what the season might mean for us as we examine our souls and our emotions. Again I was inspired by the Wild Goose publication to ponder over two possible, and inherently symbolic interpretations of the trees gradually being stripped bare of their leaves as winter approaches. The first thought centres around the fact that the stripping bare is a preparation for inner growth, a chance to appreciate the strength that is hidden underneath. And secondly, there's a call for acceptance of the changing seasons because everything, nature, ourselves, our souls and emotions, are safely in God's hands.

The falling of leaves as they age reminds me of our own ageing, which appropriately leads me to the fascinating subject of our October Thursday service, 'Old Age in the Bible.' Please do join us and enjoy fellowship and refreshments afterwards.

May you all enjoy the celebration of the Harvest Festival and the glowing colours of Autumn, not forgetting to reflect over sharing the feast and letting our souls and emotions this season rest safely in God's hands.

With my love and blessings, *Margaret NSM.*



October 2025

Music Notes



| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 5 October (Harvest), 10.30am: | O praise God in his holiness - John Welson |
| 5 October, 5pm Evensong: | Psalm 65 Magnificat in D - CH Parry Thou visitest the earth - Maurice Greene |
| 12 October: | Lead me, Lord - SS Wesley |
| 19 October: | Teach me, O Lord - Thomas Attwood |
| 26 October: | Lord, give me faith - Kathleen Robson |

Our rehearsals through the month of September have focused on preparations for our Harvest Festival services. In both of the Harvest services, the anthems selected are on the theme of thanksgiving. In the morning, we sing John Weldon's setting of Psalm 150, and in the evening, the chosen anthem is Maurice Greene's *Thou visitest the earth*, arguably the most well-known and frequently performed Harvest anthem, which was first published in 1743. Its text is taken from Psalm 65, a psalm traditionally associated with Harvest, which we will sing in its entirety at the same service.

Philip Rossiter



Harvest Collection

Please bring non-perishable donations for St. Salvador's food bank by October 5th.

Thank you!



Laptop Computer / Tablet / IPad

If you have any of the above gathering dust somewhere in your home and would be willing to donate it to Rev Cletus, please speak to him.



Thank you!

Holy Trinity Crisis Foodbank News and Update

Recently Fiona Watson sent me a copy of the latest **Holy Trinity Crisis Foodbank News and Update**. Below are some extracts from it:



“In the first 6 months of 2025:

11,400 Meals for adults given

6,282 Meals for children given

17,682 Meals in total given

586 Instances of a household

supported

939 Instances of an adult supported

499 Instances of a child supported”

“100% of donations of money received in the Crisis Foodbank are spent on food.

The price of food is rising (4.9% in the year to July).

This makes our clients’ budgets even tighter, this pushes the Crisis Foodbank’s costs up too.

We’ve been so pleased to be able to provide increasing levels of fresh foods – through some limited term specific donations, and opportunistic access to supermarket excess. These have been very well received”

“We couldn’t do any of this without our supporters – the people who pray for our activities and provision, our donors of money, our donors of in-kind goods, and our donors of time, our volunteers. Without our donors this just could not happen”

Contact me if you would like to know more about how you could support this foodbank or if you would like a full copy of the report.

Susan Clark

Morning Prayer on Zoom

A small group meets each Tuesday and Thursday at 9am for a service of Morning Prayer. After the reading, we have a short time of discussion about it and then continue in prayer. If you would like to join us, please e-mail Nicki: stcuthbertsrector@gmail.com



Fundraising & Events Team



Joan Smith, Judith Mackintosh, Philip Rossiter,
George Bungay, Bev Henderson, Susan Leishman

If you have any ideas that would help with our fund-raising efforts to beat the deficit, please speak to one of the fundraising and events team.

They would love to hear your ideas.



St. Raphael's Prayer Group

St. Raphael is considered a protector and healer and, each month, a small group meets to pray for those who need healing within our congregation.

We remember people in need of prayer for a variety of reasons, including those who are sick or injured, in hospital, waiting for treatment or recovering. Those who need carers to help them and the carers, those in nursing homes, those troubled in mind, those who have died and those who mourn. We also give thanks for those whose health has improved.

If you would like to be added to the prayer list at any time, for any reason, please contact Rev Nicki or Judith Mackintosh.

Lord, bring healing, bring peace.



Unsung Heroes

It hasn't taken me 8 years to appreciate all the support offered by many of you within the congregation, as I've known from the start that you all care for, and look after each other so well.

However, a recent photograph of one of our many unsung heroes gave me an idea for The Sign. I would like you to nominate an unsung hero, to me, for our magazine, and about once a quarter, we will include an article about what they do. If you submit a photograph, you will need their permission for it to appear in The Sign.

I will begin with Vivien, who gives so many people lifts to services and social events, which is obviously appreciated, as one person provided her with the gift you see in the photo (her 'taxi' hat). She also helps people in and out of church, gathering walking aids, making sure everyone is safe (although, sometimes forgetting her own stick!).



Thank you, Vivien, for all that you do and being our first 'unsung hero'.

Nicki

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Congratulations!
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

THE SIGN MAGAZINE

Please note –
The deadline
for information and articles
for the
NOVEMBER 2025 issue

is

Sunday 12 October 2025

Please send to
stcuthbertscolinton@gmail.com

Thank you!



OCTOBER 2025 ROTAS

READINGS FOR OCTOBER 2025

Year C

Readings are taken from the NRSV

5th October – Harvest Festival

Joel 2.21-27

Philippians 4.4-9

John 6.25-35

12th October – Pentecost 18

2 Kings 5. 1-3, 7-15c

2 Timothy 2. 8-15

Luke 17. 11-19



19th October – Pentecost 19

Genesis 32. 22-31

2 Timothy 3. 14 – 4.5

Luke 18. 1-8

26th October – Pentecost 20

Sirach 35. 12-17

2 Timothy 4. 6-8, 16-18

Luke 18.9-14

2nd November – All Souls

Wisdom 3. 1-9

1 Peter 1. 3-9

John 6. 37-40



St Cuthbert's Playgroup

10am - 11.30am

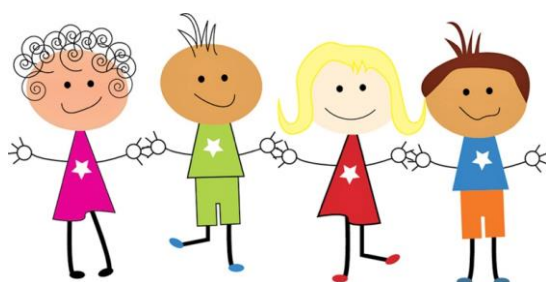
Every Monday

(during school term time)

Only £2 per family

St. Cuthbert's Church Hall, Westgarth Avenue

Contact email: stcuthbertscolinton@gmail.com
for more information.



PHOENIX GROUP



We are looking forward to Caroline's Quiz (Monday 29th September) and are very grateful to Caroline for all the work she puts into organising, setting the questions for, and hosting these now twice yearly fun quizzes, which, of course, are also very pleasant social events.



We are consulting on whether or not to have a traditional Christmas Lunch in the Royal Scots Club or elsewhere. We also want to go for a buffet lunch at Liberton Golf Club, either instead of a traditional Christmas Lunch or as an additional event. Further information on what we decide will be in the Pew Notes.

We are also looking into an outing to the Kelpies followed by lunch - sometime next year.

We always welcome suggestions for future events and gatherings.

Margaret Kieran, Jean Myers and Margaret Temple

The Phoenix Group's (very light-hearted) Quiz

**Monday, September 29th, 2025:
2pm to 4pm in the Church Hall**



This will comprise 5 rounds of (hopefully) relatively straightforward questions, aimed at the older generation! In between rounds, tea and biscuits will be served and there will also be a free raffle. There will be plenty of opportunity to chat.

Please join us for a fun-filled afternoon. There is no need to get a team together, as we will sort you out on the day, as equitably as possible. Please put the date in your diaries and let Caroline know if you are coming. However, if you just turn up on the day, that's fine. Bring a friend!

All are welcome, men in particular! Nevertheless, there will NOT be a sports round (though there may be ONE sports question!)

This is a free event, but donations to church funds on the day would be very welcome.



Harvest Festival

Sunday 5 October

2025



Harvest Lunch after 10.30am Service

This year we plan to have a special lunch to celebrate Harvest. Tickets will be on sale to cover costs and to contribute to church funds.

Tickets £10

*available from Fund Raising and Events Group
or contact stcuthbertsevents@gmail.com*

.....

Harvest Evensong at 5.00pm



*followed by wine and nibbles
donations welcome*

*Join us to celebrate Harvest at our services
and social events*

Scottish Registered Charity SC007578

THE LEPROSY MISSION

GREAT BRITAIN



The Leprosy Mission Prayer

Almighty Father, the giver of life and health, look mercifully on those who suffer from leprosy. Stretch out your hand to touch and heal them as Jesus did during his earthly life. Grant wisdom and insight to those who are seeking the prevention and cure of the disease; give skill and sympathy to those who minister to the patients; reunite the separated with their families and friends; and inspire your people with the task set before The Leprosy Mission, that it may never lack either the staff or the means to carry on its healing work, in accordance with your will, and to the glory of your holy name. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord. Amen.



Kay Dalley

Registered Charity Number: 1050327

Company Number: 3140347



**SAVE the DATE for our
CHRISTMAS CONCERT
on MONDAY 8th DECEMBER
at 7pm for 7.30pm**

Please Save the Date for our Christmas Concert on
Monday 8th December
in the Memorial Hall at MERCHISTON Castle School.

We have a delightful programme of Christmas Music : -
Vaughan Williams "Fantasia on Christmas Carols",
Cornelius "Three Kings from Persian Lands Afar,
Telemann "Der Jüngste Tag wird bald sein Ziel"
and a lovely selection of carols.

Further details about tickets etc will be in the November edition
of The Sign, in the pew notices, and on the noticeboards.

Margaret Kieran on behalf of the Choir

Thursday Afternoon Service:
October 2nd, 2025 at 2.30pm
969 and All That: Old Age in the Bible



Simeon And Anna

Please join us for this informal service
Everyone is welcome and we hope to see you there
Refreshments will be served after the service

Future services: Thursday, November 6th and Thursday, December 4th

ALL SOULS

Sunday 2nd November

10.30am

*If you would like someone
remembered during the
10.30am service on 2nd November,
please print their names on the list at
the back of church.*

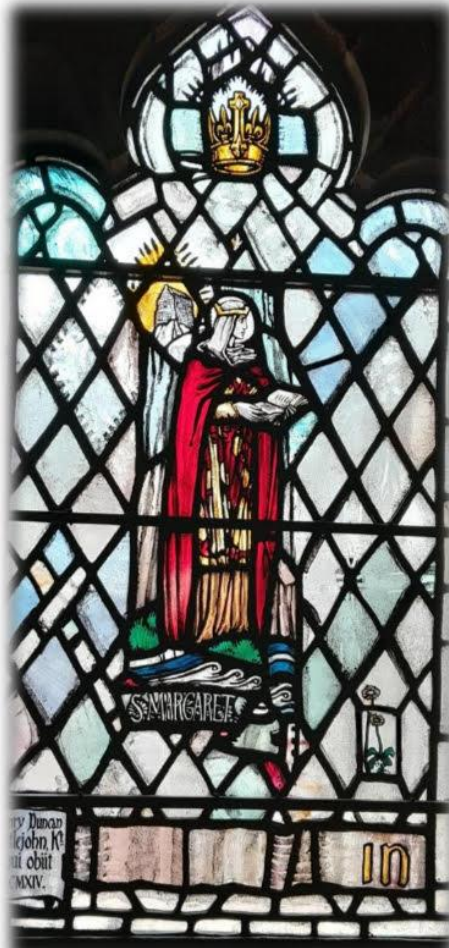
Thank you.



Thursday Afternoon Service

November 6th 2025 at 2.30pm

St Margaret of Scotland



Please join us for this informal service.

Everyone is welcome.

Refreshments will be served after the service.

Future services: 4th December

No service in January 2026

Our Events & Fundraising Team ask you to support these
events if you can.....

Thank you!



Save the date
Christmas Fayre

Saturday 29 November 2025

2pm – 5pm

Gifts, cards, handicrafts and more

Browse the stalls

Buy for Christmas

Enjoy a cup of tea and a mince pie

Admission free



Scottish Charity Number SC007578

KEEP THE DATE

CHRISTMAS TEA

**Saturday 13 December
2025**

at 2.30pm - 4.30pm

**St Cuthbert's Episcopal Church
Westgarth Avenue**

***Enjoy a delicious afternoon tea with a
Christmas theme***

Tickets £10

In aid of church funds

Contact any member of the Events & Fund Raising Group or
email: stcuthbertsevents@gmail.com



Scottish Charity Number: SC007578

ST CUTHBERT'S SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH COLINTON



**AGM
SUNDAY 23rd NOVEMBER
2025
following the 10.30am Service**

WHO'S WHO AT ST CUTHBERT'S

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Rector | The Revd Nicki McNelly <u>stcuthbertsrector@gmail.com</u> Tel: 0131 441 7580 |
| NSM (Non-Stipendiary Minister) | Revd Dr Margaret McCrindle <i>stcuthbertsnsm@gmail.com (07931 483906)</i> |
| Church Administrator | Marie Neil <i>stcuthbertscolinton@gmail.com</i> Tel No: 07761 056504 Working hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 9am-1pm |
| Rector's Warden | Judith Mackintosh 443 1313 |
| People's Warden | George Bungay 478 0834 |
| Children/Young People | Contact Revd Nicki McNelly |
| Gift Aid | Contact Church Administrator |
| Lay Representative | Andrew Daye |
| Alternate Lay Rep. | Jean Wood |
| Safeguarding | Christine Nimmo 445 3053 <i>christinenimmo@btinternet.com</i> |
| Organist & Choirmaster | Philip Rossiter 283 0234 |
| Property Committee | Nicki McNelly |
| Sacristans | Bev Henderson, Joan Smith |
| Treasurer & | Heather Tidy |
| Book-Keeper | <i>stcuthbertstreasurer24@gmail.com</i> |
| Vestry Secretary | Julia Roberts 441 4965 <i>Julia.roberts01@btinternet.com</i> |
| Website & | |
| Magazine Editor | Church Administrator <i>stcuthbertscolinton@gmail.com</i> |
| Archivist | Christine Nimmo |
| R&R | Wendy Pearson <i>wendypearson37@gmail.com</i> |
| Badminton Club | Julia Roberts 441 4965 |
| Coffee Rota | Audrey Naden 441 1545 |
| Eco congregation | Kay Dalley 441 7920 |
| Hall Bookings | Contact our Church Administrator |
| Events & Fundraising | Email: <i>stcuthbertsevents@gmail.com</i> |
| Leprosy Mission | Kay Dalley |
| Phoenix Group | Margaret Kieran 445 3751 |
| St. Raphael's Rep. | Judith Mackintosh 443 1313 |
| Vestry Members | George Bungay, Bryan Dale, Kay Dalley, Frances Davies, Andrew Daye, Mandy Johnston, Susan Leishman, Judith Mackintosh, Julia Roberts |

The LORD has done great things for us, and we are glad.

Psalms 126.3



St Cuthbert's Scottish Episcopal Church

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

Tel: 0131 441 7580

Email: stcuthbertsrector@gmail.com

www.stcuthbertscolinton.org.uk

Services:

Wednesday:

10.30am Said Eucharist

First Thursday of each month:

2.30pm An informal service for all

Sunday:

8.30am Said Eucharist, no sermon

10.30am Sung Eucharist

**Evensong – ‘announced’ in our pew notices and
on our Website.**

Scottish Charity Number: SC007578

