

THE SIGN

DECEMBER 2025 & JANUARY 2026



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

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DECEMBER 2025 &
JANUARY 2026**

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



**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 – Christmas Floral Arrangement

Photograph: Louise Stobie

DECEMBER 2025 & JANUARY 2026



Dear Friends,

As happens each November, I attended the annual Clergy Conference in Pitlochry, held this year from the 2nd–4th. The theme was *“Ministry That Is Ours,”* with all speakers drawn from within our diocese, along with one from the SEI. The Revd Malcolm Round led our Bible studies, guiding us through the letter of 2 Timothy.



It was wonderful to have our Primus, Bishop Mark, with us, as well as our guests from Finland. The conference continues to be deeply valued by all who attend, and this year’s gathering was marked by a spirit of love, hope, and unity in our diversity — truly uplifting.

To strengthen our relationship with our friends in the Diocese of Espoo, we agreed to learn the Lord’s Prayer in Finnish. More on this will follow in the

New Year, as we hope some churches will record their congregations taking part in this special challenge at Pentecost 2026.

If you missed Jaakko’s sermon during his recent visit, you’ll find it later in this magazine.

He spoke about the use of candles at All Souls’, which has inspired me to plan, that next year we will light candles in church for those we remember.

The person lighting each candle will say the name of their loved one aloud — making the moment more personal and meaningful.

November was a sad month where we lost dear Bishop Bob. A man of great faith, love and encouragement. I will certainly miss his cheeky smile during my sermons (or was he laughing at what I was saying?!)

Further on in the magazine, you'll find details of all our services and events throughout December. There's quite a variety, and I hope you'll be able to join us during Advent and Christmas.

My heartfelt thanks go to the Events and Fundraising Team for all their hard work in making our church a welcoming and lively community — building relationships both within and beyond our walls — through events such as the Christmas Fayre and the Afternoon Tea. Before the Tea, the children's choir, who rehearse weekly in our church, will give a short concert at 2.15pm, finishing just before the Tea begins at 3pm. They would be delighted to have your support!

Wishing you all a peaceful Advent and a Christmas filled with joy, love, and, of course, mince pies.

With love and blessings.

Nicki



VESTRY REPORT – November 2025



- Nicki commented on the high standard of our annual reports and what a great church we have.
- The nomination forms are at the back of the church for people to propose Vestry members, Lay rep, Alternate Lay Rep and People's Warden.
- Heather had sent a draft copy of the Financial Report by email. Bryan spotted a couple of typos to correct and a set of figures that we will ask for clarification over.
- Nicki will ask Marie to send out the financial report to everybody as soon as we have the corrected version so that they can submit any questions ahead of the AGM if they wish. Andrew agreed to read out the treasurer's report at the AGM.
- Nicki gave her thanks to those leaving Vestry (Frances and Susan) for their work on Vestry over the last two years.
- Judith agreed to announce the date and time of the AGM at the next Sunday service. Frances will announce it at the 8.30am service. It has also been publicised in the November Sign and pew notes.
- An email has been received from the General Synod Office with links to *Guidance for Vestries* following recent changes to Charity Law and the updated Health and Safety Toolkit. Nicki asked Vestry to read this. Nicki will provide new documents for the Vestry folders in December.
- The rectory kitchen is finished, and Vestry may visit at a future date.
- There is an issue with the rectory boilers not coming on/staying on as programmed. This is to be investigated.
- Ross has removed and replaced the u-bend in the 'men's' toilet, and we hope that the leak is now fixed.

- Nicki reported that Clergy Conference was excellent and that she is grateful for Vestry's support in funding her attendance. She gained a lot of information to help Vestry and has some ideas to implement that should help us. She will discuss / start them in December.
- Nicki asked if anybody from Vestry had readers for the Nine Lessons and Carols service. Nobody had. Nicki confirmed participants from The Colinton Inn, Osteria, Colinton Amenities Council, Cheyne Gang (from June), Porteous, the army and she is waiting to hear from Purves and The Men's Shed.
- Kay is going to look at the Quinquennial Report to see if we have completed the urgent and advised work. Nicki will first produce a list of the work done.
- Vestry was asked if a donation towards the Garden volunteer's celebratory lunch would be possible. It was decided that this is not practical as all church volunteers in any capacity would need to be treated the same.
- Andrew reminded Vestry of the upcoming trustee training on the 15th of November at Haddington.
- Judith thanked Vestry for distributing the Christmas leaflets.
- Jean has offered to provide and put up a curtain for Cletus.
- Jean asked how long Nicki is covering the church in Falkirk. Nicki will cover at least until next July as they have to show that they can increase their income to afford a new Rector before advertising for a replacement.

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

“But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.”

Ephesians 4:7 (NIV)

This verse, along with others such as *Romans 12:6* and *1 Peter 4:10*, reminds us that every believer has been entrusted with a unique, God-given gift for service. Each of us is called to use these gifts faithfully in the life of the Church and in the wider community.

As we begin a new church year, I invite you to take time to reflect:

What gifts has God given you?

And how might those gifts be used to serve others and build up the body of Christ?

We are all called to serve and to make disciples—not only the Rector, NSMs, or Vestry, but every member of the congregation. During this quiet and expectant season of Advent, may we each prayerfully consider what we can offer in service to God and to one another.

As we reflected at Clergy Conference, I ask you to discern what ministry is yours. Thank you. Nicki

St Cuthbert's Invites You:

Saturdays during advent – 29th November, 6th, 13th & 20th December, at 10.30am for refreshments and chat. **We warmly invite all those who have joined us this year to our Advent Saturday coffee mornings.** There's no need to come to every one - just drop in whenever you can between **10:30 and 11:30am.**

Message for December and January from Revd Margaret.

December and January witness key events in the Christian calendar. We start with Advent, the anticipation of the birth of God's Son and also his second coming. We then move on to the celebration of his birth, and we ponder once again on its circumstances and on the key visitors mentioned in the Gospels, of whom the Three Kings or Wise Men are honoured on the 6th January. Although this period holds such significance for Christians, it has also become a time for general festivities in the midst of a dark winter season, sadly in recent years becoming over commercialised, with a concentration on food, drink, fancy decorations and unnecessarily lavish gifts, the original reason for the festival being overlooked or marginalised.

However, that need not be the case: the religious, spiritual core of Christmas **can** run alongside the family gatherings, the exchange of gifts and a celebratory meal. And the way this can successfully happen lies in the way we prepare for the coming of Jesus and our ability to put God's gifts embodied in His Son at the core of these preparations.

To help you deliberate on this, I will tell you briefly about the theme for our Thursday afternoon service on 4th December, The Four Pillars of Advent – Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. These themes or virtues are to be celebrated for a week each during the four-week season of Advent. It is a way of journeying towards Christmas, encouraging us to reflect on these virtues and how we can embody them in our daily lives.

Hope comes first, a hope in the bliss to come, the eternal life promised us by the God who supports us all. Peace is a quality we long for in a tormented world, an inner peace, a peace of the soul, amidst the noise and chaos around us, a gracious gift from God for all time. Joy is a virtue enabling us to experience and share the same delight as Mary, when she learned she was to bear God's Son. Then, finally, Love, arguably the greatest of all God's gifts, a reflection of his own self, and a wonderful virtue to bring our Advent reflections to a climax, helping us to be ready to reach out in true love and compassion to all whom we welcome over the Festive Season and to remember our outreach to the more unfortunate among God's children.

So, do come and join us for this service on the Four Pillars of Advent on Thursday 4th December, followed, of course, by refreshments and fellowship in the hall. There will be no service in January (the first we've missed!) as the first Thursday of the month falls on New Years Day. However, it will be 'business as usual' in February, when I will be reflecting on Candlemas in Poetry and Art.

In the meantime, I wish you all a blessed and joyous Christmas and every blessing for the New Year.



*With my love,
Margaret, NSM*

December 2025/ January 2026 Music Notes



The music chosen to be sung by the choir during the months of December and January sticks faithfully to the seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, and to the theme of the lectionary readings. The highlight, we hope, will be the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, which takes place on 21 December, in which the choir makes a strong contribution. Sadly, it has become increasingly difficult to recruit a choir for the midnight service on Christmas Eve and the 10.30am service on Christmas Day, and so the music during communion at these services will consist of a congregational carol and organ music. Also, with the congregation consisting of (hopefully) a good number of visitors, we have taken the decision to say the Gloria, Sanctus, Benedictus and Agnus Dei, so that everyone present can join in and not feel left out at these points in the service.

7 December:	Remember, O thou man - Ravenscroft
14 December:	O King and desire of all nations – John Stainer
21 December, 10.30am:	Magnificat in F - Edward Bunnett
21 December, 5.00pm:	NINE LESSONS & CAROLS
Christmas Eve, 11.30pm:	Carols
Christmas Day, 10.30am:	Carols
28 December:	Carols
4 January:	Across the snow - Frederick Bridge
11 January:	From the rising of the sun - FA Gore Ouseley
18 January:	Blest are the pure in heart - H Walford Davies
25 January:	Come, my Way, my Truth, my Light -



Alexander Brent Smith

Philip Rossiter

**Thursday Afternoon Service:
December 4th, 2025 at 2.30pm
The Four Pillars of Advent**



**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, February 5th and Thursday, March 5th
(Please note there is no service on Thursday, January 1st)*



**the Scottish
Episcopal Church**
Welcomes You

A sermon from Revd Jaakko Niiles on All Souls.

Today we turn our eyes to Jesus. To the cross of Jesus, to His death on the cross, and to His resurrection. According to the Gospel text, everyone who SEES the Son—that is, Jesus—and trusts in Him will have eternal life.

It is no surprise to any of us that each one of us will die. Death is a natural part of life. One day, we will all face it. When we are young, we often feel almost immortal. Death doesn't cross our minds. It doesn't touch us. Funerals are rare, and even when they happen, they don't feel close—often the person who died was a distant relative. But as we grow older, death comes closer. In its own way, death is a mystery. It always comes unexpectedly—at least from a human perspective. Sometimes it is anticipated, especially when someone suffers from a terminal illness, but even then, death surprises us. Death can also be a relief. For someone who has suffered greatly, it can be seen as the end of their pain. We may think: now they are in a better place.

Yet within us, there is something permanent and eternal. Christian hope is deeply connected to death. When we believe in Jesus, He saves us—even from death. I believe that even if I were to die today, Christ would awaken me. That feels safe and important. God has the final word, but it is into the hands of a loving God that we can entrust our spirit, our body, our soul—our whole life.

On All Soul's Day in Finland, it is customary to bring candles to graves. Many cemeteries are filled with candles. Many people observe All Soul's Day even if they are not otherwise religious. It feels meaningful to bring a candle and remember someone important. Memories are quite lasting. A candle reminds us of the warmth and light that person brought into the world. It reminds us

of all the good we experienced with them. At the same time, the candle reminds us of Christ Jesus. Jesus is the light of the world. That light dispels darkness. It is the light of love.

Once, we were heading to a youth camp at a new location unfamiliar to us. We arrived in the evening, and it was already dark. Later, as is Finnish custom, we planned to go to the sauna by the lake. We knew the path to the sauna started next to the building. Thankfully, we found the beginning of the path, but everything was pitch black. I took out my phone and used its flashlight, which only illuminated a few steps at a time. After walking for a while, I began to see the sauna building and the light in front of it. Walking became easier. The closer I got to the light, the more clearly I could follow the path. Sometimes God only shows us a few steps ahead. It can be difficult to walk. The Psalms say that God's word is a lamp to our feet. It shows the traveller where to step—but only a little at a time. The Bible also speaks of Christ as the light. He gives us direction. He guides us all the way to eternal life. In faith in Jesus, we do not need to fear death. For us Christians, death means encountering Jesus and eternal life. No more sickness, pain, or tears. As Christians, we have an eternal hope that endures and carries us.

Through His death and resurrection, Jesus showed us the way to walk. He conquered the power of evil on the cross and defeated death through His resurrection. Death is no longer the end but part of the Christian journey. We have hope—a hope we can rely on even today.

The communion table is often a semicircle. On the other side are those whose journey has already crossed the boundary of death. In communion, we can encounter Christ and place our trust in Him. He does not turn anyone away. Trust in Him. He will lead you to eternal life. He is the Light.



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

Dates:

**1st & 15th December 2025
5th & 19th January 2026**

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

COFFEE

Coffee refreshments after Sunday service is a welcome time to catch up with friends and neighbours and this has been a success with the help of our ladies.

From funds raised we made donations to two food banks, Holy Trinity Church and St Salvador's Episcopal Church and also the Bishop's Lent Appeal.

As we are all getting a bit older it is becoming more difficult to put together a group of ladies to serve refreshments after Sunday service therefore if any volunteers would like to join our little band please contact Audrey Naden.



QUIZ

Louise Stobie is fundraising for St Cuthbert's with another Quiz – please support this if you can.

Quiz sheets available now from Louise – donation of £1 please.

(A small prize will be awarded for the first correct entry opened on 25th January 2026). Thank you!

Holy Trinity Foodbank

Holy Trinity Church, Wester Hailes, strives to support those in immediate need of help. Please consider making a donation this Christmas to help the foodbank continue their vital work. Your generosity enables the foodbank to provide essential support to individuals and families in our local area. Every contribution makes a difference. If you are able to make a donation, please speak to Susan Clark. Thank you.



December Dates:

(Additional to our usual weekday and Sundays)

Wednesday 10th December at 11.30am
Royal Regiment of Scotland
Clarinet Quartet fun Christmas Concert

Saturday 13th December at 2.15pm
Schools Choir Concert
Followed by our Afternoon Tea in the hall

Wednesday 17th December at 7pm
Carols at the Colinton Inn
With Philip Rossiter on Keyboard

Sunday 21st December at 5pm
Nine Lessons and Carols
Followed by Prosecco from Nicki & Iain

Wednesday 24th December at 3pm
Crib Service

Wednesday 24th December at 11.30pm
Midnight Mass

Thursday 25th December at 10.30am
Family Eucharist



CLARINET QUARTET TRAINING CONCERT



Christmas Music

10.12

**1130-1230
ST CUTHBERTS CHURCH
COLINTON**

FREE TO ATTEND

REFRESHMENTS AFTERWARDS

MEMBERS OF THE BAND OF THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF SCOTLAND



Please NOTE:

**There will be no 10.30am service on
Wednesday 31st December
and no Thursday afternoon service on 1st January.
*Thank you.***

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.



CHRISTMAS TEA

Saturday 13 December 2025

at 3.00pm – 5.00pm

**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 Pastoral Visitors

We are truly blessed at St. Cuthbert's to have a caring group of volunteers who visit those who are sick, housebound, or simply in need of company. They offer their time on behalf of both the congregation and the Rector, and each one receives support, guidance, and the appropriate PVG clearance for this important ministry.

Although the Rector would dearly love to visit everyone as often as she would like, the responsibilities of leading St. Cuthbert's — along with helping at Christ Church, Falkirk — mean her time is limited. Even so, she makes every effort to see each member of the congregation at least four times a year if they live within 10 miles (with our more distant members kept in her thoughts and prayers as well). These visits may be in church or in your own home.

Because of this, we ask you to remember that when a pastoral visitor comes to see you, it is a visit from your church family. And when time allows, the Rector will come to bring Communion or spend time with you herself.

Please also know that if you are unwell or approaching end of life, you will always be given priority, as will funeral needs.

Your wellbeing and spiritual care remain at the heart of all we do.

Advent is a sacred season of waiting and preparation — a time when we quiet our hearts to make room for the coming of Christ. It is not only about anticipation but about creating space for hope, peace, joy, and love to grow within us.

Before worship, moments of silence and reflection help us enter this spirit of Advent. By pausing to listen — to the music, to our breath, and to the still, small voice of God — we prepare ourselves to receive the Word and the sacrament with open hearts. The quiet before the service is not emptiness, but a holy stillness that invites us deeper into the mystery of God's presence among us.

I commend this time of silence to you and hope you can respect it for ten minutes before the 10.30am service begins.

"Be still, and know that I am God." — Psalm 46:10

Nicki





DECEMBER 2025 ROTAS

Can you help?

I would like help with rotas over the Christmas period please – and during the year, as few people have many duties. There are blank spaces in this magazine's rotas, so if you can fill any spaces, please let me know.

Many thanks, Nicki

READINGS FOR DECEMBER 2025

Year A

Readings are taken from the NRSV

7th December – Advent 2

Isaiah	11. 1-10
Romans	15. 4-13
Matthew	3. 1-12

14th December – Advent 3

Isaiah	35. 1-10
James	5. 7-10
Matthew	11. 2-11

21st December – Advent 4

Isaiah	7. 10-16
Romans	1. 1-7
Matthew	1. 18-25

24th December – Midnight Mass

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

25th December – Christmas Day

Isaiah	9. 2-7
Luke	2. 1-20

28th December – Christmas 1

Isaiah	63. 7-9
Hebrews	2. 10-18
Matthew	2. 13-23



JANUARY 2026 READINGS



4th January – The Epiphany

Isaiah	60. 1-6
Ephesians	3. 1-12
Matthew	2. 1-12

11th January – Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah	42. 1-9
Acts	10. 34-43
Matthew	3. 13-17

18th January – Epiphany 2

Isaiah	49. 1-7
1 Corinthians	1. 1-9
John	1. 29-42

25th January – Epiphany 3

Isaiah	9. 1-4
1 Corinthians	1. 10-18
Matthew	4. 12-23

1st February – The Presentation of the Lord

Malachi	3. 1-4
Hebrews	2. 14-18
Luke	2. 22-40

THE SIGN MAGAZINE

Please note –
The deadline
for information and articles
for the
FEBRUARY 2026 issue

is

Sunday 11th January 2026

Please send to
stcuthbertscolinton@gmail.com

Thank you!

'THE SIGN' Subscriptions 2026

'Thank you to all our magazine subscribers.'

If you would like a PAPER copy of 'The Sign' magazine each month in 2026, starting with the February issue, subscriptions are due by 31 January 2026 please.

Annual Subscription Cost:- Paper copy £20

We value your continued support. If paying by cheque, please make payable to St Cuthbert's Episcopal Church, and either hand in or send to
Marie Neil, Church Administrator,
c/o The Rectory, 6 Westgarth Avenue, Edinburgh,
EH13 0BD.

If paying by cash, put in a clearly marked envelope and hand to one of the welcome team.

If you would like to pay by bank transfer, or for more details, please contact Marie –
stcuthbertscolinton@gmail.com





St Cuthbert's Playgroup in the Church Hall

10am - 11.30am - Every Monday
(during school term time)

Only £2 per family

**Last Date in 2025 -
Monday 15th December
(Christmas Party)**

**Restart Date -
Monday 12th January 2026**





Edinburgh Schools Singing Programme – Music Education through Choral Singing:

A chance for children to experience the joy of singing in a choir, grow in confidence and musical skills, and perform in exciting concerts, including at St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Edinburgh. The choir meets here in St Cuthberts', Colinton, on a Tuesday evening during school term from 4.45pm – 5.45pm.

We are looking for volunteers to help on a Tuesday evening, assisting Katrina MacKinnon, the Schools Choral Director.

For further details, please speak to Nicki. *Thank you.*

***Please come along to the
Children's Choir Christmas Concert on
Saturday 13th December, in St Cuthbert's Church
at 2.15pm.
All Welcome.***



the
*colinton &
merchiston*
community choir

PLEASE JOIN US in the
MEMORIAL HALL at

MERCHISTON CASTLE SCHOOL on MONDAY 8th
DECEMBER at 7pm for 7.30 pm for our CHRISTMAS
CONCERT. We will be singing some beautiful Christmas
Music including:- Vaughan Williams “Fantasia on Christmas
Carols”, Cornelius “Three Kings from Persian Lands Afar “,
Telemann’s “ Der Jungste Tag wird bald sein Ziel” and a
lovely selection of carols. Tickets £10 or £5 for under 18s
available from choir members or at the main door of the
Memorial Hall, which opens at 7pm.

We are a very welcoming, non-auditioning community choir
with a mixed range of ages and singing and sight reading
abilities. If you would like to see what it would be like to sing
with us, please join us in the Memorial Hall for an OPEN
REHEARSAL on **MONDAY 5th JANUARY at 7 pm**. There
will be no commitment or pressure to join. Our rehearsals
usually begin at 7 15 pm and end at 9 pm. We are looking
forward to singing Mozart’s Requiem next term.

For more information
about our choir,
please consult our
website:

www.colintonchoir.org

or visit our Facebook
page.



CHRISTMAS CONCERT

A selection of seasonal music including

Fantasia on Christmas Carols R Vaughan Williams
Der jüngste Tag wird bald sein Ziel G P Telemann
and some well-loved Christmas carols

Conductor: Timothy Coleman
Accompanist: Morley Whitehead
Baritone: Jack Harris
Tenor: David Walsh



MONDAY 8 DECEMBER 2025

7.30 pm

Memorial Hall

Merchiston Castle School

Tickets: £10.00/£5.00 under 18s
Available in advance from choir members
and at the door (cash only)

www.colintonchoir.org

Christmas On the Corner is back!

As winter settles in and we draw closer to the warmth of Christmas, **Colinton Village Enterprise** warmly invites the congregation and wider community to gather for an evening of fellowship and festive cheer.



Thursday 18th December



5.00pm–7.00pm



St Cuthbert's Church Hall, Westgarth Avenue

Join us as we welcome the season with **Santa's Grotto**, mulled wine, mince pies, crafts, a tombola, and plenty of activities for children and adults alike. It's a lovely chance to pause, reconnect, and enjoy the simple blessings of being together.

We'll also be sharing an update on the **Community Hub** development in Spylaw Park. With the support of **Rollo Developments Ltd**, our building 'The Shed' is undergoing much change: scaffolding is now in place, the mezzanine level and internal walls have been cleared, the roof is off, and the much-loved mural created by Firrhill High School students in 2017 has been carefully documented so it can be thoughtfully restored—keeping an important piece of Colinton's story alive.

Our Trustees—Lorraine O'Shea (Chair), Pam Wardell (Vice-Chair), Julie Johnson (Treasurer), Kim Anderson (Secretary), Jennie Loudon, Mandy Easton, and Elise Anderson—continue to work with dedication to bring this vision forward. But its heart lies in the people who gather around it.

If you feel able to offer a little time, creativity, or practical help—whether for events, fundraising, or general volunteering—please email colintonvillage@gmail.com - we would be deeply grateful. Monetary contributions of any size also make a meaningful difference.

We look forward to welcoming you to Christmas on the Corner for an evening of community, hope, and Christmas spirit. With huge thanks to The Revd. Nicki McNelly for allowing us the use the wonderful Church Hall for the occasion.

CHRISTMAS ON THE CORNER

Thursday 18th December

Entry by Donation

5.00pm to 7.00pm

St Cuthbert's Church Hall

Westgarth Avenue

Santa's Grotto

Mulled Wine & Mince Pies

Tombola & Activities

Heritage Hub News





**WEEK OF PRAYER
FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY**

Joint lunch with our Ukrainian Friends

Saturday 17th January 2026 at 1pm

See Judith or Joan for tickets

Donations please



THE LEPROSY MISSION

GREAT BRITAIN



Donations: I have paid in £54.28 on 5 November from church members. If there are any other full tubs, or gift envelopes I can collect and make another payment at the end of November.

Visiting Speaker: Unfortunately due to family circumstances Steven McLeish has had to call off his visit on 30 November to our service. We hope he might come at a later date. I suggest we make that a date for any further donations before Christmas.

Projects: We are asked to pray for TLM Trust India's Community Development and Vocational Training outreach. Community-based rehabilitation projects work towards financial independence as well as raising awareness amongst local leaders on topics such as leprosy, gender equality, human rights and inclusion. At 6 Vocational Training Centres students come from households affected by leprosy as well as other disabilities and marginalised communities.

In Mozambique in 2022 through a UK Aid Match 'Unconditional Appeal' £4.4m was raised. Now 807 volunteers have been recruited and trained. They can recognise the early signs of leprosy and refer people before disability sets in. They walk alongside those on their leprosy journey, encouraging them every step of the way.

Prayer: Jacinta Marqueza at TLM Mozambique provides a devotion on p.58 of this year's prayer diary.

Heavenly Father, help us to trust deeply in Your unseen hand guiding our lives. Strengthen our faith to walk by it and not by our limited sight. May our lives reflect your Glory as we rely on you completely. Amen.

Kay Dalley

Gracious! Christmas comes with speed...the October half term has been and gone and all our resolutions to prep for Advent and Christmas with it... Here is an handy 'throw it together' standby for sharing or just nibbling, for giving, or munching whilst wrapping. You may even cook now and freeze it! Ring the changes with the icing by using lemon juice not ginger. Or just sprinkle with icing sugar. Now to prise that lid off the can....

FESTIVE TRAYBAKE - MAKES 15–20 SLICES

INGREDIENTS

300g (11 oz) self-raising flour sifted into bowl with
2 tsp baking powder
1 tsp ground mixed spice
1 tsp ground allspice
225g (8 oz) butter, softened
175g (6 oz) caster sugar
225g (8 oz) black treacle
4 eggs
4 tablespoons milk
3 bulbs stem ginger from a jar, finely chopped



ICING

75g (3 oz) icing sugar, sifted
2 tbsp stem ginger syrup from the jar
2 bulbs stem ginger, finely chopped

METHOD

Preheat the oven to 180°C/Fan 160°C/Gas 4.
Line a small roasting tin about 30 x 23cm (12 x 9 in) with foil and grease well.
Measure all the ingredients for the cake into a large bowl and beat well for about 2 minutes until well blended.
Pour into the prepared tin.
Bake in the preheated oven for about 40 minutes.
Remove from the oven and allow to cool a little.
Lift cake in foil case out of the tin to cool completely.
To make the icing, mix together the icing sugar and syrup.
Pour over the cake while still warm, and sprinkle with the chopped stem ginger.

PREP AHEAD

Make up to 2 days ahead, and ice on the day. If you want to freeze, leave whole, un-iced, wrap in foil and freeze for up to 2 months. Thaw for about 6 hours at room temperature, then ice and cut into 15–20 squares.

Have a Joyous and Peaceful Christ Mass and a Gentle Hogmanay!



The Secret Baker

**Thursday Afternoon Service:
February 5th, 2026 at 2.30pm**

Candlemas in Poetry and Art



**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, March 5th and Thursday, April 2nd

Heads up for the next Phoenix Group's (very light-hearted) Quiz

Monday, March 9th, 2026: 2pm to 4pm in the Church Hall

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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.

WHO'S WHO AT ST CUTHBERT'S

Rector	The Revd Nicki McNelly stcuthbertsrector@gmail.com Tel: 0131 441 7580
NSM (Non-Stipendiary Minister)	Revd Dr Margaret McCrindle stcuthbertsnsm@gmail.com (07931 483906)
Church Administrator	Marie Neil stcuthbertscolinton@gmail.com 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 christinenimmo@btinternet.com
Organist & Choirmaster	Philip Rossiter 283 0234
Property Committee	Nicki McNelly
Sacristans	Bev Henderson, Joan Smith
Treasurer & Book-Keeper	Heather Tidy stcuthbertstreasures24@gmail.com
Vestry Secretary	Julia Roberts 441 4965 Julia.roberts01@btinternet.com
Website & Magazine Editor	Church Administrator stcuthbertscolinton@gmail.com
Archivist	Christine Nimmo
R&R	Wendy Pearson wendypearson37@gmail.com
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: stcuthbertsevents@gmail.com
Leprosy Mission	Kay Dalley
Phoenix Group	Margaret Kieran 445 3751
St. Raphael's Rep.	Judith Mackintosh 443 1313
Vestry Members *	George Bungay, Jayne Churchill, Bryan Dale, Kay Dalley, Andrew Daye, Megan Emmerson, Mandy Johnston, Judith Mackintosh, Ian Miller, Julia Roberts, Christine Sanderson, Esther Srinivasulu

"But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it."
Ephesians 4:7 (NIV)



St Cuthbert's Scottish Episcopal Church

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

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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

