

THE SIGN

MAY 2026



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

**THE SIGN
MAY 2026**

**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 – The Season of Easter, St Cuthbert's, Colinton
Photograph: Louise Stobie*

MAY 2026

I would like to begin by thanking Philip and the choir for all their hard work in preparing for Lent, Holy Week and Easter. As we have come to expect, the music was truly excellent, and we are so fortunate to be blessed with a choir that enriches and leads our worship so beautifully. It was a little disappointing, however, that the attendance on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday did not quite reflect the effort that had gone into these services.



Easter Day, on the other hand, was a wonderful celebration—Alleluia! Christ is risen! Across the three services, we welcomed around 150 people, which was very encouraging. I must admit, I was quite surprised when leaving the 10.30am service to find the garden speckled in a layer of snow!

Thankfully, inside the church, the flowers were a joyful contrast, full of colour and life. My sincere thanks go to everyone who came along on Saturday to prepare the church so beautifully—it was truly appreciated.

On the Wednesday after Easter, Donald, Judith, Joan, Megan and I visited Cairdean to lead the monthly service, where we were delighted to meet some very cute chicks. A lovely and fitting reminder of new life in this Easter season.



As we now look ahead to Pentecost (24th May), I would like to invite everyone to wear something red as we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit. I did suggest this last year, but only a few managed it—so perhaps we can do better this time! And if red isn't something you have, anything close to it will be just as welcome.

Earlier this year, I also invited you to learn the Lord's Prayer in Finnish. I must confess I haven't quite managed it—but perhaps some of you have had more success! If you are able to say the Lord's Prayer in another language, I would love to invite you to share it at Pentecost, as we say the prayer together. With a variety of languages, we might capture something of the journey from Babel to Pentecost—when confusion was transformed into unity.

Following the Primus's invitation to hold a service of Prayer for Peace during Holy Week, I have decided to continue this as a monthly gathering. We will meet on the last Tuesday of each month at noon, and it would be wonderful if you were able to join me.

By the time you read this I should have had a short break in Malta with Iain, as I was unable to take time off directly after Easter.

Let us hope that May brings warmer weather and brighter, sunnier days—it certainly makes it easier to smile! Although I have to say, the snow brought plenty of smiles to Cletus, who we will miss now that he is moving on to Falkirk .

Every blessing, Nicki

ST. CUTHBERT'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Westgarth Avenue



PRAYERS FOR PEACE D

Join us as we come together in prayer
for peace in our hearts, our communities,
and our world.

"Blessed are the peacemakers"

Let us pray for:

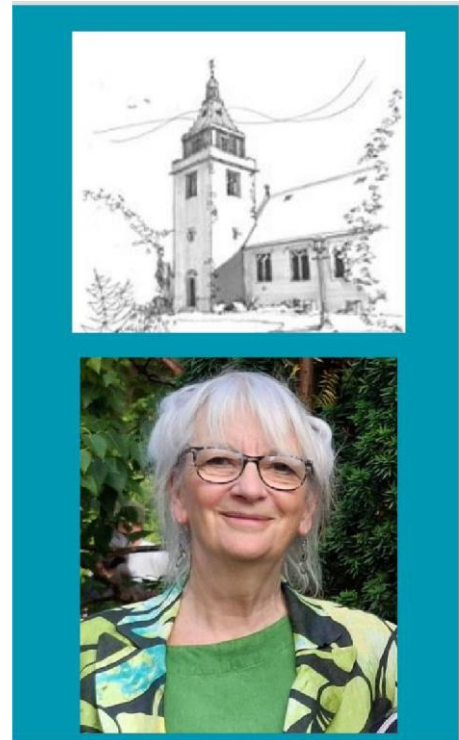
- . Peace among nations
- . Comfort for those suffering
- . Unity in our community
- . Hope for the future

All are welcome

Last Tuesday of each month at Noon

DEMENTIA AWARENESS WORKSHOP

WITH DIANA KERR -
AUTHOR OF "SINGING
GROUPS FOR PEOPLE
WITH DEMENTIA"¹¹



TUESDAY 5TH MAY

1.30PM - 3.30PM

IN

**ST CUTHBERT'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH,
WESTGARTH AVENUE, COLINTON**

Please join us at this workshop to learn more about dementia and particularly the most positive ways to engage with anyone living with the disease.

Refreshments will be served.

Copies of Diana's book will be available at the cost price of £6.

Would You Like To Join A House Group?



Join with like-minded people
to discuss the Bible.

Please let Nicki know
if you are interested.

Sent by God, Received by Godly People – A Post-Easter Farewell to St. Cuthbert's Church Community

As I prepare to take leave of you as a church community and begin a new pastoral assignment at Christ Church, Falkirk, my heart is full of gratitude to God and to all of you. From July 2025 to April 2026, you have not simply been a congregation to me; you have been family, companions in faith, and a living testimony to the goodness of God.

The season of Easter gives us a beautiful lens through which to understand change. Change is one of life's constants, yet for the believer, change is never meaningless when God is at the helm. The cross itself seemed, to human eyes, like the collapse of hope. Yet the death of Jesus did not thwart God's plan to save the world. Through the resurrection, God revealed that what appears to be an ending may become the doorway to new life. Christ is risen, and because he is risen, we know that change in God's hands is never defeat but transformation.

Scripture reminds us: "We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28). This does not mean every transition is easy, but it does mean that every season surrendered to God can end in praise. I leave St. Cuthbert's in that confidence. I go not in anxiety, but in hope. I go trusting that the same God who brought me here, nurtured me here, and blessed me through you, will also go ahead of me.

I thank the Rector, the Vestry, and the entire church community for receiving me so warmly into your midst. Your generosity, kindness, and cheerful giving have been channels of God's love

to me and my family back in Ghana. You have supported me in more ways than I can fully express, and you helped me to enculturate so well that, in many ways, my missionary umbilical cord is being buried here. St. Cuthbert's will always remain my quasi domicile, a place deeply woven into my story.

Though I am being reposted to Christ Church, Falkirk, as locum tenens, I do not feel that I am leaving you as a family behind. Rather, I am being sent on mission, to stand in for Nicki and to serve God's people there for a season. In Christ, distance never breaks the communion of love, prayer, and shared belonging.

So, I leave you with this encouragement: whatever your present circumstance, do not lose heart. The risen Lord still brings light out of darkness, hope out of sorrow, and purpose out of uncertainty. Hold fast to him. Trust him with your unanswered questions. Place every life situation into his hands, and in his time, it shall end in praise.

Please continue to remember me in your prayers, especially for my studies, my family (whom I missed so much), and for this new chapter of pastoral ministry in Falkirk. I am very confident with God coupled with the orientation and guidance received from our able Rector – Rev'd Nicki, I will make a good start. Be assured that you, too, will remain in my prayers and in my heart.

May the joy of the risen Christ strengthen your faith, deepen your hope, and keep you always in the love of God and one another.

Every Blessing with much Love

Rev'd Cletus Dongwir Sullo

Thoughts from Revd. Margaret.

As I write this article, I have just returned from a 2-week cruise to French and Portuguese river cities, seeking a much-needed break from months of distress and stress leading up to and following the death of my dear husband Ian at the end of November. It was the first Easter I had decided to be away from church, and superficially I felt that God was questioning my decision: the weather was poor, the seas almost constantly rough, and various restrictions were in place on board due to efforts to combat the few cases of gastroenteritis. But of course, I was **wrong!** As **always** God was present, speaking and acting through people I met and experiences I enjoyed. It was a very appropriate reminder that Easter and Resurrection follow the anguish of Good Friday, hope and joy taking over from misery and distress. I will illustrate this by briefly mentioning two particular instances which firmly underline this.

Firstly, imagine my delight in discovering that we had an ordained Pastor on board, Father Jeremy Hellier, Chaplain to Mission to Seafarers, Port of Bristol. Not only did he take services on Easter Sunday and the following Sunday, but he started by leading a very poignant service on Good Friday. All services were very well attended. Having introduced myself, Father Jeremy asked for my assistance both Sundays (sadly no communion, due to health restrictions), but also, through encounters at the breakfast table, some prayer sessions and chance meetings, he became a real friend. However, more importantly, his constant readiness to help crew and passengers on board, as well as daily links with troubled seafarers in Bristol, demonstrated his faithfulness in reaching out to the troubled to be the mark of a true disciple.

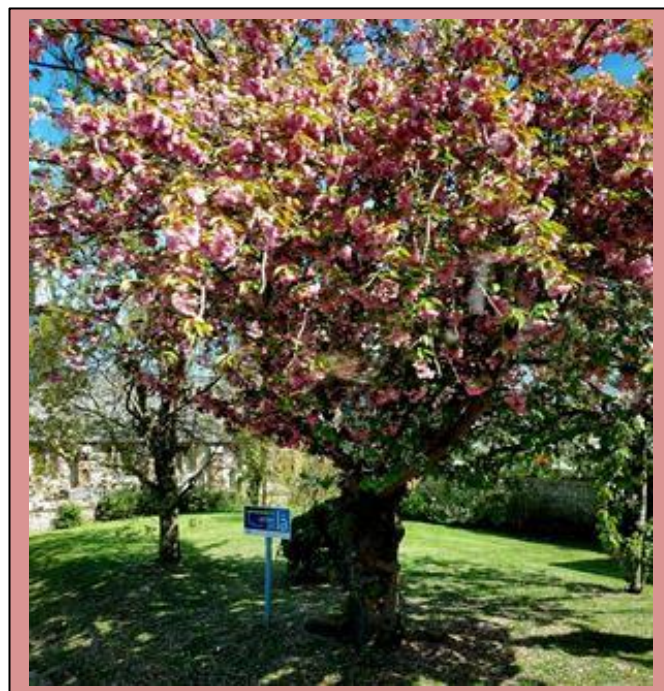
Secondly, the notion of hope following seemingly inevitable distress, was driven home in a case related by a lecturer speaking to us about Rouen the day before we reached the port. Fearing for the destruction by Allied Bombers in World War 2 of a medieval church containing irreplaceable jewel bright medieval stained-glass

windows, the church authorities removed and stored them. Yes, the church **was** bombed and destroyed. However, in the 1960s, a church was erected to the memory of St. Joan of Arc, tried and burned at the stake in Rouen - and the rescued stained-glass windows given pride of place. I visited it and was emotionally and spiritually uplifted – a true Resurrection experience.

France and Portugal were way ahead of us in displaying the joys of spring, with trees in full leaf, many laden with blossom, and flowers abounding everywhere. And this leads me on to extending an invitation to you all to attend our Thursday afternoon service on May 7th at 2.30pm, at which the theme is to be Joy. I shall be considering the joy of the Resurrection, the joy of spring and the joy to be found in small everyday occurrences. Do please join us, and also put the date of our June service, the 4th, in your diaries, when Caroline will be leading us on the theme of Jesus Heals the Sick.

In the meantime, I leave you with my love and blessings,

Margaret, NSM.





EVENSONG 2026

at5pm

24th May

28th June

All Welcome





**MAY 2026
ROTAS**

MAY 2026 READINGS

3rd May – Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts	7. 55-60
1 Peter	2. 2-10
John	14. 1-14

10th May – Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts	17. 22-31
1 Peter	3. 13-22
John	14. 15-21

17th May – Seventh Sunday of Easter (Sunday after Ascension)

Acts	1. 6-14
1 Peter	4. 12-14; 5. 6-11
John	17. 1-11

24th May – Day of Pentecost

Numbers	11. 24-30
Acts	2. 1-21
John	20. 19-23

31st May – Trinity Sunday

Genesis	1. 1-2. 4a
2 Corinthians	13. 11-13
Matthew	28. 16-20

7th June – Pentecost 3

Hosea	5. 15 – 6. 6
Romans	4. 13-25
Matthew	9. 9-13, 18-26



Preserves For Charity

Last year was another wonderfully supported year. Thank you all who purchased the preserves and donated each month.

The total raised during 2025 was **£690**, which has been forwarded to Cancer Research UK. Usual sales on last Sunday of month. *Thank you again, Ross Addison*



Fresh Start:

Our thanks and appreciation go to Hilary Pritchard - our Fresh Start Co-ordinator for many years – providing St Cuthbert's with updates on this Edinburgh charity and their fundraising events, and for arranging successful collections here in Colinton. As Hilary steps down from this role, we are looking for a volunteer/s to come forward to take over. Please speak to Nicki or any member of Vestry if you can help. Thank you.

www.freshstartweb.org.uk

St. Fillan's Walking Group Invites you

Saturday Evening May 16th 5pm

Dean Bridge to Leith, via Water of Leith, 4 miles
Meal TBC

May 30th

North Berwick to Tantallon Castle, 6 miles
Picnic

Saturday Evening June 13th 5pm

Peebles circular, 4 miles
Meal at Prince of India

June 27th

Morningside/Grange/Innocent Railway, 7.5 miles
Picnic



Please contact David Barraclough for more
information

drbarraclough@icloud

07534 253038

THE SIGN MAGAZINE

Please note –

The deadline

for information and articles

for the

JUNE 2026 issue

is

Sunday 17 MAY 2026

Please send to

stcuthbertscolinton@gmail.com

Thank you!



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

MAY DATES:

**Monday 4th May
Monday 18th May**

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

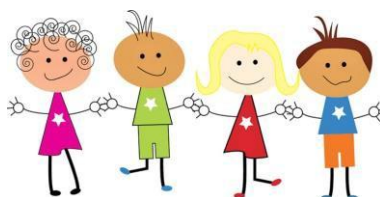
All Welcome



St Cuthbert's Playgroup in the Church Hall

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

Play, craft, snack and sing
Only £2 per family



Thursday Afternoon Service:
May itti, 2,02,s.at 2.30pm

Joy



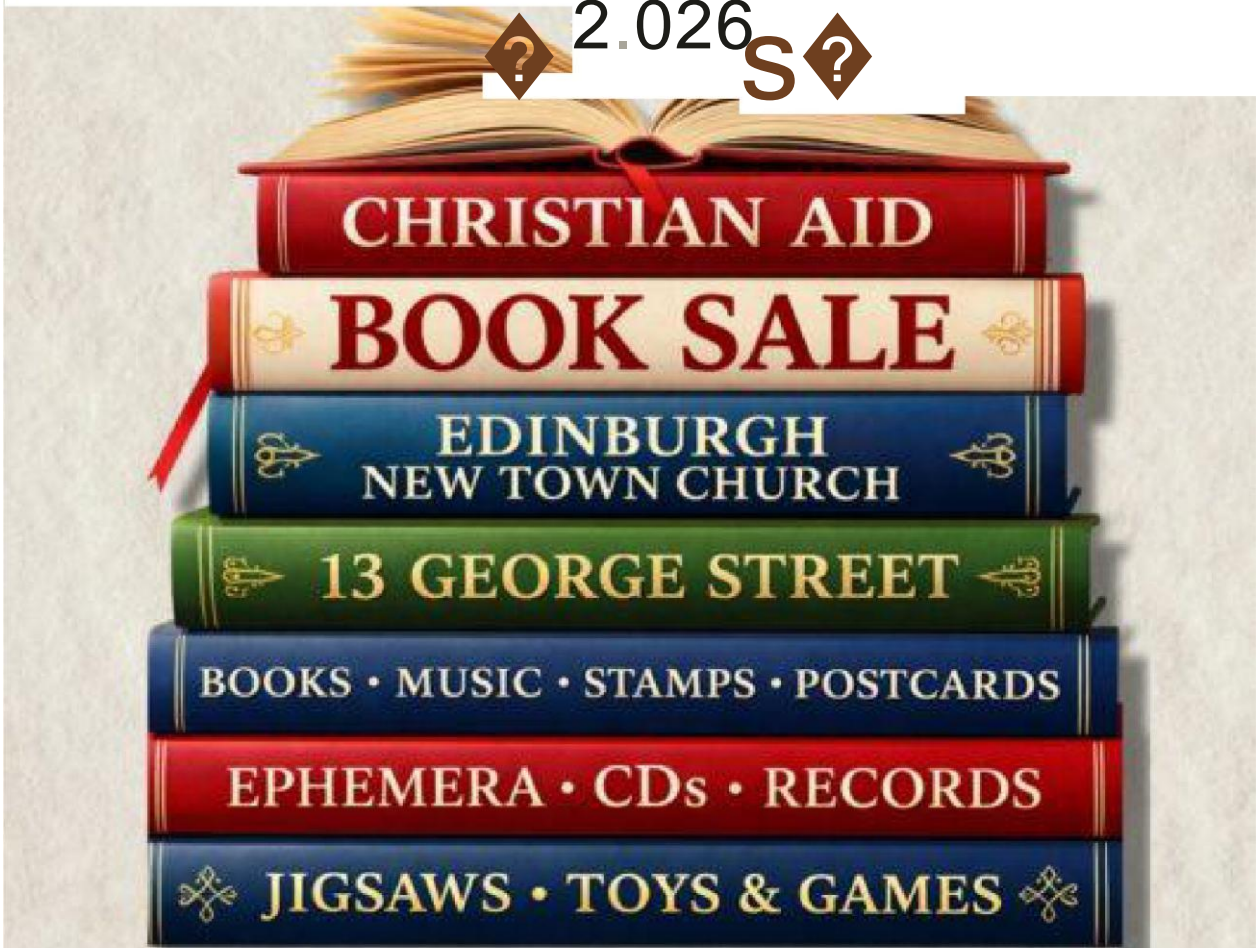
Please join us for this informal service
Everyone is welcome and we hope to see you there
Refreshments will be served after the service

Thursday, 2nd July 2020, 2.30pm

BOOK SALE

May 9th, 11th-15th

2.026 S



Scan to visit our FB page



www.edinburghnewtownchurch.org.uk/work/christian-aid-sale/



We are seeking donations of good quality:

**Books of all kinds
Paintings
Music
CDs and DVDs
Jigsaws, Toys and Games**

Donation Information:

**Drop-off Times:
April 27 - May 2 & May 4 - May 7
9 AM to 8 PM**

Edinburgh New Town Church, 13 George Street

**Undercroft Café open 10.30am to 2pm
offering a wide range of delectable hot and cold treats.**

Donation Guidelines:

Please ensure items are in good condition for their age.

Unfortunately, we cannot accept encyclopedia sets, magazine collections, or Reader's Digest publications.

Large Donations:

For donations exceeding a car boot-load, please contact us in advance to discuss the details.
ca@edinburghnewtownchurch.org.uk

Note: Donating materials that cannot be sold incurs costs for us and Christian Aid.



Got questions or need to discuss a delivery?

Drop us an email!

ca@edinburghnewtownchurch.org.uk
The New Town Church of Scotland SC O08890

THE LEPROSY MISSION

GREAT BRITAIN



In May, the prayer theme of the Leprosy Mission in Great Britain is advocacy and awareness-raising work. Many people across Britain don't know leprosy still exists.

As a focus of this work, in April TLM was the charity appeal on BBC Radio 4, broadcast on Easter Sunday and Thursday 9th. The broadcaster Pam Rhodes spoke about child leprosy and told the story of a 12 year old girl in India, treated at Champa Hospital, with a year-long course of anti-biotics. Her leprosy was healed and she should be able to return to school. Vital work of the Mission is to educate communities so that stigma is removed and children are not hidden away.

World Health Day was on 7 April and the focus this year is on science-led health. Abielle Hallas of TLM explains some of the research currently being undertaken:

“An easy-to-use diagnostic tool would be a gamechanger in the fight against leprosy. One study funded by The Leprosy Mission Great Britain, and led by Leiden University and The Leprosy Mission Bangladesh, aims to develop just that.

Scientists are investigating biomarkers and immune responses to leprosy in the blood. The aim is to develop a simple finger-prick test that could detect the disease during the early phases of infection.

With nothing like this test currently available for leprosy, the impacts would be revolutionary. As easy to use as a Covid test, it could be taken anywhere, from remote communities to conflict

zones. And faster, more accurate diagnosis would help us reach even more people before the disease devastates lives.

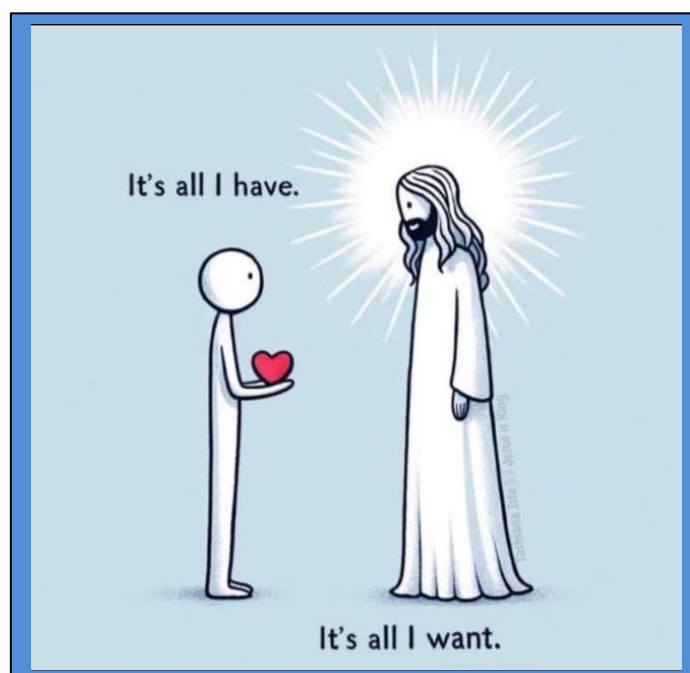
Breakthroughs take time. The study in Bangladesh is ongoing, and a field-ready diagnostic may still be years away. But each finding brings us one step closer to understanding leprosy better, and ending this cruel disease for good.”

It is still possible to donate to the BBC appeal, which a generous supporter has pledged to match to £50,000. Donation can be made by

- Freephone 0800 404 8144
- By cheque payable to “The Leprosy Mission” sent to Freepost BBC Radio 4 Appeal writing *The Leprosy Mission* on the back of the envelope
 - Online at bbc.co.uk/appeal/radio4

The appeal is available to listen to on BBC Sounds on the BBC website.

Kay Dalley



Church BBQ

Join us with invited refugees to
celebrate refugee week in June.

27th June 2026

2pm-4pm

Please let Joan or Judith know if
you would like to join us and they
will give you tickets.





THE PHOENIX GROUP

We have nothing arranged at the moment but still hope to go for a buffet lunch at Liberton Golf Club, where Audrey Naden is a member.

We also plan to play Croquet again at the Meadows Croquet Club. It was such a special event last year and Jean Wood, a member of the Club, is very happy to host another afternoon for us there.

A further suggestion is that we go on another canal boat trip from Ratho. These outings have been a delight and have worked very well in the past. We would be happy to organise another one, although people would have to arrange their own transport.

Please let us have any other ideas for future events and gatherings.

Margaret Kieran, Jean Myers and Margaret Temple

the
*colinton &
merchiston*
community choir

We are very pleased to say that our Spring Concert was a great success, with a record attendance for recent years. We have received excellent feedback.

The choir and our fine soloists sang Mozart's Requiem and Purcell's Music For the Funeral of Queen Mary with the excellent Morley Whitehead on the organ, and also with most impressive Orchestral Accompaniment, all under the expert direction of our Musical Director, Timothy Coleman.

We are very grateful to Merchiston Castle School, as always, for the use of the Memorial Hall, where our rehearsals will start again in September.

For more information about our choir, please consult our website www.colintonchoir.org or our Facebook page.

Margaret Kieran on behalf of the Choir



People's Emergency Briefing

**Colinton,
Edinburgh**



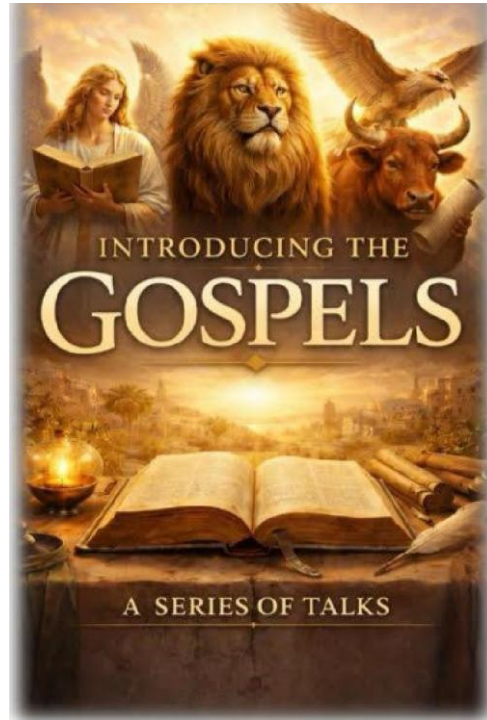
45 min film screening, then discussion with
our MP, MSPs & local City Councillors

St Cuthbert's Church, 6 Westgarth Ave
Friday 1st May 2026 - 7pm-8:30pm

Book a seat through the QR code above or online at:
<https://buytickets.at/greenpeaceedinburgh/2174488>

www.nebriefing.org

Bishop Donald Allister



7, 14, 21 & 28 July

2-3pm at St. Cuthbert's Church
Westgarth Avenue

0131 4417580

All 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 stcuthbertstreasurer24@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

Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9



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

