

THE SIGN

OCTOBER 2026

**100 Years of
St Cuthbert's Church Hall
1926-2026**



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

THE SIGN OCTOBER 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 – Church Hall Window

Photograph: Church Office

OCTOBER 2026

There is something about September that always feels like a turning point. The summer holidays are over, the evenings are beginning to draw in, and there is that unmistakable feeling that we are moving into a different season. The leaves may still be mostly green, but there is already a hint of change in the air.



It seems particularly appropriate, then, that we celebrated our Harvest Festival during the Season of Creation. Harvest gives us the opportunity to stop and say thank you – for the food we enjoy, for those who grow and produce it, and for the extraordinary world in which God has placed us. But it also asks us to think about how we care for that world.

I was especially pleased that during the season of creation, the Vestry were beginning to think more seriously about our own contribution to caring for creation. The Vestry has agreed that we should investigate what it would mean to move both the Rectory and the church towards Net Zero. There is still plenty to work out, and I suspect there will be quite a few spreadsheets, discussions and decisions along the way! But I think it is important that we do what we can with the buildings and resources entrusted to us.

For me, this isn't simply about targets or technology. It is part of our Christian calling to be good stewards of God's creation. We won't get everything right, and we certainly can't solve the climate crisis from Colinton, but we can ask ourselves what difference we can make here. Sometimes faithfulness is about taking the next small step rather than having all the answers.

September also brought the great joy of welcoming our new Bishop, Dagmar, to St Cuthbert's for our Harvest celebrations. It was wonderful to have her with us and to introduce her to our congregation and our community. A new Bishop brings a new chapter to the life of the Diocese, and I look forward to seeing how that chapter unfolds. I am very grateful for the warmth with which Bishop Dagmar has already been welcomed across the Diocese, and particularly for the opportunity we had to spend time with her here at St Cuthbert's.

And now, almost without noticing it, we begin to look towards the end of another year. November brings our AGM, and with it the opportunity to look back at all that has happened over the past twelve months. There will, inevitably, be reports and accounts and the practical business that keeps any church going. But I hope we will also take the opportunity to give thanks.

When I look back over the year, I am conscious of just how much happens at St Cuthbert's that doesn't necessarily appear in a report. People quietly checking in on someone who is unwell. A cup of coffee and a conversation. Someone turning up early to arrange the church, or staying behind to put everything away. Music, flowers, prayers, meals, visits, phone calls and countless small acts of kindness. These things are easily overlooked, but they are very much part of what makes a church a church.

As I approach my tenth year at St Cuthbert's, I find myself increasingly aware of the privilege it is to be part of this particular community. We are not perfect – no church is – but there is a generosity and warmth here which I value enormously. I am grateful for the many different people who contribute to our life together, whether they have been here for decades or have only recently walked through our doors.

So, as we move from the brightness of summer towards autumn and winter, I hope we can embrace the changing season rather than simply wishing the summer back.

Creation itself teaches us that there are times for growing and times for letting go, times for activity and times for rest, and that every season has its own gifts.

May the coming months be a time when we continue to give thanks, to care for one another and for God's creation, and to remain open to whatever God might be calling us to do next.

Love and blessings.

Nicki

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*Dear friends at St Cuthbert's,*



*A huge thank you for all the lovely cards, gifts and good wishes we have received to welcome the arrival of our daughter, **Maja Meryl**.*

*We have been so touched by your kindness and thoughtfulness, and it means a great deal to know that she has already been so warmly welcomed by the St*

*Cuthbert's family.*

*With our grateful thanks and love,*

**Ceri & Kamil ♥**

## VESTRY REPORT

Vestry August 2026

- Constitution changes- the updated version was agreed by the congregation at the second EGM. Jayne and Nicki will proceed with the next step of sending to the Diocese. Vestry had received comments from Archie Clark on the proposed Constitution Changes. Vestry thanks Archie for his thoughts. One comment was on the use of the word 'further' in the final paragraph of section 12. This was there as a mistake, and this was highlighted to the congregation at the EGM and consent was given to remove this word.
- The Vestry meeting this month was too early for a Finance Report as the bank statements arrived too late. Heather told Vestry that all was as expected from the budget and that there was nothing new to report
- We are short of chalice bearers/Ministers of the Word to fulfil the Rota. Jayne and Mandy offered to train to be chalice bearers and Julia offered to train to be a Minister of the Word. Training to be arranged.
- Yearly rectory updating plan: Quotes for renewing the bathrooms in the rectory are around £10,000 each inc. VAT. Heather proposed to update only one as we don't know the full costs of other works for the Rectory at present. Vestry agreed.
- Net Zero work on the Rectory (as requested by the Diocese): i) replacing the 3 gas fires with electric would cost £1005 each inc. VAT (Nicki sourced quotes through 3 different stores and emails but it seems they are all owned by the same company); ii) replacing the 3 very old Velux windows would cost £9918 inc. VAT. One quote gives full detailed breakdown the other not. Nicki was told the windows they have were not designed for areas that are lived in; iii) Solar panels after a completed survey with chosen company £14586.57+VAT; iv) Hot water/heating system to replace the two rectory boilers (now having repeated problems): (the cost to replace is £11,688), Ocean Endless 3001 system provides instant hot water at mains pressure on demand at three price points- £3750+Vat supply only; £4725+Vat supply and install (removal of old boiler), £5137.50+Vat supply, install, and removal of boiler, pipework and radiators. Nicki is meeting with a representative of Trust Electric

next Wednesday to get more information on this system and whether electric heating can be installed.

- Small Rectory green grants are available from the Diocese and Province towards Net Zero projects. Iain is happy to help and manage the project and Vestry agreed that he and Nicki will look at the application forms with a view to apply for grants towards all this work.
- Vestry has a Net Zero meeting on August 24<sup>th</sup> with Neil Rawlins/ Jack Nevin to obtain more information.
- Megan, Kay, Mandy and Nicki went to the Eco day at Lasswade Church to see the Net Zero work completed there (air source heat pump, infra-red heating, insulation). The total costs were £118,000 and we believe that grants and fundraising covered around £95,000. Nicki proposes that a Net Zero group looks at getting information on packages, grants, church permission, solar on the hall (Megan, Nicki, Andrew and Iain).
- Kay has been in touch with Edinburgh Stained Glass, Balcarres Street, for quotes on repairing our stained-glass secondary protection glazing. Nicki is to pass on contact details for the company from Fife that Leslie has used for her church.
- Megan is sending the details of the art sessions to the Dell Directory and the Currie & Balerno News.
- The events team are postponing the Halloween Quiz until the Spring.
- Nicki has spoken to David from Sentry Electrics who is going to contact a man to obtain a quote to see if we can have the outdoor tree lighting in place to switch on every year.
- We are celebrating Harvest over two weekends this year. On the 27<sup>th</sup> of September, Bishop Dagmar is with us, and Vestry has agreed to ask for donations to foodbanks. On Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October (St Francis of Assisi Feast Day), Vestry has approved donations going to Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home.
- Vestry agreed to change the date of the November Vestry meeting to 1<sup>st</sup> November.

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

## **Vestry Changes at the AGM – Is God Calling You?**

As we look ahead to our AGM in November, there will be a number of changes to our Vestry.

George has completed five years as our People's Warden, and Judith has also completed five years as Rector's Warden. I want to say a very heartfelt thank you to them both for all the time, commitment, wisdom and hard work they have given to St Cuthbert's during those five years. Being a Warden carries a great deal of responsibility, much of it unseen, and I am hugely grateful for all that George and Judith have done and continue to do for our church.

I will be appointing a new Rector's Warden for the coming year, and we will need to elect a new People's Warden.

In addition, there will be five vacancies on Vestry to be filled at the AGM, with two nominations already received.

So, if you have ever wondered whether Vestry might be something you could contribute to, perhaps now is the time to discern your call.

Being on Vestry is about much more than attending meetings and dealing with the practical business of running the church.

It is about helping to shape the future of St Cuthbert's, listening to one another, making decisions together and seeking to understand where God is leading us.

It is an opportunity to use your own gifts, experience and perspective in the service of our church community.

You don't need to have all the answers, and you certainly don't need to know everything about how the church works! What matters is a willingness to listen, to contribute, to work with others and to help us move forward together.

I am very grateful to all our current Vestry members for the time and energy they give to St Cuthbert's. Much of their work happens quietly and behind the scenes, and I know how much commitment is involved. I am especially grateful to those whose terms are coming to an end, and to George and Judith for their five years of service as our Wardens.

As we enter a new chapter, I hope that others will feel called to step forward. Could that be you? Please do prayerfully consider whether this is an opportunity for you to serve St Cuthbert's and to play a part in shaping its future.



## Thank You to Marie

It is with some sadness that I have to announce that our Church Administrator, Marie, has decided to resign from her role at St Cuthbert's with effect from the 8<sup>th</sup> of December.

Marie has been such a wonderful asset to the life of our church, and I know how much she is appreciated by so many of us. She has brought great professionalism, care and commitment to everything she has done, and has made my life considerably easier in the process!

One of Marie's particular gifts is her uncanny ability to know what I need before I know I need it. There have been countless occasions when I have been thinking, "*I really must ask Marie to do that...*" only to find that she has already done it! I am not quite sure whether she has developed a sixth sense or simply become very good at anticipating what the Rector is about to forget!

Everything Marie produces is done to an exceptionally high standard, with great attention to detail and care. She has been wonderfully efficient, reliable and always willing to help, and I have come to rely on her enormously.

Of course, her work has extended far beyond supporting me. Marie has been a valued point of contact for the congregation, Vestry, hall users and many others, and has quietly kept so many of the practical aspects of church life running smoothly.

She will be a very hard act to follow. Finding someone who can not only do the job so well but also anticipate what the Rector is going to ask for before the Rector has actually asked for it may prove to be something of a challenge!

I shall miss Marie enormously, both professionally and personally, and I know that many others will too. We are immensely grateful for all that she has done for St Cuthbert's and for the warmth, care, efficiency and good humour she has brought to her work.

We wish Marie every happiness for the future and thank her most sincerely for all she has given to our church. She leaves with our affection, our gratitude and our very best wishes.

*Nicki*



## **Reflections for October from Revd. Margaret.**

As I woke this September morning to a seemingly gale-force wind blowing through my barely open bedroom window, a short quote from Wordsworth came to my mind: 'Wild is the music of the autumnal winds among the faded woods,' and yet, in mid-September, we are barely into autumn. Yes, there is indeed some fading of leaves from the vivid green of summer, but all around me green remains the prominent colour in the gardens, almost as if God is reminding his temperate region that the season of Autumn is to be a time of gradual change.

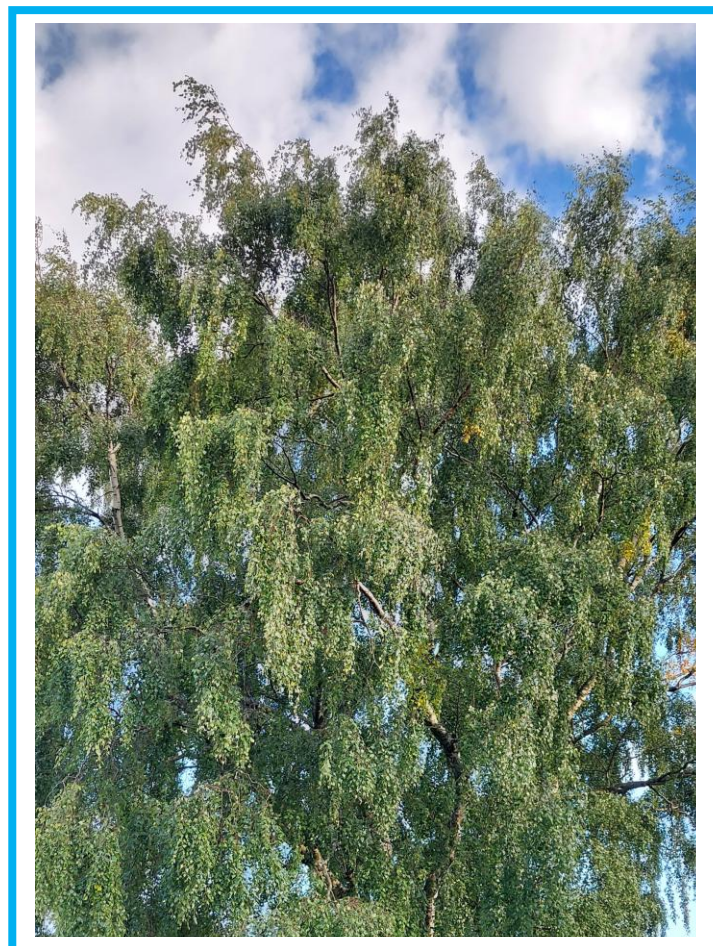
And how often is that reflected in our own lives! Unless sudden health issues halt us in our tracks, the passing years affect our energies and abilities so gradually that we barely notice, until our bodies suddenly say NO to a former usual practice. But that is our bodies. What about our minds? I believe that Autumn is a special season for reflection, a wonderful opportunity to reflect on our changing relationship to the world around us, our family and friends or our natural or humanly created and engineered environments, but, at the heart of it, our relationship with God, with his will for us as the years pass. I see this as a positive, helpful approach in discerning how we may strengthen our relationship with God at a time when our energies may be challenged, but we still have a role to play in countering the damaging aspects of increasingly frenetic, greedy, selfish and even violent behaviour across the globe.

Of course, you will observe, we cannot influence the actions of political and commercial leaders, terrorists and violent individuals outside our own home spheres: perhaps not, in its strictest sense. However, through the power of prayer, through words and actions on their own doorsteps, all individuals throughout the world can set up a gradually expanding ripple of good, of compassion, understanding and respect. Together we can make a difference.

For ourselves, in addition to our personal and joint prayers, may I encourage you to attend our Thursday afternoon services, which address various aspects of our relationship to God and to His Son, Jesus Christ. On 1<sup>st</sup> October, Joan will be enlightening us on the life and work of 'William Tyndale, Scholar and Martyr,' and on 5<sup>th</sup> November I will be investigating 'Saints of Every Ilk.' After each service, everyone is invited to share fellowship and refreshments in the hall.

I would like to conclude this message with words from a prayer for Autumn from Ray Simpson: 'Harvester God, as autumn light ripens the grain, ripen too our souls. As brown leaves fall and sheaves are stored, help us to leave behind summer's ways, and go forward in deepening compassion. Generous be our hearts, open be our hands, justice be our benchmark, thanksgiving be our call.'  
My love and blessings to you all,

*Margaret, NSM.*





## MUSIC ARTICLE FOR OCTOBER 2026

Having celebrated our Harvest Festival in our morning service on the final Sunday of September and at evensong on the first Sunday of October, the choice of anthems for the remaining Sundays of October are on a more general theme, prior to our preparations for All Saints, All Souls, Remembrance and Christ the King in November. This gives the choir the opportunity to start preparing for Advent and Christmas. Our Carol Service this year will take place on 20 December, when we are planning, once again, to welcome the children's choir that St Cuthbert's helps to support financially. With both choirs performing both independently and together at this service, we hope to attract a large congregation to this celebration of the Christmas season.

Sunday 4 October, 10.30am: Ave verum corpus - RL Pearsall

Sunday 4 October, 5pm Harvest Evensong:

Psalm 65

Magnificat & Nunc Dimittis in C –

Hylton Stewart

Look at the world

- John Rutter

Sunday 11 October:

Tantum Ergo

- David Terry

Sunday 18 October:

Lord, I trust thee

- Handel

Sunday 25 October:

Lord, give me faith

- Kathleen Robson

**Philip Rossiter**

*St Cuthbert's,  
Colinton  
Evensong Service:  
4th October  
@ 5pm  
All Welcome  
(the service will be followed  
by cheese and wine in the  
church hall)*



# 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**



# PHOENIX GROUP

## CAROLINE'S QUIZ

Once again, Caroline's quiz on Monday 14 September proved to be a most enjoyable and fun event. As always, Caroline had prepared a very wide and diverse range of questions, so there was something for everybody and lots for each team to discuss. There was also plenty of time for conversation while we had refreshments and a raffle with a prize for everyone! There was no entry fee but we collected £143 in donations for church funds.

## CHRISTMAS LUNCH - THURSDAY 10 December – at 12.30pm for 1pm at the KINGSKNOWE GOLF CLUB

We are very pleased to say that Caroline Seville is going to organise our Christmas Lunch this year. We thank Jean Myers for all her efficient and dedicated work on previous lunches and many other events throughout the years.

Caroline has booked our CHRISTMAS LUNCH for Thursday 10 December at the Kingsknowe Golf Club, [326 Lanark Road, EH14 2JD](https://www.kingsknowegolfclub.co.uk/). There is a new catering team there now. Please come along from 12.30pm for 1pm.

Caroline will be circulating the Christmas Menu soon. We are just going to have 2 courses at a cost £27 plus a tip of £3 making a total of £30. This price does not include coffee, tea or drinks so these will have to be paid for separately. Thankfully deposits are not required this time.

Please book your place with Caroline and let her have your Menu Choices as soon as possible.

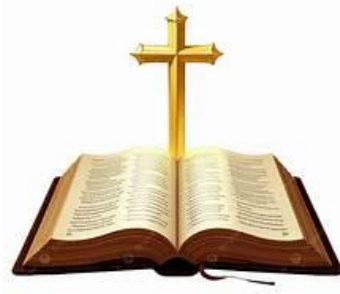
***Caroline Seville and Margaret Kieran***



## **OCTOBER 2026 ROTAS**

# OCTOBER 2026 READINGS

## Taken from NRSV



### **4<sup>th</sup> October – Pentecost 19**

|             |           |
|-------------|-----------|
| Isaiah      | 5. 1-7    |
| Philippians | 3. 4b-14  |
| Matthew     | 21. 33-46 |

### **11<sup>th</sup> October – Pentecost 20**

|             |          |
|-------------|----------|
| Isaiah      | 25. 1-9  |
| Philippians | 4. 1-9   |
| Matthew     | 22. 1-14 |

### **18<sup>th</sup> October – Pentecost 21**

|                 |           |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Isaiah          | 45. 1-7   |
| 1 Thessalonians | 1. 1-10   |
| Matthew         | 22. 15-22 |

### **25<sup>th</sup> October – Pentecost 22**

|                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Leviticus       | 19. 1-2, 15-18 |
| 1 Thessalonians | 2. 1-8         |
| Matthew         | 22. 34-46      |

### **1<sup>st</sup> November – All Saints (All Souls)**

|            |         |
|------------|---------|
| Revelation | 7. 9-17 |
| 1 John     | 3. 1-3  |
| Matthew    | 5. 1-12 |

**ST. CUTHBERT'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**Westgarth Avenue**



**PRAYERS FOR PEACE** □

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**

## **A More Personal All Souls**

This year, following a suggestion from the Revd Jaakko, from Espoo, who preached at last year's All Souls service, we are going to make our All Souls remembrance a little more personal.

All Souls is a time when we remember with gratitude those we have loved and lost, and bring their names and memories before God. In the past, I have read out a long list of names during the service. This year, instead, everyone will have the opportunity to come forward, light a candle and name aloud the person or people they wish to remember.

For some, the loss may be very recent; for others, it may be many years ago. Either way, we all carry people we remember and love.

I hope this simple act of lighting a candle and speaking a name will give us space to remember, to give thanks, and to place those we love once again into God's loving hands.



# **THE SIGN MAGAZINE**

**Please note –  
The deadline  
for information and articles  
for the**

**NOVEMBER 2026 issue**

**is**

**Sunday 11 October 2026**

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

**Thank you!**



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

**2pm – 4pm**

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October  
Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October**

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

[forgetmenotes.org.uk](http://forgetmenotes.org.uk)  
[stcuthbertscolinton.org.uk](http://stcuthbertscolinton.org.uk)

For more information, contact  
[stcuthbertscolinton@gmail.com](mailto:stcuthbertscolinton@gmail.com)

*All Welcome*

## A Thought About Giving

As we look ahead to another year at St Cuthbert's, I would like to ask us all to think and pray about our financial giving to the church.

We are entering an exciting period as we explore what it might mean to move both the Rectory and the church towards Net Zero. There will be costs involved in this work, even though we will be seeking grants and other sources of funding. We are also conscious that, alongside these projects, we need to continue meeting the ordinary costs of running and maintaining our church.

We are fortunate to have money in investments, which gives us some security and allows us to undertake some projects that would otherwise be difficult. However, investments are there to support the long-term life and mission of St Cuthbert's; they cannot be used indefinitely to cover the gap between what we receive in giving and what we spend each year. We need to make sure that our regular giving keeps pace with our regular outgoings.

As you think about your giving, please take some time to pray about it. If you already give by standing order, have you considered whether you might be able to increase it, even by a small amount?

Regular giving makes it much easier for us to budget and plan ahead, particularly when we know what income we can expect each month.

I also want to say very clearly that I understand that not everyone is in a position to increase their giving – and that is absolutely fine. We all have different circumstances, and Christian giving is not about comparing ourselves with anyone else. It is about responding prayerfully and generously to what we have been given.

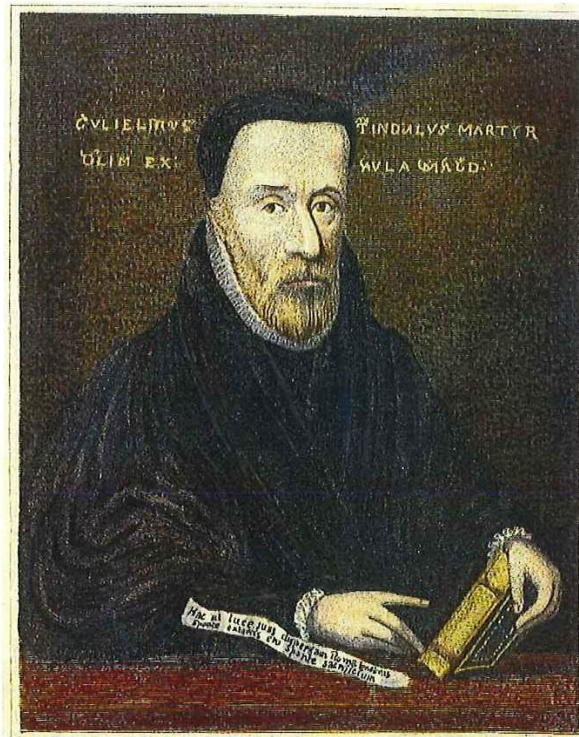
Thank you to everyone who already gives regularly to St Cuthbert's, whether through a standing order, the collection plate or in other ways. Every gift, large or small, contributes to the life and ministry of our church.

As we consider the future of our buildings, our mission and our ministry, I hope we can also see our giving as part of that future – helping to ensure that St Cuthbert's remains a welcoming, worshipping and serving community for generations to come.



**Thursday Service**  
**1 October 2026 at 2.30pm**

**William Tyndale Scholar & Martyr**



***All are welcome to this short informal Service***

Refreshments will be served after the service

*Next Services: Thursday 5 November, Thursday 3 December*

# THE LEPROSY MISSION

## GREAT BRITAIN



### News

There are copies of the latest 'New Day' magazines in church. This includes a really moving story of Adam a leprosy patient cared for by Danja hospital in Niger.

The terrible flood disaster in northern Nepal has shocked the world. We pray for all people there affected by such tragedy and loss. Anandaban hospital, the flagship Leprosy Mission treatment centre outside Kathmandu is as far as I can ascertain outside the immediate disaster area, but itself has gone through a devastating landslide in 2024, and is now on a path of reconstruction and development.

### Prayer Diary

Continuing prayers for the persecuted churches in countries supported by the Leprosy Mission. Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Mozambique and Nepal are all on the Open Doors' World Watchlist for oppression against believers. We pray for Christians and Leprosy Mission workers in those areas who face harassment, exclusion and even attack.

We also pray for Myanmar where people affected by leprosy have been particularly hard hit. We pray for the brave volunteers who take vital care to remote communities that would otherwise be forgotten.

## Current Appeal

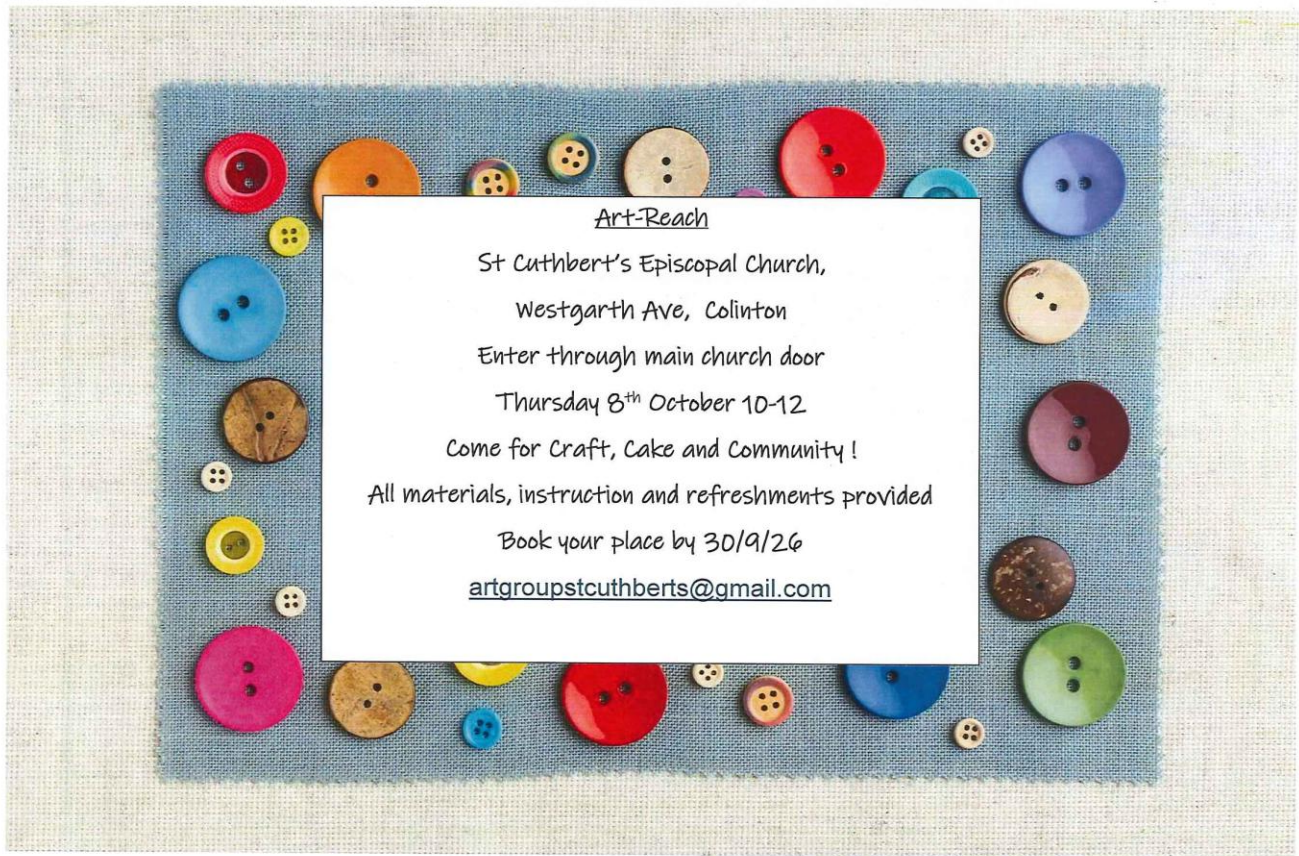
For children with leprosy, and the work to diagnose cases early to save a life of suffering from the development of the disease. ‘No Child Should Feel Left Out’ is the inspiration for a fund-raising project to provide essential clean water with new wells and toilets for families. Collecting water at a common well can still be difficult for people with leprosy who are not welcome there, meaning a long trek to find an alternative source. As communities are educated about discrimination and children are screened at school for leprosy this suffering in body and spirit can be dispelled. Good sanitation means stronger immune systems to fight disease. The stories of some of the children are in New Day magazine.

## Donations

I propose we collect for a donation in late November by blue tubs or otherwise, so if donations can be handed in by 29 November I will aim to pay these in in the first week of December.

We can continue to support many inspiring initiatives through the Leprosy Mission work and reach towards relief from the suffering of this disease. Jesus’ message of love shines through in all these stories.

*Kay Dalley*



## Art Reach at St Cuthbert's

As part of our Mission Plan the vestry has been tasked with finding different ways to engage with our church and local community. A friendly craft group meeting once a month was suggested so Art Reach was born. We are trialling it for 3 months on the second Thursday of the month 10-12 in the south transept of church. Cake and coffee will be provided along with all the materials for the craft.

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> Oct

Autumnal Felt craft

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November

Stencilling based on the church ceiling

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December

Fabric Christmas decoration

There is no charge for these sessions but please speak to Megan or email [artgroupstcuthberts@gmail.com](mailto:artgroupstcuthberts@gmail.com) to book your place to aid with preparation of materials.

## Help Mary's Meals feed more children this Christmas

This Christmas we can help to provide life-changing school meals to children living in some of the world's poorest countries.

I'm hosting a stall at the **Christmas Fair on 30th November** and all money raised will go to **Mary's Meals**. The charity, which started in Scotland, is tackling child poverty and hunger through the promise of a daily school meal.

Sadly, around 45 million children around the world suffer from severe malnutrition and 78 million primary-age children don't go to school, instead having to beg or work to survive. Mary's Meals works in 16 countries around the world, providing daily school meals to children most in need. These meals encourage them into the classroom, where they can also learn and build a better future.

It costs just £19.15 to provide a child with meals for a whole school year and the stall will raise much needed funds for the charity.

You can help in two ways – firstly by giving donated items for the stall and by coming along on the day and buying or giving a financial donation.

If you have any items you would like to donate, please can you give them to me or my husband George by Sunday November 22nd.

Many thanks in advance.

*June Bungay*

([07905 052135](tel:07905052135) //email address [jrbungay@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jrbungay@hotmail.co.uk))



**End hunger at school**

the  
*colinton &  
merchiston*  
community choir

**SAVE THE DATE for our CHRISTMAS CONCERT  
on MONDAY 7 DECEMBER**

Please join us for our at CHRISTMAS CONCERT at 8pm on MONDAY 7 DECEMBER in the MEMORIAL HALL, at Merchiston Castle School.

We have a delightful programme with Mendelssohn's "CANTATA : VOM HIMMEL HOCH", "THE SHEPHERDS" by Rheinberger, IN TERRA PAX" by Finzi and a lovely selection of CHRISTMAS CAROLS, some with audience participation.

As always, we thank Merchiston Castle School for the use of the Memorial Hall for our Concerts and for most of our Rehearsals.

More details about tickets etc for Christmas Concert will be included in the next 2 editions of The Sign.



*Margaret Kieran on behalf of the Choir*



**Local collection**  
**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2-4pm**  
**St Cuthbert's Church Hall,**  
**Westgarth Avenue, Colinton**

**Below is a list of household items that can help make a house a home. Good quality only, please!**

- Dishes and Cutlery
- Cleaning items
- Pots and pans
- Bed linen and towels (NOT duvets or pillows)
- Small Household electrical items
- Long lasting food products

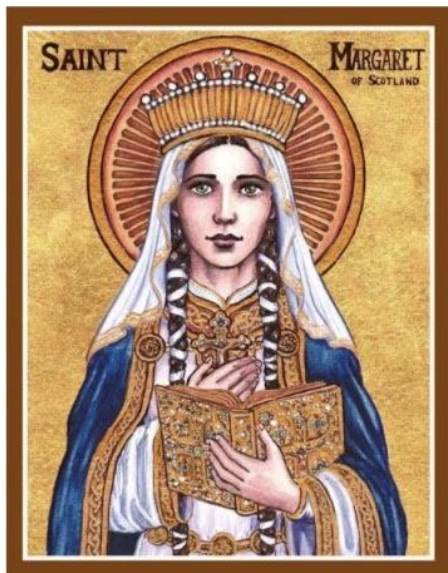
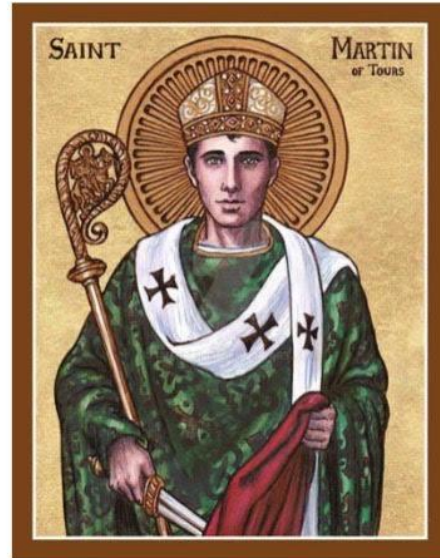
***Please let Wendy Pearson know if you are available to help. Thanks.***

**[www.freshstartweb.org.uk](http://www.freshstartweb.org.uk)**  
**Scottish Charity no. SCO29184**

## Thursday Afternoon Service

November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026

## Saints of Every Ilk



**Please join us for this short informal service**

Future services: December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026 and January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2027



# **“Lest We Forget... victims of war today” Remembrance Sunday**

**Christian Aid bread and soup lunch  
Sunday 8<sup>st</sup> November, in the church hall,  
directly after church.**

**Remember the 25% Gift Aid!  
Use the Christian Aid envelopes provided  
PS Bring a single £1 coin to join in the fun.**





## **“Lest We Forget... victims of war today”**

It seems appropriate on Remembrance Sunday that our first Christian Aid Bread and Soup Lunch for some years should be offering our St Cuthbert's Family a chance to give generously in the name of those suffering in war torn parts of the world now. We are all aware there are many places crying out for emergency support, for peace and for justice, and your money will be divided between two community led responses: in Ukraine and in The Middle East. All funds raised through the Ukraine appeal will go to the Ukrainian-led Pooled Fund, which provides flexible funding to trusted local civil society organisations responding to urgent humanitarian and early recovery needs. By placing decision-making in the hands of communities themselves, the fund ensures support remains relevant, accountable, and rooted in local priorities—now and for the long term.

And why The Middle East? Following the escalation of the conflict across the Middle East in February 2026, when Israel and the US launched air strikes on Iran, people in Gaza said they feared running out of food. With most crossings closed, the price of goods doubled in days. And with attention elsewhere, reports of Israeli armed settler violence against Palestinians increased immediately in the West Bank, according to Israeli human rights group B'Tselem, a Christian Aid partner. Christian Aid partners in Lebanon said so many people had been displaced due to Israeli bombing and evacuation orders that there was ‘no space left in Beirut's shelters’. They said it was impossible to evacuate priority cases, such as older people with disabilities and chronic health issues. Lebanon does not have enough resources to help everyone who has been displaced. Even before the recent escalation, 874,000 people in Lebanon lacked food. Many will not be able to return to their homes for many months, if at all. Our partners across the Middle East need our support more than ever as they rapidly assess how they can best help those affected and scale-up their work.

If you are unable to attend the lunch, please make use of the envelopes available in church.

**GIFT AID IS A SCHEME THAT  
LETS UK TAXPAYERS EASILY  
INCREASE THEIR CHARITY  
DONATIONS (without any  
additional cost to themselves).**

*giftaid it*

**WE CAN CLAIM BACK 25PENCE  
FROM THE UK GOVERNMENT EVERY TIME  
AN INDIVIDUAL DONATES £1 TO OUR CHURCH.  
IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE AND WOULD LIKE TO COMPLETE  
A GIFT AID DONATION FORM FOR ST CUTHBERT'S,  
PLEASE JUST ASK ONE OF OUR WELCOME TEAM,  
OR EMAIL: [stcuthbertscolinton@gmail.com](mailto:stcuthbertscolinton@gmail.com)**

***Thank you!***

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MEMBERSHIP BOOKLET 2026

We are updating our membership booklet, to be ready for this year's AGM in November. If you have any changes to be made to your details currently published (in the November 2024 issue), (and have not already done so), please email stcuthbertscolinton@gmail.com by **Sunday 27th September**. If you have no changes to make, you do not need to email – your details will be repeated in the new booklet. Thank you.



Save the Date



Christmas Fayre

St Cuthbert's Episcopal Church

Westgarth Avenue

Saturday 28 November 2026

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





Save the Date



CHRISTMAS TEA

Saturday 12 December 2026

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



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 &	Heather Tidy
Book-Keeper	stcuthbertstreasures24@gmail.com
Vestry Secretary	Julia Roberts 441 4965 Julia.roberts01@btinternet.com
Website &	
Magazine Editor	Church Administrator stcuthbertscolinton@gmail.com
Archivist	Christine Nimmo
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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
Fresh Start	Wendy Pearson wendypearson37@gmail.com
Christian Aid	Wendy Pearson
Phoenix Group	Margaret Kieran 445 3751
St. Raphael's Rep.	Judith Mackintosh 443 1313
Vestry Members *	George Bungay, Jayne Churchill, Kay Dalley, Andrew Daye, Megan Emerson, Mandy Johnston, Judith Mackintosh, Julia Roberts, Christine Sanderson, Esther Srinivasulu

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:13



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

Last Tuesday of each month:

12 noon Prayers for Peace

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

