

THE SIGN

SEPTEMBER 2026



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

THE SIGN

SEPTEMBER 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 – Installation of the Garden Peace Pole

Photograph: Louise Stobie

SEPTEMBER 2026

Dear Friends,

As I write this, September is just around the corner and we find ourselves entering the Church's Season of Creation - a time when we are invited to give thanks for the beauty of God's world, to reflect on our responsibility to care for it, and to renew our commitment to living gently upon the earth.



Looking back over the summer, there is much for which we can give thanks. Although many of us have taken holidays or enjoyed a slower pace of life, church life certainly hasn't stood still. One of the highlights was our

wonderful Refugee BBQ at the end of June. It was a joyful occasion, bringing together people from many different backgrounds around food, friendship and welcome. It reminded us that hospitality is at the heart of the Gospel, and I am grateful to everyone who helped make it such a success.

On the same weekend, we also celebrated the blessing of our Peace Poles. These are much more than attractive features; they are visible signs of our prayer and commitment to God's peace in a world that often seems anything but peaceful. May they continue to encourage all who see them to pray, to hope, and to become peacemakers in their own lives. I thank the anonymous donor for their contribution towards the cost of the outdoor pole and Pentland Men's Shed for the indoor one.



Throughout July we enjoyed a wonderful and accessible tour of the Gospels, led by Bishop Donald. If you would like to hear more of his teaching, you can visit his YouTube channel here: <https://www.youtube.com/@feedmysheep2023>. As well as kindly covering services while I'm away, I hope he will return for more talks for us next year.

As the holidays come to an end, our church calendar begins to fill once again. The many groups, meetings and activities that pause during the summer will soon be back in full swing. Whether you are returning to worship after time away, coming back to a group you've missed, or perhaps thinking of joining something for the first time, I hope you will receive a warm welcome. Church is at its best when each of us brings our own gifts and presence to the life we share together.

September also brings some special occasions. On the 6th September Revd Cletus and I will be doing an "altar swap" for the day, as I spend time at Christ Church, Falkirk, where I continue to serve as Interim Pastor, while Cletus joins you here at St Cuthbert's, a place he calls his home. I know you will give him your usual warm welcome, just as I know I will receive at Christ Church. It was wonderful that some of us attended his welcome service at Christ Church in July.



Then, on the 27th September, we have the great joy of welcoming our new Bishop, the Right Revd Dagmar Winter, who will preside and preach at our Harvest Festival. It will be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate not only the fruits of the earth but also the new chapter in the life of our Diocese. I hope as many people as possible will be able to join us for this special occasion which will be followed by a Harvest Lunch.

On a more personal note, our family is eagerly awaiting the arrival of our second grandchild, (first child for Ceri and Kamil) who is expected in early September.* By the time you are reading this, we may already have another little person to love—or perhaps we will still be waiting! New life is always a reminder of God's continuing faithfulness and of the hope that each new generation brings.

I am also writing this letter rather earlier than usual. When the magazine deadline arrives, I shall just be home after travelling on the Danube, enjoying a long-planned holiday. While I may be away for a short while, I know the life of our church will continue in the capable hands of so many faithful volunteers and those leading our worship and activities. Thank you, as always, for everything you do behind the scenes. Our church flourishes because so many people quietly and generously offer their time, talents and prayers.

As we begin this new season together, may we hear God's invitation afresh: to care for creation, to seek peace, to welcome the stranger, and to follow Christ with renewed joy. May God bless you and those you love throughout the months ahead.

Every blessing,

Nicki

** Correct at time of writing!
On 12th August, baby girl arrived safely!*



VESTRY REPORT

Vestry June 2026

- * Constitution changes- Vestry approved that these be sent out to the congregation by email in advance of an exceptional meeting to be held after the service on the 28th of June 2026.
- * Fresh Start- Wendy Pearson has taken on the organisation of this and requested that she can ask for donations from the surrounding community. Vestry agreed but highlighted the difficulties we had experienced in the past (e.g. significant amounts of unsuitable goods, late pick-ups).
- * Newcomer's afternoon tea- the details will be in next month's magazine. The date is August 22nd 2-4pm. (now postponed)
- * BBQ arrangements- These are in place and 15 Ukrainians and 25 refugees from Scope (refugees from Iraq, Syria, Yemen and Afghanistan) have said they are coming plus around 60 members of the congregation and friends of the church. It was proposed that Nicki invite Dr Scott Arthur MP.
- * The organ speaker at the back of the church has been turned off by Philip and this arrangement seems to be working well. Vestry confirmed that with a full church both organ and choir can now be heard.
- * Heather had sent a report by E-Mail. Donation income is good, and expenditure is as expected from the budget. The Gift Aid payment of around £3500 is expected later this month. The leaving gift to Cletus has been paid and most of the deposit from the flat he rented is due to be paid back.
- * The office printer is coming to the end of its warranty period and Heather presented our options: to either extend the warranty at around £600 per year (we also pay a service agreement cost per year of £1200) or to buy a new machine with a 5 year warranty at a first year cost for a like for like machine of £4200 plus a service agreement cost per year. Rental over 5 years works out very similar in cost to purchasing a machine. Vestry agreed to extend the warranty for a couple of years as the current machine works well.
- * Heather and Nicki told Vestry about Benefact Trust Grants which is a trust fund from Ecclesiastical Insurance that can provide funding for community outreach projects, building restorations, energy efficiency upgrades, and heritage skills training. There is an invite to an event about this at Lasswade which Nicki and Kay will attend.
- * To use QR donation codes that could be for variable or set amounts, we need to link the code to a donation page e.g. one operated by Stripe who work with non-profit organisations and charge 32p for every £10 donation to collect the money and transfer as a monthly payment to the church bank account. Vestry approved this as an option.

- * Vestry has received an email and a thank you card for our £810 donation to Aberlour (Crib service collection £230 and Bishop's Lent Appeal donations £580). We will display this on the noticeboard in the hall.
- * The Scottish Guild of Servers has sent an Annual Levy letter asking for a small (£25) annual donation. We don't remember receiving a letter like this in past years and propose to hold it on file for now.
- * Megan highlighted that on election days, Julia is cleaning up late at night on her own and suggested that at least one other Vestry member also volunteer to be there. It was agreed to ask Vestry well in advance of election days. (next proposed election day is Thursday 6th May 2027).
- * We are still in discussion with the organizer of a monthly Church Hall let for a craft market. We need to arrange for PAT Testing in July which must be carried out before the end of August. Jean offered to ask Fresh Start or the Grassmarket Project to ask if they can do this.
- * The Annual maintenance of the fire alarms is due. Marie will arrange. An electrician working in the kitchen advised us that we needed additional earthing to the building. Marie hopes the property team will take this forward.
- * Vestry authorized the applications for PVG by Margaret Temple and Jean Wood. This is in process. The new Provincial Safeguarding officer is Christine Riddoch.
- * Nicki through research by Iain had provided Vestry with 3 detailed quotes to install solar panels on the rectory roof and information on eco-friendly heating options. The quotes for solar panels varied from £13,134 to £16,281 each including one storage system of around 8.8 kWh. Vestry approved installing solar panels on the rectory roof and proceeding with Iain's preferred contractor (CMS) £14,186.57. We will, however, request a new quote that includes bird proofing as this was raised for consideration by Megan. Planning permission is not needed for the back of the house but may be needed for the side and so an application will have to be made. Nicki is to check and confirm that canon 35 is not needed for the rectory. Other work such as insulating inner walls and changing heating systems would only be done when the rectory is empty during an interregnum and is likely to be at a high cost although more quotes are needed and this requires more research. We have been told that the current radiators are suitable for conversion to work with a heat pump. Solar panels will not affect any future decisions made regarding air-source heat pumps or electric heating.
- * One of the church boilers is not working and so heating will be slower. Nicki reminded Vestry that when the boiler needs replacing the Diocese will not allow us to replace gas with gas and so a different heating solution will need research and planning for

- * Julia raised the issue of the securing of the large folding tables in the hall as she has now 3 times had to renew the holes for the top hook and considers our current set up not a suitable long-term arrangement. Ross has agreed to look at improving this.
- * Kay has been in contact with Ben Wightman, the church manager at Christ Church, Morningside, who has helped with some suggestions of companies to approach for quotes for the smaller repairs to windows in the church and hall (as itemised in the Quinquennial Report).
- * Megan and Kay have met with volunteers, and they have arranged to run three Thursday morning sessions (in the south transept) to do community art/craft sessions. This will be called Art Reach. October 8th- Felt flowers brooch or arrangement, coordinated by Susan Clark; November 12th- Stencils based on the ceiling of the church on wood, coordinated by Monique Dick, and December 10th- Cones made from polystyrene eggs, Christmas fabric and pins, coordinated by Monique Dick. Margaret Temple has offered to organise an art group for young parents and will trial it over 4 weeks-one session per week. Megan will co-ordinate dates and materials for this.
- * Kay will investigate a Lenten talk from Dean Fostekew.
- * Megan expressed her wish that we repeat the 'garden of light' display this winter. She suggested it be viewed as Mission/Community outreach and could include community carols, mince pies and mulled wine (donations or payment) and a small trail for young children. Nicki is to investigate if it is too late to book the light installations for this year. The cost last time was around £2000. Jayne has offered that her mum can make knitted angels with the idea that people can buy/donate to add a message to an angel and these will be displayed, maybe by hanging on a tree.
- * Nicki said it would be helpful if she had a volunteer to act as vergers at funerals as she is often going from a cremation to a memorial or from a funeral to a cremation. This would help with turning the sound system/lights on and off, orders of service, tidying up or supporting the funeral directors if they are doing a live streaming. Philip helps but Nicki would like to send out the dates and ask for volunteers bearing in mind that choir members will be singing. A volunteer from Vestry was arranged for the upcoming funerals on the 26th and the 29th of June.
- * There was a reminder to Vestry to respect confidentiality after a recent breach.
- * General Synod are asking churches if they can support YEEK- the annual Youth Camp. We are being asked to sponsor a child that cannot otherwise afford to go at a cost of £400. Heather told Vestry that we have a defined fund allocated to children. Vestry approved the sponsorship of two children for this year

- * The two peace poles are ready, one inscribed for the garden and one for individuals to write their peace messages on (one side to be left clear for Monique to paint) and which will be placed in the church.
- * Two years ago, Vestry agreed to begin a rolling programme of updating the rectory. We began last year with the kitchen and September is when we are due to do the work for this year. While Vestry is considering eco-friendly upgrades in the future it is not sensible to spend money on decoration and so Nicki presented three other ideas for consideration: i. converting gas fires to electric; ii. replacing the Velux windows (currently not double glazed); iii. updating the bathrooms which have smaller and fewer outside walls, in particular Nicki suggested the main bathroom became a walk-in shower room with an electric shower and the bath in the mezzanine bathroom is updated. She is happy to get some quotes in July and bring these for a decision at the August meeting (2nd August).

VESTRY REPORT

Vestry July 2026

- Constitution Changes - review for second EGM – 2nd August. The amendments were agreed to take forward. Nicki will send to Marie to go out to the congregation as done previously.
- Due to the church boilers starting to break down and Vestry considering other methods of heating, Nicki asked if more people could attend the morning at Lasswade. Nicki is happy to drive. Kay & Megan to attend.
- A Finance report was received from Heather which was as expected from the budget. No additional comments were made.
- Comments were received by email from two members of the congregation about the constitution changes presented at EGM 1. Vestry thanks them for responding and their comments.
- A letter of thanks from the Provincial Youth Ministry Co-Ordinator is to be placed in the hall.
- Nicki requested one other member of Vestry to join the property group as Ian has left, and Kay is due to leave Vestry in November. Christine or Megan is considering joining Kay and George. Nicki is to approach a member of the congregation to see if they will help with property.
- Locking and opening church-a WhatsApp group will be created to improve communication and in future the church will be left open on Sundays after the service.
- We will repair the broken boiler as we continue to investigate Net Zero. Nicki to contact Neil Rawlins for him to speak to the Vestry.
- Survey for the installation of solar panels on the Rectory is on July 21st.
- Both Rectory boilers have developed faults recently. Gibbs have been out, and we are now waiting for parts. Exact cost unknown.

- It is sometimes difficult to get three quotes for church repairs so if we think the quote is reasonable with one or two, we will go ahead.
- Marie has a date for Scottish Power to look at earthing problem. Marie is looking for someone to do the PAT testing. Megan to provide details of someone that she has used.
- Christmas Lights Event - Nicki has had no response from the company that installed the light show last time. We are now looking at buying lights and getting Sentry Electrics to install them. Nicki found a company to supply the lights at <https://ollyri.com/search?q=tree+spots+for+>. Prices are around £200 per tree. We could choose 5 trees, which would leave £1000 for the install, which could hopefully be left ready to turn on each Christmas. Megan suggested 10. Vestry agreed to buy and install – hardwired. Nicki to speak further with David at Sentry Electrics to agree costs and the number of lights.
- Judith Churchill (Jayne's mum) has started knitting angels to sell. They will have luggage labels on them for people to write the names of loved ones lost, to be remembered here at Christmas and hung on the indoor Christmas tree. (Mandy usually arranges the tree). Megan to do trail for children. We wait to hear further plans from Events Team about carol singing in the garden to light it up on Sunday 6th December 5pm.
- Publicity for Art Events in the autumn to be arranged by Megan. Email to be set up for registering or use Eventbrite.
- Christian Aid – In the past Colinton used to do a lot to raise funds. Wendy Pearson has suggested a soup lunch with traybakes on 8th November.
- Events Group – 27th September, Harvest lunch with Bishop Dagmar. 4th October, cheese and wine after Evensong. Christmas Fayre 28th November. Christmas Tea – 12th December.
- October 2026 – Church hall is 100 years old. How can we mark this? Megan suggested fundraising ideas – walk 100 miles etc. More ideas welcomed.
- We need to check the license for selling alcohol for a year at a time. Nicki to speak with Amy at Colinton Inn to see how best to do this.
- Kay to organize collection for Leprosy Mission following talk by Stephen McLeish next week.
- Both Ian and Bryan have stood down from Vestry. I thank them for all they have done, and their wisdom shared during their time serving St. Cuthbert's. Julia is to write and thank them.
- Nicki thanked Julia and Kay who helped at the last two funerals and requested help for the funeral of Kate Mann on the 27th of July at 12.30pm.
- Nicki is waiting for quotes for the three possible items to upgrade in the rectory that she suggested last month. She aims to bring these the August meeting.

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



"Do this in remembrance of me."

These words of Jesus lie at the heart of our worship. Each time we gather around the Lord's Table, we are invited not only to receive God's grace, but also to offer our own gifts in service to one another.

If you feel called to serve as a Minister of the Word or Chalice Administrator, we would be delighted to hear from you. These are prayerful and valued ministries, helping to lead God's people in worship and to share the sacrament of Christ's love.

Training and support will be provided, and no previous experience is necessary.

We recognise that many members of our congregation already serve faithfully in a variety of ways, and we are deeply grateful for all that is offered. If this is a ministry you feel God may be calling you to explore, please speak to Nicki.

"Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also." (John 12:26)

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



Harvest Festival

This year we will celebrate Harvest Festival over two weekends

Our first celebration will be at 10.30am on Sunday 27th September, when we are delighted to welcome Bishop Dagmar. Following the service, we will share a Harvest lunch together.

The following weekend, we will continue our Harvest celebrations after 5.00pm Evensong with cheese and wine. Financial donations towards both would be greatly appreciated if you can afford to do so.

Our Harvest appeal will also be spread across the two weekends. On 27th September, we will collect **non-perishable food items** for our local food banks.

The following weekend, as we remember St Francis of Assisi, Patron Saint of Animals (whose feast day falls on 4th October), we will take a monetary collection in support of the Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home. The Home feeds its animals a carefully managed diet, so financial donations are the most helpful way to support their work. They are also grateful to receive clean towels, blankets and throws (but not duvets or pillows), along with leads, collars, harnesses, dog coats and new toys.

We hope you will be able to support these two very worthwhile causes as we give thanks for God's abundant gifts at Harvest.

Reflections for September from Revd. Margaret.

September. Autumn. As the summer has been drawing to a close, I'm sure most of us have been pondering over a more unusual season, with unexpectedly hot spells mixed with the usual showers or drizzle, though less of the latter than normal, being often replaced by cloudy, muggy days. However, despite often parched lawns, there has been a truly verdant flourishing of trees, with beautiful, vibrant floral displays greeting us in gardens and parks. God's amazing natural creation never ceases to cause wonder, although the recent devastating wildfires have generated trauma and anxiety, leading to question marks over humankind's possible contribution to these events.

Although we should indeed concern ourselves with protecting the natural environment, nonetheless we have much to be grateful for in God's creation. As we move into autumn, attended by increasingly glorious shades of yellow, orange and gold in trees and flowers, we can give thanks for this new season, admirably expressed in the poem 'To Autumn' by John Keats: 'Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness, Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun; Conspiring with him how to load and bless With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eaves run; To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees, And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core.....'

It is indeed a season of thankfulness, as Harvest Festivals are celebrated across the country this month and the beginning of October. So, it is in this mood, this relationship with the creator God, that I have chosen my theme for the September

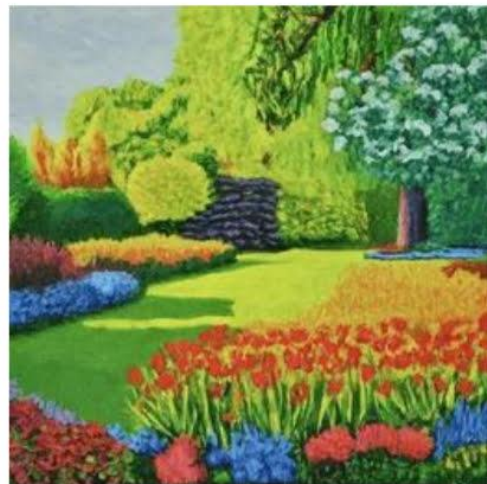
Thursday afternoon service on 3rd September. It is entitled 'Creation in Literature and Art' and I shall be looking at three elements of the natural world from this perspective – environment, plants and creatures. Yes, I could have looked at the increasing, generally man induced threats to all these elements, but instead I am celebrating them, as many writers and artists have done over the years, and giving thanks to our ever-giving and forgiving God. Then our Thursday afternoon service on 1st October is going to strike a really intriguing topic about which I personally know virtually nothing and which has an impact on our reading of the Bible today! Joan is going to give a presentation on William Tyndale Scholar and Martyr. So, please join us for these afternoon services, followed as usual by fellowship and refreshments.

In the meantime, I would like to finish these reflections at Creationtide, with my love and blessings, in the words of this delightful Celtic blessing: 'May the road rise to meet you, may the wind be always at your back, may the sun shine warm upon your face, the rain fall soft upon your fields, and until we meet again, may God hold you in the hollow of his hand.'

Margaret.



Thursday Afternoon Service
Creation in Literature and Art
September 3rd, 2026 at 2.30pm



Please join us for refreshments after the service
Future services: Thursday, October 1st and Thursday, November 5th



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





MUSIC ARTICLE FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

In the month of September, following the established but relatively recent tradition, we move into the season of Creationtide. Throughout the month, all of our hymns and anthems will follow this theme. Please do not be put off if the words of a few of the hymns look unfamiliar – the tune certainly will be familiar. Our celebration of Harvest this year will be split over two Sundays: on 27 September, we celebrate the festival at the 10.30am Sung Eucharist, which coincides with the visit of our new Bishop. Our usual Harvest festival choral evensong will take place the following Sunday on 4 October.

6 September:	Touch the earth lightly - New Zealand trad
13 September:	Bread of heaven - Robert Jones
20 September:	O praise God in his holiness - John Weldon
27 September (Harvest):	Thou visitest the earth - Maurice Greene

Philip Rossiter

*St Cuthbert's,
Colinton*

Evensong Services:

30th August

4th October

@ 5pm

All Welcome

*(The October Evensong
service will be followed by
cheese and wine in the
church hall)*

PHOENIX GROUP

In July, a group of 10 of us spent a delightful afternoon playing croquet followed by afternoon tea at the Meadows Croquet Club. It was our second outing there and we are very grateful to Jean Wood, a member there, for welcoming and hosting us.

Jean and a few other members she had recruited gave us some coaching while playing with us and generally looked after us very well all afternoon. Jean also stayed later to allow a few to play on for a good while.

We look forward to Caroline's Quiz in September and hope you will be able to join us there. We will be planning our Christmas Lunch soon but please let us have any suggestions for events or gatherings before then or for New Year.

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

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

Monday, September 14th, 2026:

2pm to 4pm in the Church Hall



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

Please join us for a fun-filled afternoon. There is no need to get a team together, as we will sort you out on the day, as equitably as possible. Please put the date in your diaries and let Caroline know if you are coming.

However, if you just turn up on the day, that's fine. Bring a friend!

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

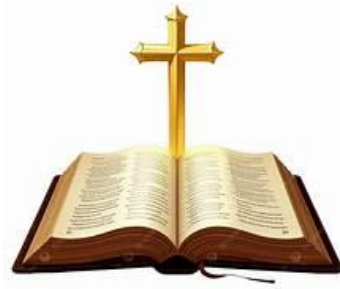
This is a free event, but donations to church funds on the day would be very welcome.



**SEPTEMBER 2026
ROTAS**

SEPTEMBER 2026 READINGS

Taken from NRSV



6th September – Creation 1 (Pentecost 15)

Ezekiel	33. 7-11
Romans	13. 8-14
Matthew	18. 15-20

13th September – Creation 2 (Pentecost 16)

Genesis	50. 15-21
Romans	14. 1-12
Matthew	18. 21-35

20th September – Creation 3 (Pentecost 17)

Jonah	3. 10 – 4. 11
Philippians	1. 21-30
Matthew	20. 1-16

27th September – Harvest (Pentecost 18)

Deuteronomy	8. 7-18
1 Timothy	2. 1-7
Matthew	6. 25-33

4th October – (Pentecost 19)

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

HARVEST

- T** Thank God for his gifts
- H** Harvest food with care for the earth
- E** Eliminate waste from over-shopping and over-catering.

- G** Grow my own food if I can
- I** Increase the amount of locally grown food I buy
- F** Fairtrade – support Fairtrade when buying imported foods
- T** Take time to taste and enjoy all food I am offered or make

- O** Offer hospitality at my table
- F** Find out the story of the food that I buy. Where is it grown?
What is my impact on the Grower's quality of life?

- F** Fair prices and support for local farmers
- O** Organic food - what do I think about it?
- O** Over-indulgence –
how much food do I need for a balanced diet?
- D** Donate or share any surplus harvests or food I might have



THE SIGN MAGAZINE

Please note –

The deadline

**for information and articles
for the**

OCTOBER 2026 issue

is

Sunday 13 September 2026

Please send to

stcuthbertscolinton@gmail.com

Thank you!



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

2pm – 4pm

**Monday 7th September
Monday 21st September**

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

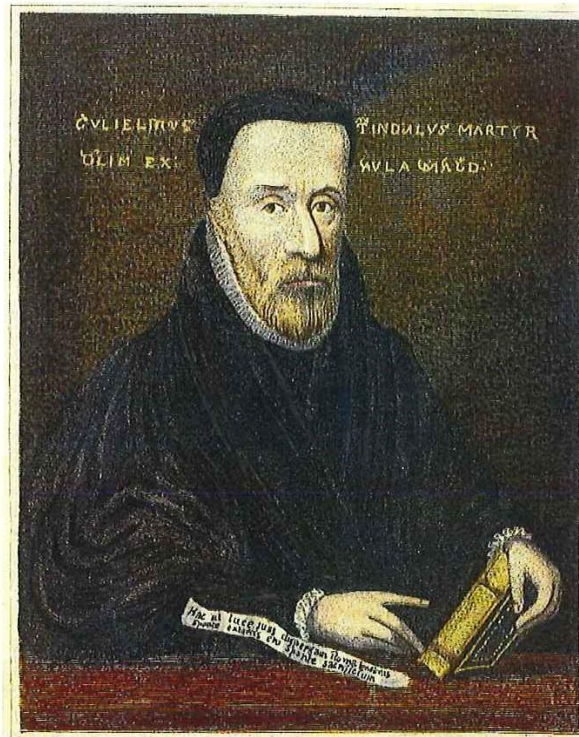
forgetmenotes.org.uk
stcuthbertscolinton.org.uk

For more information, contact
stcuthbertscolinton@gmail.com

All Welcome

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

A final gift to those we love

Over the past nine years I have had the privilege of leading far too many funeral services. One of the greatest difficulties I encounter is that, at a time of grief and loss, families are often left trying to guess what their loved one would have wanted.

I remember one parishioner reassuring me for three years that "the boys know everything." Sadly, they didn't. Although I had been told that person's wishes, the family had never been, and many of those wishes could not be carried out.

As I write this, my daughter is coming to the end of her pregnancy. The midwives have asked her to prepare a birth plan, setting out her hopes and wishes for the arrival of her baby. It made me wonder whether we should be just as willing to prepare for the other certainty of life.

So, as your Rector, may I encourage you to consider preparing a simple funeral plan? I don't mean a financial funeral plan with a funeral director—though those can be very helpful, and I have one myself.

Rather, I mean a record of your personal wishes: the hymns and readings you would like, whether you have favourite prayers, any particular requests, and anything else that would help your family and those leading your funeral.

None of us likes to think about death, and perhaps the older we become, the easier it is to avoid the conversation. Yet taking the time to write down your wishes can be a real gift to those you leave behind. It relieves them of having to make difficult decisions while grieving and gives them confidence that they are honouring your wishes.

If you would like to prepare a funeral plan but aren't sure where to begin, I would be delighted to visit you and help you think it through. It is one of the most caring things we can do for those we love.

Nicki



THE LEPROSY MISSION

GREAT BRITAIN



Visit from Steven McLeish Leprosy Mission GB's Representative in Scotland

At our service on 19th July Steven came to tell us about the Mission's current work. It was an inspiring presentation, focusing on the work currently progressing in Odisha State, which began a year ago, reaching out to colonies long isolated in that part of India. Afterwards the stall was well supported and Steven chatted and answered questions. Interestingly, he told me that Edinburgh was one of the first bases of financial support for the Mission, initially Ireland and Scotland were the main supporters in the 1880s and 90s (Wellesley and Alice Bailey the founders came from Ireland). So we are carrying an important legacy of Edinburgh churches!

Donations

Our recent collection from blue tubs has been put towards the 'Home of Love' Bankura, in rural West Bengal as highlighted in the last Sign edition. Thanks to those who contributed – to a total of £38.59. A letter of thanks is on the notice board in the hall, highlighting Nyoti, who lives in that home. I will be looking into obtaining some sustainable collection boxes to replace the blue tubs.

Current Appeal

Anandaban Hospital in Nepal is currently planning a new research building in Kathmandu and the hospital itself after devastating landslides needs much support to continue to provide the essential care it is renowned for. Abielle Hallas of the Leprosy Mission Great Britain recently visited and her blog can be found on their website (leprosymission.org.uk /Latest News). There is also a short video presentation about the work of the hospital.

Prayers for the persecuted church

Leprosy Mission GB currently works in 10 countries in Africa and Asia: Bangladesh, Ethiopia, India, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Sri Lanka. Eight of the countries are included in Open Doors' World Watchlist for oppression against believers. Niger is 7th, India 11th, Myanmar 14th and Niger 26th on the Watchlist. We pray for wisdom and courage for the teams facing increasing hostility and protection for the Leprosy Mission team as they travel to remote communities, and we give thanks for God's faithfulness to Danja Hospital in Niger and pray for staff and patients as they witness to His life-changing love, in the only place in the country where people can get leprosy care and hear about Jesus.

As always, the newsletters are available to take at the back of the church. Thank you for your continued interest and support.

Kay Dalley



V. Nishantini was diagnosed with leprosy in 2015. Pictured here with her children, she stands by the water storage provided through the TLMGB-funded WASH project, which now supplies water for household use and farming.

Art-Reach

St Cathbert's Episcopal Church,

Westgarth Ave, Colinton

Enter through main church door

Thursday 8th October 10-12

Come for Craft, Cake and Community!

All materials, instruction and refreshments provided

Book your place by 30/9/26

artgroupstcuthberts@gmail.com

Please join us for either or both of our Open Rehearsals on Monday the 7th and 14th of September in the Memorial Hall, at Merchiston Castle School, Colinton Road. Our Open Rehearsals provide an opportunity to find out more about our choir and see what it would be like to sing with us but with no commitment to join.

We are a very welcoming, non-auditioning choir with a mixed range of ages and singing and sight-reading abilities. We will be learning "THE FIRST NOWELL" by Vaughan Williams, "IN TERRA PAX" by Finzi, "GAUDETE" and selection of CHRISTMAS CAROLS with audience participation, for our Christmas Concert on 7th DECEMBER.

We rehearse on Monday evenings in the Memorial Hall from 7th September onwards. After the Open Rehearsals, our rehearsals will begin at 7.15 pm and end at 9 pm but it's not a problem if you can't be there for 7.15 pm or have to leave early.

We have great fun but also learn a lot with our enthusiastic and dynamic Director of Music, Tim Coleman, and our Accompanist, the excellent and well known Morley Whitehead.

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

Margaret Kieran on behalf of the Choir



Local collection
Saturday 10th 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**

We need 3 or 4 additional volunteers to help in the church hall on Saturday 10th October. Please let Wendy Pearson know if you are available. Thanks.

www.freshstartweb.org.uk

Scottish Charity no. SCO29184

100 Years of the hall

In December 1922 an idea had been formed to build a church hall with an initial subscription of £46.10.0d. Accordingly the congregation set about raising sufficient funds for that purpose and subsequent sales of work achieved £525 in 1923, £624 in 1924, £810 in 1925 and a massive £1310 in 1926.

The architect chosen was A. Lorne Campbell educated at George Watson's College, who had been a close friend of Sir Rowand Anderson. On 1st October 1925 Campbell wrote to the Rector, Dean Harry S. Reid, submitting his estimate and drawings for approval. The original probable cost was £3090 and Campbell offered the execution of the work at £3040.18.8d leaving the balance to go towards the paint work. Campbell was therefore instructed to proceed immediately.

Some of the contractors involved with the building of the hall:-

Mason work	William Gerard & Son & Son
Joiner work	George Hardie & Son (still trading at Holy Corner)
Plumber work	Steel & Wilson
Plaster work	D & J Borthwick
Tiler work	William Anderson & Son
Steel work	Clyde Structural Iron Company
Glazier work	Dickson & Walker

The work was completed in October 1926. The actual date of the grand opening of the hall is unclear but an extract from the Vestry minutes held at the Rectory on 15th November 1926 show that the whole arrangements and date of opening were left in the hands of the Dean. The tea to be provided to be paid for by the Vestry. It was agreed to purchase the necessary tables and chairs.

If you have any stories or memories of events in the hall you would like to share, please email stcuthbertscolinton@gmail.com Thank you.



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

**Christian Aid bread and soup lunch
Sunday 8st 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**

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](mailto:stcuthbertscolinton@gmail.com) by **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> 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.

# WHO'S WHO AT ST CUTHBERT'S

|                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Rector</b>                         | <b>The Revd Nicki McNelly</b><br><a href="mailto:stcuthbertsrector@gmail.com">stcuthbertsrector@gmail.com</a><br>Tel: 0131 441 7580                                             |
| <b>NSM (Non-Stipendiary Minister)</b> | <b>Revd Dr Margaret McCrindle</b><br><a href="mailto:stcuthbertsnsm@gmail.com">stcuthbertsnsm@gmail.com</a> (07931 483906)                                                      |
| <b>Church Administrator</b>           | <b>Marie Neil</b> <a href="mailto:stcuthbertscolinton@gmail.com">stcuthbertscolinton@gmail.com</a><br>Tel No: 07761 056504 Working hours:<br>Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 9am-1pm |
| <b>Rector's Warden</b>                | <b>Judith Mackintosh</b> 443 1313                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>People's Warden</b>                | <b>George Bungay</b> 478 0834                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Children/Young People</b>          | <b>Contact Revd Nicki McNelly</b>                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Gift Aid</b>                       | <b>Contact Church Administrator</b>                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Lay Representative</b>             | <b>Andrew Daye</b>                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Alternate Lay Rep.</b>             | <b>Jean Wood</b>                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Safeguarding</b>                   | <b>Christine Nimmo</b> 445 3053<br><a href="mailto:christinenimmo@btinternet.com">christinenimmo@btinternet.com</a>                                                             |
| <b>Organist &amp; Choirmaster</b>     | <b>Philip Rossiter</b> 283 0234                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Property Committee</b>             | <b>Nicki McNelly</b>                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Sacristans</b>                     | <b>Bev Henderson, Joan Smith</b>                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Treasurer &amp;</b>                | <b>Heather Tidy</b>                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Book-Keeper</b>                    | <a href="mailto:stcuthbertstreasures24@gmail.com">stcuthbertstreasures24@gmail.com</a>                                                                                          |
| <b>Vestry Secretary</b>               | <b>Julia Roberts</b> 441 4965<br><a href="mailto:Julia.roberts01@btinternet.com">Julia.roberts01@btinternet.com</a>                                                             |
| <b>Website &amp;</b>                  |                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Magazine Editor</b>                | <b>Church Administrator</b> <a href="mailto:stcuthbertscolinton@gmail.com">stcuthbertscolinton@gmail.com</a>                                                                    |
| <b>Archivist</b>                      | <b>Christine Nimmo</b>                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>R&amp;R</b>                        | <b>Wendy Pearson</b> <a href="mailto:wendypearson37@gmail.com">wendypearson37@gmail.com</a>                                                                                     |
| <b>Badminton Club</b>                 | <b>Julia Roberts</b> 441 4965                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Coffee Rota</b>                    | <b>Audrey Naden</b> 441 1545                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Eco congregation</b>               | <b>Kay Dalley</b> 441 7920                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Hall Bookings</b>                  | <b>Contact our Church Administrator</b>                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Events &amp; Fundraising</b>       | Email: <a href="mailto:stcuthbertsevents@gmail.com">stcuthbertsevents@gmail.com</a>                                                                                             |
| <b>Leprosy Mission</b>                | <b>Kay Dalley</b>                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Fresh Start</b>                    | <b>Wendy Pearson</b> <a href="mailto:wendypearson37@gmail.com">wendypearson37@gmail.com</a>                                                                                     |
| <b>Christian Aid</b>                  | <b>Wendy Pearson</b>                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Phoenix Group</b>                  | <b>Margaret Kieran</b> 445 3751                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>St. Raphael's Rep.</b>             | <b>Judith Mackintosh</b> 443 1313                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Vestry Members *</b>               | George Bungay, Jayne Churchill, Kay Dalley,<br>Andrew Daye, Megan Emerson, Mandy Johnston,<br>Judith Mackintosh, Julia Roberts,<br>Christine Sanderson, Esther Srinivasulu      |

For I, the LORD your God, hold your right hand;  
it is I who say to you, 'Do not fear, I will help you

**Isaiah 41:13**



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

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

**Tel: 0131 441 7580**

**Email: [stcuthbertsrector@gmail.com](mailto:stcuthbertsrector@gmail.com)**

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



**Living Water**  
Season of Creation 2026

Immersion in Living Water  
EZEKIEL 47:9, 12