

Letter from our interim moderator

Clark Memorial Manse, Largs.

Dear members and friends of St Cuthbert's, Saltcoats,

As many of you will no doubt be aware, St Cuthbert's has been given permission to call a minister on the basis of Reviewable Tenure. This will be for a five year period from the date of the Induction of the new minister. After five years the Presbytery will reconsider the situation in the parish and in the wider presbytery and make a decision as to whether readjustment is necessary or desirable.

In the meantime the Kirk Session and Congregational Board have met with representatives of Ardrossan Presbytery to think a little about what kind of ministry is required in St Cuthbert's. We have decided the congregation should appoint a Nominating Committee comprising 11 members of the congregation following the service on Sunday 26th February. It is hoped that those chosen will reflect the diversity of the membership of the congregation. If you have someone in mind to serve on the Nominating Committee, they must be both willing to accept nomination and be a communicant member on the Congregational Roll of St Cuthbert's.

No one knows whether or not there will be applicants for the vacant charge, but there are things that the congregation can do to make finding the right minister more likely. Firstly by continuing to support the church both in your attendance and in giving your time, talents and money to the work of the church. Secondly by supporting the office bearers and the organisations of the church. Thirdly, and just as importantly, by continuing to pray for the church and congregation.

I am grateful to Bert McCool for his sterling work as locum in the vacancy, leading worship Sunday by Sunday and attending to pastoral matters. Mrs Evelyn Slater has indicated to the Kirk Session that she wishes to "step

down" from the role of Session Clerk and she will be a hard act to follow. I have known Evelyn only a relatively short time but have been impressed by her quiet efficiency and her deep commitment to the congregation of St Cuthbert's. We are fortunate to have an excellent team of office bearers who give unstinting service to the church. All of this will help in finding the right person to be the next minister. I consider it an honour and a privilege to be your Interim Moderator and if I can be of assistance in any way please feel free to contact me by phone or email.

Wishing you God's richest blessings for 2017 and beyond,

David Watson.

Rev David Watson.
Interim Moderator.

01475 672370

dwatson@churchofscotland.org.uk

Retiral of Church Secretary

Christine Saunders, our church secretary, has decided to give up her secretarial duties after over 10 years of devotion to this voluntary position. The format of the magazine may change a bit for the next couple of months but it is hoped that it will return to its 'usual' form in April.

I am sure you will all wish to express our thanks to Christine for all that she has done over this time. Few are aware of the amount that she undertook for the benefit of us all.

Meanwhile we will be grateful for any suitable articles and information which may be of interest to us all.

Additionally any suggestions for future magazines will also be welcome.

Ann Turner

From Evelyn Slater our Session Clerk

Last week I made it known to the Kirk Session that it is my intention to stand down from the position of Session Clerk. I will of course remain until such time as a successor is appointed. It has been a privilege to have been in post as Board Clerk and Session Clerk since 1996, App. 20 years.

This is a time of change once again for St Cuthbert's. I feel it is an appropriate time to have a new Session Clerk in post. It will give whoever is appointed a chance to be settled before the start of a new Ministry. Hopefully this will not take too long. I will be willing to work alongside the new clerk if they so wish for a short time, but will also be there with help if needed.

The post of Session Clerk is very rewarding but sometimes stressful. Nothing that one cannot handle with the Lord's help and the support of a very helpful Kirk Session. I am very grateful to our Session for their support over the years. We have been a good team. My thanks too to you the congregation for your friendship and understanding. It has meant a great deal to me.

I will however be continuing with all the other jobs I do for St Cuthbert's. As many of us do, we wear many "different hats."

This is the opportunity for St Cuthbert's Church to move forward with a new Ministry, a willing Minister and an enthusiastic Session.

In Christ's Name.

Evelyn Slater.

Funerals

Dec. Miss J. Grier, formerly Christie Gardens.

Jan. Mrs. M. Smith, Lambie Court.

The Guild

The new session of the Guild got off to a 'flying start' with the help of the strong winds! All the Guilds in Ardrossan Presbytery take turns in taking the meeting at South Beach House – it was our turn last Wednesday. Several of our ladies came along, and had a most enjoyable afternoon, with entertainment supplied by George and Michael. They played and sang all the old songs, which was ideal for the South Beach residents. Everyone agreed it was a good afternoon. This week, we had Primrose's niece, who is a Procurator Fiscal, who kept us amused with funny stories from the Courts. We were delighted to welcome some visitors who thoroughly enjoyed the meeting.

Anyone interested should check the Guild notice board in the church hall for details of coming events and come and join us if something interests you. You will be made most welcome.

Our next meeting on 1st February is a talk on the project on Haiti, which is about building a place of worship. This can also be used as a school.

Gifts for the shop in South Beach Should be brought to the meeting on 1st February.

Sheila Sarginson

Choir Anthems for February

- | | | |
|----|---------------------|---|
| 5 | Bread of the World | Norman Bowman |
| 12 | I to the hills | Hymn 81 Requested by Christine Saunders |
| 19 | My life flows on | Hymn 565 |
| 26 | Christ is our light | Hymn 336 |

Rosemary Smith

Dates for your diary

The congregational roll will be available for inspection on Sunday 29 January between 10.00am and 1.00 pm, on Monday 30 January between 1.30pm and 4.00pm (in the hall), Tuesday 31 January between 10.00am and 11.30 am (in the hall), on Wednesday 1 February between 9.00am and 11.30am (in the hall) and on Sunday 5 February before the church service.

The Kirk Session will meet after the service on 5 February to attest this roll. Anyone wishing to vote as an adherent can be added so long as they are not a member of any other Church of Scotland congregation.

There will be a meeting after the service on Sunday 26 February to elect a nomination committee of 11 people. Anyone wishing to be nominated and not able to attend this meeting should give Evelyn a letter confirming this prior to this meeting.

Concert by City of Glasgow Chorus

We are very fortunate to have managed to arrange a concert in St Cuthbert's by the City of Glasgow Chorus at 3pm on Sunday 26th March. We hope that everyone will make the effort to keep their diaries clear for the visit of such a prestigious choir. They regularly perform in the Glasgow Concert Hall and last year toured in China. **"Choral Classics – Something Old, Something New"** will include Handel's Zadok the Priest, Parry's I Was Glad, John Rutter's Gaelic Blessing, Schubert's Ave Maria and lots more well-known favourites. More details will be available as the date gets nearer. Mark your diaries now for a musical feast!

Plant Sale 2017 This year the plant sale will take place on Saturday 13 May. More details will be given in the next two magazines. Anyone wishing any specific plants can request a 'special' order and I will do my best to oblige.
Ann Turner

Flower Donations 2017

<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>March</u>
1 John Gray	5 The Guild	5 Sheena Love
8 Christine Saunders	12 Jean Mitchell	12 Ann Turner
15 Primrose Canavan	19 Eileen Ramsay	19 Jean Parker
22 Elsa Kirk	26 Nancy Smith	26 Janette Mumford
29 Irene Hogarth		
Annita Gillespie and Elsa Kirk	Flower Conveners	

Church Cleaning rota

Fri 3 February	M Crilley	E Ramsay
Sat 11 February	S Cross	N Smith
Fri 17 February	S Hanlon	E Murray
Sun 26 February	G Morrison	S Turner
Fri 3 March	E Kirk	M Parker
Fri 10 March	C Saunders	S Hanlon
Fri 17 March	S Love	A Algie
Sun 26 March	A Gillespie	J Campbell
Sat 1 April	E Barclay	Liz Sutherland
Fri 7 April	A Turner	E Kirk
Fri 14 April	M Crilley	E Ramsay
Sat 22 April	S Cross	N Smith
Fri 28 April	S Hanlon	E Murray

