

# *Saltcoats St Cuthbert's Church Magazine*



*Afternoon Club ladies preparing Poppy Fall for Remembrance Sunday*

## *November 2018*

Website: [www.saltcoats-stcuthberts.org.uk](http://www.saltcoats-stcuthberts.org.uk)

Email: [saltcoatsstcuthberts@gmail.com](mailto:saltcoatsstcuthberts@gmail.com)

Scottish Charity Number: SC002905

## *Minister's Message for Remembrance*

Dear friends,

November is the month when we remember the terrible human cost of war, and re-echo our prayers for peace. The need for such prayers has not diminished over the last 100 years as the greed for power and ownership of territory continues to cause great suffering for the people of many nations. Some may use the name of religion to try to justify their warmongering, but as disciples of Jesus who allowed Himself to be crucified, we refute their claim.

In the eyes of the God of the Gospel of love, mercy and compassion, there can surely be no such thing as a "Holy war".

We may feel powerless to solve the divisions affecting different nations, but let us continue to pray for the people in the divided parts of our world, and care in practical ways for those who suffer in their home countries or flee in search of a more peaceful place in which to settle with their families. Let us pray for all working to be peace-keepers and peace-makers, including those of our own Armed Services, facing danger around the world.

In the words of St. Francis of Assisi, "Make us channels of Your peace. Where there is hatred let us bring Your love, where there is injury, Your pardon Lord, and where there's doubt, true faith in You.

Make us channels of Your peace. Where there's despair in life let us bring hope, where there is darkness, only light, and where there's sadness ever joy. Oh, Master grant that we may never seek, so much to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love with all our soul."

*With every blessing,*

*Sarah Nicol.*

### ***"Meet the Minister"***

When you ask Sarah where she comes from, she replies that she has enjoyed a variety of 'homes'! She grew up with her elder brothers and sister in Zambia where her father worked in the Forestry Service.

The family were active in the United Church of Zambia, her father being an elder and serving as Session Clerk and magazine editor. Special memories of childhood include friendships with people from many countries, visits with her mum to care for malnourished children in the charity-run hospital, community activities across denominations and faiths, visits to Victoria Falls, seeing animals in their natural habitat, and travelling by ship between Africa and Scotland.

Returning to Scotland at the age of 14, Sarah's family settled in Inverness where her father established a School of Forestry.

During her final school years she went on Scripture Union camps based on the Summer Isles off Achiltibuie. These experiences were formative in Sarah's sense of calling to serve God, although the actual direction of that calling took another four years to clarify.

Sarah went to Aberdeen University, studying a mixture of Chemistry and Zoology. She has special memories of a week's course on Millport as part of her Marine Zoology course in second year, not realising that in future years she would drive past the island to explore a call to St. Cuthbert's.

In her honours year her sense of calling to serve God in His Church developed.

Initial thoughts were of working in animal nutrition or soil science in Africa. However, her minister's words about missionaries being needed in Scotland changed her direction. A few months later the Church of Scotland accepted her for training for the Ministry of Word and Sacrament.

After graduating with a Bachelor of Divinity from Aberdeen University she spent her probationary practical year attached to Albany Church for the Deaf in Edinburgh. Stewart and Sarah were married that September with Stewart transferring to Edinburgh University for the year. They then returned to Aberdeen for Stewart to complete his Divinity degree. Sarah worked for two and a half years in St. John's Church for the Deaf in Aberdeen, an experimental appointment under the Home Mission Board.

From there they moved to Edinburgh where Sarah served as associate minister in Blackhall: St. Columba's Church.

Four years later, a vacancy arose for an associate minister in Christ Church, Bermuda, so off they went again – for this two-year appointment. Returning to Edinburgh, Sarah was called to be minister of Craigmillar Park Church. During their 15 years in "CPC" Deborah was born. The congregation adapted well to their first lady minister bringing a baby into their lives! While serving there, Sarah used the opportunity provided by the Church of Scotland for Study Leave, attending Edinburgh University one day a week for a year, graduating with a Masters in Theology.

In 2009 Sarah received a call to Kirn Parish Church in deferred linking with Dunoon: St John's linked with Sandbank. The family were warmly welcomed into the community and loved being beside the Clyde. Life was very busy in a triple linkage with numerous Board and Session meetings to chair, and many families to care for, particularly during times of bereavement.

Five years later Sarah was called to Midstocket Parish Church in Aberdeen. This was a relatively recent union, just about to begin an extensive refurbishment programme. The congregation were decanted from the building for some 15 months while the work progressed. The transformation of the sanctuary was exciting to watch and the return to worship in this "fresh" space helped the congregation move forward into a new chapter of their life together.

However, the call to Saltcoats St. Cuthbert's was one that could not be ignored. Although it is always hard to say goodbye to the people you meet and grow to love, Sarah is happy that Midstocket is in good heart as they look for a new minister to lead them further forward in their desire to be at the heart of their community.

Sarah and Stewart are happily settled into the manse here, having felt welcome in St. Cuthbert's from the first time they met the Nomination Committee. This will be Deborah's home, too, but she is in the middle of her architectural studies in Aberdeen. This being her fourth of six years, she is currently working in an architects' firm in Edinburgh.

Sarah says, "We feel at home here already and look forward to developing our sense of belonging with you as the family of St. Cuthbert's Church in bonny Saltcoats by the sea!"

## *Welcome*

It has been so heartening over the past few months to see new faces in church on a Sunday morning. Some have even joined us during the week at the Community Café, Guild and Men's Club (open to all).

You are all most welcome and we hope that you enjoy your time at St. Cuthbert's whenever you join us.

We trust that established and regular worshippers in the pews will continue to welcome visitors; share a few words and let them know how pleased we are to see them.

Sarah is hoping to hold a series of Enquiry gatherings for those wishing to find out what is involved in joining the church by Profession of Faith/Confirmation. Please sign up on the sheet in the vestibule or speak to the minister or to any of the Welcome Group at the front door any Sunday.

*William Parker Roll Keeper*

## *The Guild*

We had a very interesting illustrated talk by Mr Wiggan on the work of Street Pastors.

They go out on the streets of Prestwick and Ayr from 10 pm - 4 am, showing Christian love to anyone who has partied too much, and can't get home. They supply flip flops to ease sore feet, sick bags for the needy, and if necessary, help to arrange transport home. Occasionally this act of kindness leads the young person to attend Church.

At the following meeting we welcomed Isobel Beck, who told us about her role as a Deaconess, which was most interesting. Starting November 7, we will have a speaker to tell us about our chosen project for the coming year - The Boys Brigade. On November 21 we have a concert provided by pupils of Caledonia School, so please come along, and support the children. It is free of charge, and will be followed by tea and cakes. The children just love to come and entertain us.

All meetings start at 2pm.

*Sheila Sarginson.*

## *Afternoon Club*

The Club is thriving but there is room for more if you would like to pop in.

Since the start of the session the numbers attending our group on Monday afternoons have increased in both the Craft and the Bridge rooms. There can be difficulty calling the meeting to order when over 20 chatty and cheery participants come together during the tea break.

A number of the ladies of the Afternoon Club have been creating a Remembrance Fall using in excess of 1200 hand-made poppies gathered together over the last few months.

These carefully and skilfully crafted poppies have been knitted, crocheted or made of felt and are being sewn together to make the Fall which will cascade around the WW1 Memorial at the front of the church on Remembrance Sunday.

*Nan Smith*

## *Community Cafe*

**Wed 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> November. 11:30am - 1:30pm**

How fortunate we are in St. Cuthbert's to have Angela and her volunteers whose teamwork ensures this addition to Church life continues to grow

The carefully prepared fare suiting all tastes attracts patrons of all faiths and none to share in the food and fellowship provided. Come along and join us on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month.

**Stop Press** Tickets will be available shortly for a Congregational Christmas Lunch on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December 12.30pm.

Be sure the date is in your diary **NOW!**

## *CrossReach*

On behalf of CrossReach I wish to thank all who so generously bought from their Christmas Catalogue this year. The order from St Cuthbert's was in excess of £400. I believe this is our highest order ever. This enables CrossReach to fund their many projects all over Scotland. Thanks everyone so very much. I hope to have the orders for you by Sunday 4th Nov.

*Evelyn Slater.*

## *Christmas Fair.*

The Christmas Fair will be on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November 10am. - 12.30 pm. Admission is £3 for adults and free for children. There will be a good variety of stalls, a visit from Santa as well as tea, coffee and home baking. Please come along and join in the fun and do some Christmas shopping at the same time. All monies made at the event is for church funds.

*The Fundraising Team*

## *Christmas Concert*

Kilmarnock based choir Achoired Taste are presenting their 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Christmas Concert "A Christmas Spectacular" in the Grand Hall, Kilmarnock on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm.

Tickets priced £10 can be obtained from William (471207) or Ena (464437). A bus (£8) will be arranged if a minimum of 16 passengers are guaranteed.

## *Choir*

4/11.	Sing of the Lord's goodness.	Hymn 157
11/11.	What shall we pray for those who died.	Hymn 712
18/11.	Beauty for brokenness.	Hymn 259
25/11.	Praise the Lord with the sound of trumpet	Hymn 169

*Rosemary Smith*

## *Sunday School*

As Autumn is upon us we have put our Autumn scene on the board. We have used some of our resources from last year and the children have chosen their favourite animals to add to the picture. Please do have a look when you are in the hall.

Plans are underway for the Festive season. We will have our usual Gift Service and although numbers are small the children will be having a nativity play, with the help of others!! Dates to be confirmed.

The lessons over the next few weeks will be based on the Parables.

Thank you for the large number of pennies we have been given over the past few weeks. The total to date is £53.

*Sunday School Teachers*

## *Presbytery Report*

Rev Martin Thomson, Business Committee Convener introduced Sarah Watts, Choose Life Manager, North Ayrshire Council who addressed Presbytery on the sensitive issue of youth suicides. Through a power point presentation, Sarah spoke about how she was working with other agencies including the mental health agency and schools towards a Choose Life Strategy to reduce the number of young deaths across North Ayrshire. It was considered essential that churches should be aware of the problems and included in talks and trainings in the future with the other agencies.

Sarah spoke of the work taking place across North Ayrshire to help prevent suicide and support those affected by these tragedies. She highlighted the partnerships and progress that have been made in tackling the helplessness people may feel in supporting those in crisis. Progress has been made in reducing the number of those taking their own lives and a target has been set to reduce that figure by a further 20% over the next few years. Youngsters have been found to be very supportive of each other in these difficult circumstances.

*William Parker Presbytery Elder*

## *Parkers Preserves*

Thank you to all members and friends who again purchased jams, jellies and chutneys over the last few weeks. Your support resulted in the shelves being cleared and £550 has been raised for church funds. Although I plan to scale back production next year I will be pleased to continue receiving jars from those who have maintained my supply.

*Muriel Parker*

## *Men's Club*

On 9th Oct., an audience of 15 heard an enthralling talk by Stewart Nicol on his life as an Investigative Journalist. We hope to have the 2nd edition in the New Year.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct., Robert Brown fascinated the members with an illustrated presentation on his visit to Hong Kong. Many thanks to both gentlemen.

On 6 Nov. at **7.30pm** we will join the Friends of the Museum where the speaker will be from the Titanic Museum in Belfast and on 20<sup>th</sup> Nov. Bea Nicholson will take us on a tour of Scotland in music and pictures.

All are invited to attend.

*Tom Sommerville*

## *Fashion Show*

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the event. In the Year of Young People it was particularly appropriate to have involvement of members of the Youth Group. They and the other church member models did us proud. A member of the audience directed a comment at a senior model suggesting that not only the outfit buttoned up the back! Over £560 was raised with additional commission from sales in the next two weeks. Well done everyone.

*The Fund-Raising Team*

## *So sad*

A six-year-old boy is being shown the headstone in the cemetery which informs him that his great-great-grandfather had died in 1943 on 21<sup>st</sup> December. That's really sad said the boy ..... he missed Christmas!!

## *Death*

*Jesus said, "In my Father's house are many mansions ...."*

It is with great sadness that we have just learned of the death of Archie MacIntyre. Archie was Session Clerk in St Cuthbert's over many years and earlier this year was presented with a Long Service Certificate having served as an elder for over 64 years. Our thoughts and prayers are with Jan and the family at this sad and difficult time.

## **Weekly Calendar**

Sundays:	10.45 a.m.	Morning Service
		Sunday School and Youth Group
Mondays:	2.00 p.m.	Afternoon Club for bridge play & instruction, crafts, etc
	7.30 p.m.	Country Dancing (social dancing class)
Tuesdays:	7.00 p.m.	Men's Club (fortnightly)
Wednesdays:	10.30 a.m.	Walking Group
	11.30 a.m.	Community Cafe (2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesdays)
	2.00 p.m.	The Guild (1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays)
Thursdays:	9.30 a.m.	Mother and Toddler Group
	6.30 p.m.	Anchor Boys
Fridays:	6.30 p.m.	Boys Brigade

## **Diary Dates at a Glance**

Men's Club	Tuesday	6 <sup>th</sup> November
Guild	Wednesday	7 <sup>th</sup> November
Remembrance Sunday	Sunday	11 <sup>th</sup> November.
Community Café	Wednesday	14 <sup>th</sup> November
Men's Club	Tuesday	20 <sup>th</sup> November
Guild	Wednesday	21 <sup>st</sup> November
Christmas Fair	Saturday	24 <sup>th</sup> November
Community Café	Wednesday	28 <sup>th</sup> November
Christmas Concert	Saturday	8 <sup>th</sup> December
Congregational Christmas Lunch	Sunday	16 <sup>th</sup> December