

*Saltcoats St Cuthbert's
Church Magazine*



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From the Session Clerk

Dear Friends,

Next Sunday is the beginning of the season of Advent when Christians worldwide prepare for the birth of Jesus Christ.

For many it is a hectic time of shopping, cooking, entertainment etc. This is all that some think of as Christmas. Let us not forget the true meaning of the word CHRISTMAS. Yes there is a place for everything, but we must put the Baby Born in a Stable at the heart of our celebrations.

Can I thank all the members of the congregation who have attended so faithfully week after week, supporting our Locum Bert who is doing a sterling job each Sunday, and attending to the Pastoral care required by our congregation?

Thanks to all who support the efforts of the Fundraising Team. We are helping the funds, but more importantly the Fellowship we share when taking part in such occasions. Keep up the good work. The work of the Nominating Committee is covered in a separate item.

We have much and many to be grateful for in St Cuthbert's. I thank you all for the love and support given to the Church week after week. With God's help we will remain strong.

May I wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and a Year full of Joy, Good Health and Happiness.

Evelyn Slater.
Session Clerk.

From the Interim Moderator

Dear members and friends of St Cuthbert's, Saltcoats

One of the great things about St. Cuthbert's is the commitment of the Youth Organisations within the church. St. Cuthbert's can be proud of the support that it gives to these groups and of the vital work that they do with young people. Many of my friends and colleagues over the years have spoken highly of the Boys' Brigade and of how their achievements in the B.B. helped their job prospects because of the skills they gained working for their Queen's or President's Badge.

A B.B. Captain was talking to the boys about the importance of perseverance.

"Boys," he said, "Don't ever give up. History remembers those who never give up. Think of Robert the Bruce, Madame Curie, Sir William Smith. They didn't give up. Look at Jimmy McPringle."

One of the boys replied, "Who was Jimmy McPringle, sir?"

The Captain answered, "Nobody knows. He gave up."

As we approach Christmas I sometimes wonder whether the Angel Gabriel asked any other women if they would bear God's son. We only know about Mary because she said, "Yes."

Mary could have refused because God always gives us a choice. Love never compels us to do what we don't want to do. Whether we say *Yes* or *No* to God I believe that His purposes will always prevail. Just as the water always finds its way to the sea, even if it has to deal with obstacles in its way, so God's plans will always come to fruition whether we co-operate with Him or not. We know of Mary because she chose to agree; what we don't know is how many others were asked before her.

Jesus never told his disciples that following Him would be easy. He said that it would be challenging but that He would always be with them. The B.B. Captain was right: for Christians perseverance is a vital quality.

Our annual celebration of the birth of Jesus reminds us that God is intimately bound up with humanity. He is fulfilling His purposes whether we join in or not. The *Yes* or *No* is up to us.

I hope you have a joyful Christmas when it comes and that you and your loved ones will be blessed by the One who is "the reason for the season."

Faternally

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From the Treasurer

With this magazine there is a letter to the household of every member concerning the stewardship of money. The contents of the letter are self-explanatory.

It is a requirement of the national church that we address the stewardship aspect of money every three years.

At this time of year I again would like to thank all those who have helped me and the finances of the church throughout the year, Maureen Crilley for standing in on the Sundays I am away, Robin Crilley for maintaining the Freewill Offering records and Archie Kerr and his team for all the repairs carried out both inside the buildings and maintaining the grounds. We are indebted to them all.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a peaceful Christmas and New Year

Ann Turner

The Afternoon Club

Our Christmas lunch will be on Monday 11th December and our meetings will resume on 8th January. Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Nan Smith



The Guild

At our last meeting, we celebrated "Guild Week" with a musical afternoon of entertainment by George & Michael, followed by a fish supper tea. We had invited some friends to join us. We were delighted to welcome some menfolk brave enough to venture along to see what their wives got up to at the Guild! The meeting proved most enjoyable.

Our next meeting, on Wednesday November 29, will be a photographic tour around Old Saltcoats, courtesy of Robert Brown. This should be most interesting.

The last meeting before the holiday, on December 6., will be a visit from Zoe and her dog Remus. We will be hearing all about "Canine Partners". This will be followed, after tea, by a Finance meeting.

Everyone is welcome to attend any of our meetings and we will commence the New Year, on January 17., with a meeting dealing with our project "Street Pastors". Gifts will be collected for South Beach House.

We wish everyone a Very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Sheila Sarginson



Thank you for the Music & the Fish Suppers!



We would like sincerely to thank the members of the Guild for a wonderful afternoon on Wednesday 15th November. We had such a warm welcome and the music provided by George McGrattan and Michael McCulloch was such a tonic on a cold afternoon. We were asked to join in the choruses and this we all did and made a joyful noise, or sometimes just a noise. These two gentlemen have raised over £3000 in donations for Mary's Meals in the past three years with their gentle blend of Scots and Irish favourites. Just don't tell anyone on our supporters' bus we were warbling away to "The Northern Lights of Old Aberdeen."

After the musical entertainment we were treated to fish suppers from The Plaza as we denizens of Ardrossan call that wonderful establishment at the top of Glasgow Street.

Thank you so much Guild members for such a happy afternoon.

Isla and Elsa Kirk.

Sunday School

Our Gift Service this year is on Sunday 10th December. All gifts will be taken to the local Social Work Department and then distributed to families in our area.

The Sunday School will close for Christmas on 17th December and return on 14th January.

The boys and girls in the Sunday School wish everyone a Merry Christmas.

Sunday School Teachers

From the Nominating Committee

I am sure all members and friends of St Cuthbert's are anxious to know what progress is being made concerning our vacancy. Please be assured that your Nominating Committee has been working hard on behalf of the church.

Since my last report a further 130 Parish Profiles have been posted out : Dunfermline Presbytery, Kirkcaldy, Perth, Aberdeen, Gordon, Buchan, Orkney to name but a few. This mailshot has been sent to all ministers in post for five years or more. An accompanying letter was sent with the Parish Profiles politely inviting further enquiries and applications for the vacant charge.

In October a further five Parish Profiles were sent out to probationers of the church as David Watson keeps me updated with the new lists of those probationers eligible to apply.

Our vacancy remains advertised on the Church of Scotland website with a link to our Parish Profile. However the number of vacant charges on the church website was **131** vacancies on 13th November. Consequently our task in attracting a minister is a challenging one but if we maintain a positive and welcoming attitude, our task may be made lighter.

To this end what can we all do as members and friends of St Cuthbert's to attract a new minister to this fine church in this fine town? There is so much good work on-going in the church; so many people working hard in the vacancy. When we are talking about our church in the community and beyond it behoves all of us to paint a positive picture; to speak about the good work of the church: the Christmas Fair; the work of the Guild for the church and for charities; The Blythswood Shoebox collection; the toy collection at Christmas; the work of the Girls' and Boys' Brigades; the children and young people; the new Men's Group; those who mop and dust; the pastoral visits; the teas and coffees and words of welcome at the door; the joy of Caledonia Primary School services within our church; the music which inspires; the enjoyable outings; the message from the pulpit which encourages us in our faith... I could go on.

If we speak well of St Cuthbert's the word may sow a seed. As Alan Ward said, *"It is word of mouth that will attract a minister."* May our words and our prayers help us in that task.

Elsa Kirk Clerk to the Nominating Committee.

Mens Club

The Club have held two meetings since the last magazine, the first on the 31st Oct. William Parker gave a slides presentation on the formation of the Ardrossan Allotments better known as the Three Towns Growers. This was most enjoyable and very well received. Even more enjoyable apparently was the selection of cakes etc which the Girls Brigade very kindly handed through from their Halloween party. Many thanks to the GB for their kindness and generosity. (I was at work at missed them, so if there are any more cakes.....)

The second evening was held on the 14th Nov. As it was close to Armistice Day we had a long blether about our memories from the 2nd WW and years following. These memories included Rationing (especially the sweets rationing?). One or two of the members remember the bombing of ICI and of German Aircraft flying over Stevenston, which prompted one family to go "up the country" to escape any bombing. Air Raid shelters in Saltcoats were also remembered, as was the bombing up and down the Clyde. We ended the evening with a short quiz, the result being much better than the first quiz we held!

The next meeting will take place on 28/11/17 when we will be holding the World Darts Tournament (Saltcoats version). If you would like to come along you will be made very welcome.

Tom Sommerville

Presbytery Report

Presbytery Members were invited to a CrossReach Grey Cake Bake at the November Presbytery meeting, Grey Cakes symbolise the world of someone affected by mental health problems, where the fog of anxiety and depression can feel overwhelming, colouring their experience of life. These cakes are vibrant and full of colour but with their true splendour hidden by grey icing.

You can find all you need to know about how to create your Grey Cakes on the Church Notice Board or CrossReach website , including information about organising a Grey Cake Bake Sale to raise awareness of and funds for CrossReach's Counselling Services.

Before the business of the evening Rev Marion Howie gave a tribute to the late Rev David Harbison retired minister of Beith High I/w Beith Trinity. Members learned that David as well as being a popular and much loved minister he had been an accomplished athlete winning many national awards. His enthusiasm and commitment to sport continued during his first charge in Shetland in the 1960s. Such was his long term influence in promoting sport in that community that many years after his move to charges in Hamilton and Beith he was invited back in 2002 to open a new synthetic turf football pitch named Harbison Park.

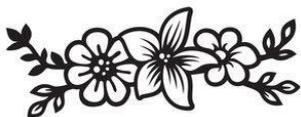
From the various reports received -

The Fairlie manse will be let and confirmation that the Beith Manse field is being sold

Kirk Sessions asked to include a presentation about Presbytery at a Session meeting. Arrangements are being made for a visit from members of Milala Presbytery in June next year. The Moderator reported on a recent Presbytery Conference and it was noted that 2018 is to be "The Year of the Young Person".

William Parker Presbytery Elder

Flower Rota



DECEMBER	3rd	Jenny Horwood	Jan 7	Betty Morrison
	10th	Margaret Sommerville	Jan 14	Agnes Algie
	17th	Janette Smith	Jan 21	Elsa Kirk
	24th	Mary McGonigle	Jan 28	Flower Fund
	31st	John Gray		

Many thanks to all who have donated flowers for the church.

Once again we would like to place poinsettias on the church windowsills during the festive period. Any small donation for the purchase of plants would be much appreciated and can be given to Elsa or Annita. Annita Gillespie (tel 468101) and Elsa Kirk, Flower Conveners

Temporary Change

Our Locum Bert McCool will be on holiday in Australia at the beginning of next year.

Rev Alan Ward who is well known to the congregation will be "minding the shop" during January and celebrating Communion with us on the first Sunday in February.

We wish Bert a happy and refreshing holiday and look forward to welcoming him back safely.

Blythswood Shoe Boxes

40 shoe boxes were uplifted on the 7th November. Many thanks to all who contributed.

Ann Turner



Girls Brigade

As we draw ever closer to the end of another year here is an update of what we have been doing up until now. At the end of last session we endeavoured to fill 10 backpacks with specific items to be donated to Marys Meals, which I am sure you have all heard of at one point or another. In conjunction with this the girls and their parents took part in Marys Meals World Porridge Day on the 10th of October. Everyone was asked to donate £2 and then decorate their bowl of porridge with a smiley face made from fruit etc. The pictures are currently on the 5th Saltcoats GB Facebook page. Along with the backpacks a cheque for £50 from the Porridge Day will be given to Marys Meals.

Following the Enrolment Service on the 29th of October we served lunch to members of the congregation and GB families and again this was well supported and enjoyed by everyone. Thank you for your continued support. The money raised will be put to good use within the company and also help us take part in GB 125th birthday celebrations starting in January 2018.

On 11th of November, Emma McKechan, Katie McQuistin and Gillian McQuistin represented the company at the Division Swimming Gala in Troon. I am delighted to say that Emma gained two gold medals, Katie and Gillian a bronze medal each resulting in the company being placed third overall on the night.

Officers and Brigaders were once again present at the Remembrance Day Parade and laying of wreaths at the War Memorial. Our last day before the Christmas holiday season will be on Tuesday 12th December returning in the New Year on 9th January 2018.

Lorna Hamilton.

2018 Diary

The 2018 diary is now available in the hall.

So that the halls are only heated when required would leaders of all organisations etc please ensure that it is kept up to date including when meetings are cancelled.

Ann Turner



Cleaning Rota

Sun 3 Dec	G Morrison	S Turner	Sat 3 Feb	S Cross	N Smith
Fri 8 Dec	E Kirk	M Parker	Fri 9 Feb	S Hanlon	E Murray
Fri 15 Dec	C Saunders	S Hanlon	Sun 18 Feb	G Morrison	S Turner
Fri 22 Dec	S Love	A Algie	Fri 23 Feb	E Kirk	M Parker
Fri 29 Dec	volunteers		Fri 2 Mar	C Saunders	S Hanlon
Sat 6 Jan	A Gillespie	J Campbell	Fri 9 Mar	S Love	A Algie
Sat 13 Jan	A Kerr	Liz Sutherland	Sat 17 Mar	A Gillespie	J Campbell
Fri 19 Jan	A Turner	E Kirk	Sat 24 Mar	A Kerr	Liz Sutherland
Fri 26 Jan	M Crilley	E Ramsay	Fri 30 Mar	A Turner	E Kirk

*** Please see back cover for news of a forthcoming event. ***

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
1.30 p.m. – Rennie Dance Academy
7.30 p.m. – Country Dancing (a social dancing class)
- Tuesdays: 6.00 p.m. – Girls Brigade
7.00 p.m. – (fortnightly) Mens Club
- Wednesdays: 10.30 a.m. – Walking Group
2.00 p.m. -(fortnightly) The Guild
6.00 p.m. - Weightwatchers
- Thursdays: 9.30 a.m. – Mother and Toddler Group
6.30 p.m. – Anchor Boys
- Fridays: 6.00 p.m. Boys Brigade

Scottish Charity Number: SC 002905

FAMILY CEILIDH



SATURDAY 24th FEBRUARY

7PM-11PM

PIE & PEA SUPPER

BRING YOUR OWN BOTTLE

ADULTS £7 CHILDREN £3