

Saltcoats St Cuthbert's Church Magazine



*Evelyn Slater and her daughters following the Session Clerk's retiral
presentation*

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Minister's Letter

Dear friends,

Autumn sees the beginning of a new session of activities in the Church in our part of the world. This makes it a good time of the year to think about the giving of our time and talents in the life and work of the congregational family.

When we hear so much about the shortage of ministers, it is important to affirm that the Church depends heavily on her volunteers, willing to give of their time and talents to serve in so many ways.

Think of the elders, giving their time and skills in spiritual leadership and care, including the time spent in discussion and decision-making, as well as the time they give visiting their districts and preparing for communion.

Think of Board members, giving their time and skills to discuss and make decisions concerning our buildings and finances, as well as being a part of the wider team in the congregation who offer their time and skills in practical ways to look after our buildings and grounds, from the simple tasks of cutting the grass and cleaning the church to more complex matters such as checking the state of the stonework.

Think of our organist and choir, giving their time and skills in the leading of worship, assisting our singing and lifting our souls through inspirational music.

Think of those who read the lesson on Sunday and nurture our young people in the crèche, Sunday School and Youth Fellowship.

Think of those who arrange our flowers and deliver them to various folk in the church and community, a sign that we are thinking of them and remembering them in prayer.

Think of those who help us communicate with each other and the outside world – through our orders of service, magazine and website.

Think of those who serve us tea and coffee on Sundays and cater for many through the Community Cafe and special social events of the congregation.

Think of those who organise fund-raising activities and fellowship activities throughout the week and the year for people of all ages and interests.

Think of the Guild and its support of so many projects within and beyond the Church.

Think of those who work quietly in the background and who support the Church through prayer.

Thank-you, everyone, for your personal contribution to the life of the Church.

Many people make a Church, and there are many opportunities to be of service.

Let us use these autumn months to review our giving of our time and talents in the witness and work of God's Church, considering if there are some things which we are leaving to that anonymous person, "SOE" (Someone Else) which WE (YOU and I) could undertake.

Let us cheerfully share in the diverse and demanding responsibilities of "owning" the buildings in which we gather for worship and fellowship, and from which we go out renewed in our commitment to bring God's love to the people of our parish.

With every blessing,

Sarah Nicol.

Community Cafe

Wed 10th & 24th October. 11:30am - 1:30pm

Under the command of Angela Beattie this popular addition to our 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.

Our thanks to Angela and her team for this café and for providing two lunches and a café in one week at the end of September.

Extraordinary!

Come along and join us on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month.

Retiral Presentation to Session Clerk

During morning service on 23rd September a presentation was made to Evelyn Slater who recently retired as Session Clerk.

In making the presentation, Ann Turner who has worked closely with Evelyn over many years paid tribute to her long years of service, initially as Clerk to the Congregational Board before becoming Session Clerk. At the helm during our long periods of vacancy she ensured smooth running often having to adapt at short notice to the changing requirements of the various occupants of the pulpit.

She was able to sense when others needed that little bit of extra support and always prepared to go the extra mile to ensure everyone was included.

Whilst stepping down from that specific role, Evelyn continues to wear a number of other hats within the Guild and CrossReach as well as her work with magazine distribution and her duties as a long serving elder. Ann highlighted how much St Cuthbert's Church members were

indebted to Evelyn for her lengthy commitment to that demanding role, wishing her a happy retirement and with God's grace many more active years within this congregation.

Later in the church hall a congregational lunch in Evelyn's honour was held. Evelyn spoke of how humble and overwhelmed she felt at the number of people who were present and how privileged and honoured she had been to serve the Lord in St Cuthbert's as Board Clerk and Session Clerk over more than 20 years.

It had been her pleasure during that time to work with many ministers, each with their own way of doing things. In one twelve-month period there had been 6 former Moderators.

The one constant had been the unfailing support of the Kirk Session and congregation.

Evelyn acknowledged the love, understanding and support of her family and the joy that she felt as a member of the Nominating Committee when the process of finding a new minister was completed with the induction of Rev. Sarah Nicol to our beautiful place of worship.

"My life as Session Clerk has been so happy. I thank you all my friends for being part of it and making it so worthwhile."

SUTHERLANDS' CHARABANC ON TOUR

The thanks of all who travelled on St. Cuthbert's latest day trip to Dunfermline on Saturday 15th September are due to Graeme and Liz Sutherland for their most efficient organisation of another great day out.

One particular highlight of the bus journey was our trip across the Queensferry Crossing, the new 2.7 kilometer bridge, from which we viewed the Forth Bridge and the Forth Road Bridge.

The ancient site of Benedictine monks and royal residence was reached mid-morning and we set off to tour the Abbey; the Palace; the Medieval Abbey Church and the new church opened in 1821. There was Graeme having organised a tour guide, trying to herd cats, as some of the party headed for the comfort stations and the nearest coffee shop. He did succeed however in gathering sufficient of our number to listen to the history of the Abbey and Palace delivered by another lovely lady named Nan. The more intrepid clambered down to view the cellars and climbed up a wooden ladder to peep out where royals and monks once peeped. Some of us counted the squirrels.

On we went to the Medieval Abbey Church to view the most complete example of 12th century Romanesque architecture surviving in Scotland. It is thought that this ancient church was the burial site of St Margaret, canonised by Pope Innocent IV in 1249. Also buried within were Malcolm 111, her husband; David 1 and Robert 1, the Bruce, among others such as Edgar, Alexander 1 and Malcolm 1V. Alas St Margaret whose remains were moved possibly three times, lost her head probably during one of these moves. Her head was placed in a gilded reliquary which could be opened to reveal the head of the saint for pilgrims to venerate.

Adjoining the Medieval church is the “modern” 19th century church and beautiful it is with a thought-provoking layout. Many tourists of course visit the church to view the tomb of Robert 1, the Bruce, under the pulpit. Workmen building the new parish church in 1818 found remnants of what was later thought to be the resting-place of Bruce and these remains were transferred to their current place of rest. Also and probably unusual within a Presbyterian church is to be found a

replica skull of Robert the Bruce. Now call me a dour Presbyterian but I have never been the same since I visited St Peter's Church in Drogheda to be confronted, within a glass case, by the head, not just the skull, of Saint Oliver Plunkett. Not indeed my choice for internal church adornment but each to his own.

I did wonder however at the fine set of teeth in the Bruce skull. Most unusual for a warrior King methinks.

Thus, full of history, culture and religion, off we went: some to other sites of historical interest such as St Margaret's Cave or the Carnegie Library and Museum; others to the lovely Pittencrieff Park while yet others headed to Marks & Spencer's café.

Delighted was I to come across a branch of Waterstone's in Dunfermline so that was me for some considerable time.

He counted us all out and he counted us all in, did Graeme, delighted for once to see all return to the bus on time.

Next stop was Harrington's Restaurant in Harthill where we enjoyed a lovely meal before heading homewards.

It must have been the tea and coffee at Harrington's but no sooner were we on the bus, some of us hoping to catch forty winks before Saltcoats, but the rear passengers, led by the minister, burst into song. Off they went on Cliff's "Summer Holiday" followed by his "Congratulations." We were spared "Devil Woman" and "Bachelor Boy" not to mention "The Young Ones." I momentarily pondered getting a train from Glasgow but was spared the decision by the choir changing their repertoire to choruses, hymns and camp-fire favourites. All jolly good fun and the singing made the journey home pass more quickly, she added diplomatically.

Thank you Graeme and Liz for all your work beforehand and on the day to make this such a happy and memorable outing. We all had a great time. Thanks too to Derek, the bus driver from Coast to Coast, who was an excellent driver and a right lovely lad.

Please come and join us next time, for a great day out.

Elsa Kirk, Elvis Aaron Presley Fan Club.

Men's Club

The Men's Club meets on Tuesdays from 7 - 9pm, every 2 weeks.

We have a wide and varied programme and all are invited to attend.

9th Oct. My Journalistic Experiences - Stewart Nicol

23rd Oct. Slides of Hong Kong/Talk - R.Brown

6th Nov. Photographs & Music around Scotland - Bea Nicholson

As usual tea/coffee & biscuits

Tom Sommerville

Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal

Leaflets are available in the church vestibules and hall for this year's appeal. Filled boxes should be returned to the church by the end of October. Alternatively items for the boxes should be handed in by the middle of October.

Please see Ann Turner if you have any queries. Empty boxes are **urgently required** so if you have any spare please hand them in to the church.

Ann Turner

Fashion Show

Jennifer from The Dressing Room in Saltcoats is hosting another fashion show in the Church Hall on Wednesday 24th of October at 7.30 pm. Tickets are now available from Nan and Evelyn (£5). This includes refreshments. Previous shows have been good fun, not to mention entertaining!

Please come along and support St. Cuthbert's next top models.

Fundraising Team

CrossReach

Yes, it's that time again. I now have the CrossReach Christmas Cards catalogues available. Over the years we have greatly supported the work of CrossReach by buying cards etc.

I hope that this will be another good year. Do pick up a catalogue or have a look at the sample cards on display.

The cards are good value and good quality. No p&p as I distribute them. Payment only on receipt of order. Please do support this good cause.

Evelyn Slater.

Sunday School

Over the past few weeks we have been learning about the Fruit of the Spirit.

We all have them but do not always use them but others see them in us.

They are, Love, Patience, Humility, Faithfulness, Self-Control and Joy.

We are looking forward to the Harvest Thanksgiving when we will share our own celebration in Sunday School.

As part of the Year of the Young Person in the Church we will be in church to observe the Communion Service.

Thank you for all the pennies we have been receiving. This year our pennies collection will be going to The National Kidney Foundation.

Sunday School Teachers

Guild

We were delighted to welcome our new Minister, Sarah, to our opening meeting.

She gave a very interesting talk on our theme "Seeking the Way." It was good to see everyone back, and also welcome two new ladies.

Regrettably, we didn't have the pleasure of hearing Alison Montgomerie telling about her trip to Mt. Kilimanjaro, due to the bad weather - the Guild meeting had to be cancelled. We look forward to having Alison at a later date. (Date to be arranged.)

The next meeting, October 3. is about the Street Pastors, the Guild Project last year. This talk had to be postponed, due to the snowstorms - better late than never!

On October 17., we will be having Isobel Beck, a Deaconess, to tell us about the Deaconate Ministry.

Do come along and join us - everyone is welcome.

Sheila Sarginson.

Wayside Pulpit

If God seems far away - Guess who moved?

Free trip to Heaven – Details inside.

If you're not hungry for God - You're probably full of yourself.

Presbytery Report

At the Ardrossan Presbytery September meeting retiring Moderator Rev David Watson welcomed all new members serving during 2018/19 including our own minister Sarah Nicol who was attending her first meeting since her induction.

The Rev Tanya Webster, minister of Park Church, was installed as Moderator for the ensuing year.

From Ministries Council, Rev Jim Teesdale, formerly minister in Dalry St Margaret's was invited to address Presbytery on Presbytery Planning. Congregations have to ask themselves what they see as the issues and challenges facing the church and form a vision of the way forward.

In 2011 during the Presbytery Planning Process there were 1100 Charges in the church. That Presbytery Planning process envisaged a reduction to 920 Charges in the Church. Currently in 2018 there are 1032 Charges

Vacant Charges as of 14th August 2018: 247

In 2015..... 76.5% of ministers aged ***over 50***

18.7% of ministers aged ***between 40-50***

4.8% of ministers aged ***under 40***

The number of members has declined more rapidly than the number of ministers which has declined more rapidly than the number of congregations

Mr Brian Murray has completed all aspects of his training for the Readership.

Kirkgate Church Kirk Session has appointed Mr Andrew Bruce as Locum.

Presbytery asks Churches to encourage members within congregations who are interested or involved with children and young people's ministry, to attend the **Relational Ministry Reimagined Conference** on Saturday 6th October 2018, 10am – 4pm. Ardrossan Presbytery in conjunction with St John's Church in Largs is one of the Presbyteries participating in live-streaming the event. The conference through key note speaker Professor Andy Root explores how to develop and deepen our relationships with children and young people, within and around the church.

William Parker Presbytery Elder

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 from 25 Sept.)
Wednesdays:	10.30 a.m. – Walking Group 11.30 a.m. – Community Cafe (2 nd & 4 th Wednesdays) 2.00 p.m. - The Guild (1 st & 3 rd 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

Guild	Wednesday 3 rd October
Communion	Sunday 7 th October
Men’s Club	Tuesday 9 th October
Community Café	Wednesday 10 th October
Guild	Wednesday 17 th October
Men’s Club	Tuesday 23 rd October
Community Café	Wednesday 24 th October
Fashion Show	Wednesday 24 th October
BB Enrolment Service	Sunday 28 th October
Remembrance Sunday	Sunday 11 th November.