

Saltcoats St Cuthbert's Church Magazine



February 2019

Website: www.saltcoats-stcuthberts.org.uk

Email: saltcoatsstcuthberts@gmail.com

Scottish Charity Number: SC002905

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

One of the poems my mum taught me from an early age was one associated with the New Year.

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:

"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

And he replied:

"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.

That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."

So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.

As with many popular sayings, we find that these words are part of a larger composition. (Complete poem at back of magazine)

It was written by Minnie Louise Haskins, the daughter of a grocer from a village near Bristol, who shared her faith through teaching in her local Sunday School. As a young woman she moved to work for the Methodist Church in Lambeth. In 1907 she went to India to work as a missionary. To help raise funds for this missionary work she published a book of her poems called "The Desert" in which can be found the full poem entitled, "God knows".

Poor health brought her back to Britain in 1915. Remaining concerned for people's material and spiritual welfare, she worked in an industrial workers' hostel before gaining distinction in her studies in Sociology from the London School of Economics. She went on to be a tutor there, while continuing to work tirelessly for the welfare of workers, promoting a spirit of co-operation between employers and their staff.

Her journey to popular fame only began when King George VI quoted from her poem in his Christmas Day broadcast in 1939, some thirty years after she had written it.

Minnie was interviewed by the Daily Telegraph after that speech in which she said she had not realised that the King was going to quote her words! "I thought the words sounded familiar," she told the reporter, "and suddenly it dawned on me that they were out of my little book."

The poem had been drawn to the King's attention by his wife, and these words have been a source of inspiration for our Royal Family since then. They are engraved on stone plaques fixed to the gates of the King George VI Memorial Chapel at Windsor and were recited at the funeral of the Queen Mother.

I wonder if the person who wrote the Gospel song, "Put your hands in the hand of the Man who stilled the waters; in the hands of the Man who calmed the seas," drew inspiration, too, from Minnie's poem, with its similar imagery of placing our hand in God's hand?

As we begin this year with a great deal of uncertainty about the future for our country and about the way it will impact on our lives and the lives of our children and grandchildren, Minnie's poem may give us strength as we face the unknown.

Our times are different from those Minnie faced, and different from those our country faced in 1939, but with every generation we can be encouraged by these words to trust in God and to be confident that whatever happens to us personally, within our families, within our church, within our nation and within our world, we can put our hands into the Hand of God who loves us and draws near to us in Jesus.

With every blessing for the year ahead,

Sarah Nicol.

Communion

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated on Sunday 3rd February.

Lenten Discussion Groups

This year Lent begins on Wednesday 6th March.

Sarah is planning to hold a few discussion gatherings during the six week period leading up to Holy Week. This will be an opportunity for sharing in fellowship and learning.

Keep a look-out in the intimations and on the website for further details of topics and timings or ask Sarah about this at coffee time in the hall!

From the Treasurer

As a result of cracking appearing in the tower during last summer, the congregational board obtained an architect's and structural engineer's report.

This report stated that considerable work is required to maintain the structure and needs to be carried out in the next couple of years or so.

Estimates of the cost could be in the region of £300,000.

By reducing the height of the tower estimates of the cost could be in the region of £200,000.

Although a reduction in the height of the tower would stabilise the remaining structure, there is no guarantee that North Ayrshire Planning Authority and Historic Environment Scotland would allow this to happen.

As the church only has available funds in the region of £80,000, the congregational board has agreed to seek grant funding from various sources and also by an appeal to the members.

A condition of obtaining grants is that the church members can demonstrate that they also are contributing. An appeal letter with

details of how you can contribute will be delivered by your elder prior to the February Communion and I do hope you can seriously consider this request.

Ann Turner

Men's Club

The Men's Club resumed after the Christmas break, with a visit from Mr Alex Hill from the Commonwealth Graves Commission, who gave a talk on WW1, "Flanders Field". This provided a fascinating insight into what occurred during that terrible period and also a reminder of "Man's inhumanity to Man".

Our thanks to Mr. Hall and a very Happy New Year to all.

On 22nd Jan, Stewart Nicol "Priests, Politicians and People".

5th Feb. : Bea Nicholson : Scotland and beyond.

19th Feb. : Open meeting "Night of the Long Blethers"

Tom Sommerville

Guild

Our opening meeting for this session got off to a good start, thanks to William and Muriel, who took us on a most interesting tour of South America. We were delighted so many friends in the Church joined us.

Our next meeting on February 6 will be held at South Beach House. Bea Nicholson will be taking us on a musical journey around Scotland.

Please bring your gifts for the Shop with you.

On Wednesday February 20., we are having a get-together, followed by afternoon tea.

It will provide a time to chat with friends, and enjoy Home baking.

Sheila Sarginson.

World Day of Prayer

Every year on, or near, the first Friday in March, Christians of all ages gather in small groups and large congregations using the same basic form of worship, written by women of a different country each year on a theme chosen by the World Day of Prayer International Committee.

Local Service

Friday 1st March 2pm Saltcoats North Parish Church

‘Come – Everything Is Ready’

Written by Christian women of Slovenia

Refreshments after Service

Choir

February Anthems

- | | | |
|-------|---|----------|
| 3/2. | Let us talents and tongues employ. | Hymn 673 |
| 10/2. | Praise, I will praise you , Lord. | Hymn 175 |
| 17/2. | Take up the song, and sing the praise of God. | Hymn 171 |
| 24/2. | Fairest Lord Jesus. | Hymn 463 |

Rosemary Smith

New Activity

A new Zumba Gold class led by Mhairi Tindall opens in the church hall on Tuesday mornings at 10 -11am.

This class promises to be a further asset to the life of the church and a real boost to health and fitness. Zumba Gold is for active, older adults who are looking for lower intensity Zumba that focuses on balance, range of movement and co- ordination. Great music and fun with your

friends. All are very welcome. Cost £6 per session or £5 with an OIR card.

Sunday School

May we say a very belated thank you for the lovely gifts given for our gift service, they were very much appreciated.

The children are working on a winter poster, and we have some very talented artists. We are adding to it week by week so please do have a look when you come in for coffee.

Our penny collection now stands at £109 thanks to all.

Over the next few months we are looking forward to welcoming our three year olds into the Sunday school.

Sunday School Teachers

Community Café

The café reopened on 9th January after the Festive break. We look forward to welcoming patrons, old and new, on Wednesday 13th & 27th February from 11.30 – 1.30pm.

The usual selection of freshly prepared cuisine will be available.

Come along and enjoy the food and fellowship.

Anyone who would like to assist should speak to Angela or any of the volunteers.



Angela Beattie

Afternoon Club

Many thanks to all who religiously save their used stamps. As a result I have sent off a batch to the " World Mission Stamp Appeal " and have also enough for Crossreach Stamp Appeal. We tend to get a lot after the Festive Season, however we collect all year round. Keep them coming!

Nan Smith

Not a prayer

As well as being a minister the late Rev. James Currie was a popular after dinner speaker particularly at Burns Suppers. In one Immortal Memory he told of taking his car to a garage for a service. He said to the mechanic, "Don't charge me too much, I'm just a poor minister." The mechanic replied "Aye, ah ken. I heard you on Sunday."

Oops!

Got tasered picking up my friend at the airport today.

Apparently security don't like it when you shout "Hi, Jack!"

Point to ponder

Someone posed this question to me, "Why should I be interested in Jesus Christ and how is Christian faith relevant today? I have a good life and am happy enough" Good question and one which many try to answer. All I can offer is my feeling and it is very much a personal perspective.

If you have ever seen the short story 'Footprints in the Sand', that pretty well sums it up. It tries to show how, when we are going through tough times, Jesus is there to support us, to give us the strength to move on. But friendships cannot be picked up and put down at our convenience, it wouldn't work with our closest friends

and probably doesn't with Jesus either because if we don't learn about Him and acknowledge Him every day (not just for an hour on Sunday!), we won't know how to reach Him when we really need Him.

In other parts of the world the Christian faith is growing, could it be that life has become too comfortable for us and we don't think we need God any more – or we just don't have the time? Not just for Sundays, our relationship with God should be so much part of our lives that it becomes like breathing.

It is good to be with others who share your search and learning – and it is wonderful to sing together, even if you can't really sing - it is always best to find someone who can share your journey with Christ.

Happy travelling.

Bea Nicholson

God Knows

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:

“Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.”

And he replied:

“Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.

That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.”

So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.

And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone

East.

So heart be still:

What need our little life
Our human life to know,
If God hath comprehension?
In all the dizzy strife
Of things both high and low,
God hideth His intention.

God knows. His will
Is best. The stretch of years
Which wind ahead, so dim
To our imperfect vision,
Are clear to God. Our fears
Are premature; In Him,
All time hath full provision.

Then rest: until

*God moves to lift the veil
From our impatient eyes,
When, as the sweeter features
Of Life's stern face we hail,
Fair beyond all surmise
God's thought around His creatures
Our mind shall fill.*

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

Communion	Sunday	3 rd February
Men’s Club	Tuesday	5 th February
Guild	Wednesday	6 th February
Community Café	Wednesday	13 th February
Men’s Club	Tuesday	19 th February
Guild	Wednesday	20 th February
Community Café	Wednesday	27 th February
World Day of Prayer	North Parish Church	1 st March 2pm