

# Saltcoats St Cuthbert's Church Magazine



*Praise God for the harvest of orchard and field,  
praise god for the people who gather their yield,  
the long hours of labour, the skills of the team,  
the patience of science, the power of machine*

*Hymn 230*

## September 2021

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## From the Minister

Dear friends,

It has been a long year and a half, hasn't it?! In some areas of life we may feel we have moved on, with the provision of vaccinations in our country and with the easing of legal restrictions. However, we are still hearing messages of caution, reminding us that the virus is still around and we will need to adapt some of our behaviour so that we can 'live with it'.

Worship services in church have been open since Easter, although we know some of our members have been cautious about returning. I would like to assure you that the volunteer teams have been rigorous throughout in their cleaning of the sanctuary for our gathering. Many thanks to these members who have worked so hard on our behalf! We would love to see more people returning to Sunday services of worship as you feel able, recognising that all of us will move at different speeds in our return to the new 'normality'.

We are in process of seeking a cleaning contract so that the halls can reopen.

As with the reopening of the sanctuary, this is not as straightforward as turning the key! Risk assessments need to be completed by the Congregational Board/Kirk Session and the organisations using our facilities, with provision of materials being made for users to practice good hand and surfaces hygiene as people enter and leave the premises.

One priority is to gather the youngest generation for worship and Christian nurture. Following the retiral of Senga and Julie who served in this part of our church ministry for many years, I would appeal to members to consider prayerfully if they could help with our Sunday School and creche.

**YOUR CHURCH NEEDS YOU!**



Volunteers working with our young folk will need to complete a PVG check. Advice can be sought from Bea Nicholson and Anne Riddell. Alongside Sunday School and creche provision, we are keen to restart our time of fellowship after the service over tea, coffee or juice, as well as various weekday activities. Let us encourage each other as we adapt more areas of church life to the 'new normal'.

September is traditionally the month when we celebrate Harvest Thanksgiving, rejoicing in God's generosity to us in nature and remembering the hard work of farmers and fishermen who help bring food to our tables. Details of this service offering thanks to God and help to others are given below.

Around Harvest Thanksgiving we are encouraged to think more widely about our stewardship of all God's gifts, including our time and skills and financial resources. This year's General Assembly encouraged congregations to set aside one Sunday in the autumn 'Stewardship Season' as a 'National Giving Day'. Some may choose this day to focus on extra support for a particular charity close to their hearts, while others may choose to bring donations for local church needs.

A concern has been expressed that a 'National Giving Day' could pressurise those who are already feeling the squeeze on their finances after a year and a half of the pandemic. However, others have countered that this is a good time to respond with thankful hearts for the blessings we have enjoyed in this difficult time through the kindness of friends and neighbours, and through the skills and care of staff in our NHS and in medical research and development. Whatever we feel and however tough 2020 and 2021 have been for us, let us try to find some time in September and October to give thanks to God for His blessings in nature and through the loving support of our families and communities.

With every blessing,  
Sarah.

### **Harvest Thanksgiving Service**

Our traditional practice around the Harvest Thanksgiving Service has been to collect donations for the local Foodbank. Last year, due to the pandemic, we invited financial donations instead of groceries, and we intend to repeat this on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September. Sadly, the need for emergency boxes from foodbanks has increased during the pandemic. We will have a separate basket available for these donations as you enter or leave the church. The Foodbank team have always been so appreciative of our practical help, writing to let us know how our donations have been used.

### **Retirals**

During the months of the 'pandemic lockdown' several key people in the life of the congregation have retired from particular roles. Due to this timing and particular circumstances we have not yet marked these important periods of service.

**Rosemary Smith has retired from the position of church organist.** We are delighted that Rosemary is still willing to assist with occasional organ supply. We have been blessed with her musical contribution to the leading of worship over several years. It has been wonderful to work with Rosemary during these past three years, knowing that she is on hand to advise on choice of music when the tunes in CH4 may not be the familiar or much-loved ones! Rosemary has also been willing to teach us new hymns and has always inspired us with her playing before and after the service. During the 'lockdown' she adapted to recording music and singing for our online worship. Many thanks, Rosemary!

**Senga McCallum and Julie Fisher have retired from leadership of the Sunday School.** Senga has served for over 44 years and Julie for over 28 years. Many children and parents hold them in high regard and with deep affection for their many years of service, bringing their faith and love to the Christian nurture and care of our young people. I have enjoyed meeting with them in the hall after the service, seeing their wonderful craft creations, and planning for special services around the Christian Festivals such as Christmas, Easter and Harvest Thanksgiving. Many thanks, Senga and Julie.

**Elsa Kirk has retired from the office of Session Clerk.** At its meeting after the service on Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> July, the Kirk Session accepted with regret her resignation for personal reasons. The Kirk Session recorded its thanks to Elsa for her service over the last three years. Elsa has worked hard on our behalf from the time of the ministerial 'vacancy' and has been a great personal support to me in my time here, particularly through these past difficult months. Many thanks, Elsa.

**We pray God's blessing on Rosemary, Senga, Julie and Elsa and their families as they continue their worship and service of God in new ways.**

## Congratulations



This summer Alan and Judy Fullarton celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. As well as being active elders in the church Alan and Judy have found time to add colour to the flower borders (inset) in the grounds. We send them our love and best wishes on this very happy occasion.

### Parkers Preserves

The jelly pan is out again. The following preserves will be available shortly from Muriel. £1.50 while stocks last!



**Jelly & Jams** Bramble & Apple; Rhubarb & Ginger; Pear, Plum & Apple; Summer Fruits; Raspberry; Marrow & Ginger; Strawberry & Prosecco

**Chutneys** Spiced Apricot; Spiced Courgette & Tomato; Beetroot & Apple; Apple & Mango.

### Old Bibles

As mentioned in the February magazine there are two bibles in the display case in the church vestibule. One traces back to Ardrossan Parish Church of 1744 and the smaller "Breeches Bible" is of a



version not printed after 1644. N.A. Heritage Centre was approached for advice to ensure the preservation of these items which are between 275 & 375 years old. The centre was kind enough to visit the church and if you go to their website or Facebook page you will see photographs of the work.

The following is from the Heritage Centre website

*"Our Collections Officer has been working with St Cuthbert's Church in Saltcoats to do a little bit of conservation for their bibles. A wee clean out of the case, a brush down of the bibles and some acid free barriers between the objects were the order of the day when she visited recently. We feel privileged to work with these beautiful historic objects in our communities. Louise couldn't resist taking a few photos of the beautiful stone work by the church doors too! Thanks to National Museums Scotland for their expert advice."*

### **"Nobody mentioned sharks until I'D already agreed to this"**

In December British Army Officer Euan Fraser, son of church member Lynn Fraser and husband Alistair, will be rowing over 3,000 miles across the Atlantic. The team of four will be competing against over 30 crews from around the world in the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge in support of the charity Alabare Homes for Veterans.

Rowing two hours on and two hours off, day and night, there will be no respite from the power of the ocean in this competition recognised as the world's toughest row. They cannot take any repair to their 28ft ocean rowing boat, help, food or water during the crossing – which can take anything from **35 to 96** days. Best wishes for a safe journey.

## **Communion Service**

At our coming celebration of the Lord's Supper on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October we will follow the practice we have used during the last year or so. You are invited to bring a small piece of bread with you, and, if you wish, also some red grapes as symbolic of the fruit of the vine or a suitable small container of grape juice. At the appropriate time during the liturgy I will invite you to participate with the elements you have brought. Some of the congregation may choose simply to take bread, while others may have bread and grapes, and still others may have bread and juice. Let us remember that it is not what we bring or how we participate that makes Communion a sacramental recalling of Jesus' sacrificial death. Rather, it is God through His Spirit at work in our souls who transforms whatever we do at the material level into something more deeply meaningful to nourish our faith and enliven our worship.

## **The Afternoon Club**

Welcome back. It is hoped (all being well and no further restrictions !!) that the club will re-open on Monday 4 October at 2pm.

A warm welcome awaits current and new members who enjoy playing bridge, crafting of any kind or those who simply like meeting new friends with a cup of tea and plenty of chat !

We appreciate that some members may still be a bit apprehensive about socialising again. It has been a while! Measures are being taken to ensure the hall/halls will meet with all safety regulations. Members will be notified if for any reason the date has to be changed.

*Nan Smith*

## **Inappropriate music?**

A surgeon tried to relax his classical music loving patient by playing an Andrea Bocelli CD. First song was *Time to say Goodbye*.

Perhaps a mistake to have the song for the first dance at a wedding *To All The Girls I've Ever Loved Before*

On hearing of Sinatra's death a DJ hurriedly picked up one of Frank's old records to play in tribute.

Cheek to Cheek opens with the line *Heaven, I'm in Heaven!*

## **Magazine**

As this is the first magazine since the opening up after the COVID restrictions, for this month only, there is a printed copy for every household apart from those who have opted to have it emailed. During COVID the magazines have also been emailed to those for whom we hold email addresses. As this makes a considerable saving on several fronts this process will be adopted for future issues. If however you prefer to have the printed version or if for any reason you have not been receiving a copy please email

[webmaster@saltcoats-stcuthberts.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@saltcoats-stcuthberts.org.uk)

Similarly if you have an email address and could take it by email we'd be grateful if you would use the above email to update your details.

*Editor.*

## **Report from Health and Safety**

Over the past 18 months Covid-19 has been the main consideration of nearly everyone in the country. This has been no less so for The Church of Scotland and St Cuthbert's.

The past month has seen a marked reduction in restrictions within our everyday lives, but not the removal of all legal restrictions as in England.

At present places of worship no longer have to institute social distancing during worship but the wearing face coverings is still required except at limited times (preaching, readings and solo singing are examples). The Church of Scotland along with other faith groups have made representations to the Scottish Government. The government has agreed to reconsider the need for the continued use of face coverings.

We at St Cuthbert's have a large building relative to the number of worshipers, because of this we have decided to continue maintaining 1 metre social distancing along with a one way system while walking through the sanctuary. This is to minimise the risk of transmission while allowing a more "communal" service.

The next step in the return to normality will be the opening of the halls to both church activities, associated and outside organisations.

*Simon Hales*

# CROSSREACH

Care you can put your faith in

Christmas is coming; the Card and Calendar catalogues will be with me by the time you are reading your magazine.

Last year I was totally new to organising the sale of cards etc. I learned a lot and was so very grateful for the way members and friends rallied round to support me.

At the time of writing there has been no definite date to reopen the hall for tea after morning worship therefore I will continue to contact everyone personally who purchased items last year but hope I can display samples in the hall when they arrive.

I will have catalogues with me as soon as they are available but if we are not able to be in the hall I will be outside church and have a display of samples in my car.

Once I collect sufficient orders to receive free delivery I will immediately place an order – DON'T DELAY AS THE BEST ITEMS GO QUICKLY. Two orders were made last year but on the second attempt had to disappoint some people who delayed.

Margaret Kelso

Reminder



“Saltcoats St Cuthbert’s Parish Church has been paid for the first time by #easyfundraising! Thanks to everyone who's helped make a difference during this difficult time by raising donations for us. If you're not supporting us yet, please sign up now. It takes 2 minutes & 5,900+ shops will donate to us for free every time you shop with them!” Visit: [easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/saltcoatsstcuthbertsch/payments/60ffa399aabe05bbf235517/](https://easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/saltcoatsstcuthbertsch/payments/60ffa399aabe05bbf235517/)

## Sunday Readers

September	5	SIMON HALES	October	3	CHRIS KNIGHT
	12	ANN TURNER		10	ELIZABETH BARCLAY
	19	LESLEY BOYLE		17	RAYMOND MONTGOMERIE
	26	ENA GROVE		24	WILLIAM PARKER
				31	TOM SOMMERVILLE

Many thanks to all who volunteer. If any given date proves unsuitable, please arrange a swap from this list and please let me know.

*Sarah.*

## Sunday School

Following the retiral of Senga and Julie, we are prayerfully seeking volunteers to be part of the team to lead our Sunday School as we head into the autumn season. It would be wonderful to speak to anyone who is interested in finding out more about this important and rewarding part of church life!

Realising that everyone has commitments beyond church over some weekends, it would be great to build up a ‘bank’ of willing helpers, so that leadership can be shared. Please speak to Sarah asap!

## Blythwood shoebox appeal

Leaflets will soon be available at the church door for the Shoebox Appeal which is being launched as normal this year

You can either donate items or fill your own shoe box. All filled boxes should be returned to the church no later than Sunday 31 October.

All those wishing to donate separate items should ensure that they are placed in the collection box in the church vestibule by Sunday 24 October at the very latest to ensure that they are available for the boxes to be filled by 1 November.

Details of items required are listed on the forms available in the church or can be obtained from myself. Lists of suggested items required will also be available. If anyone requires boxes to be collected this can be arranged.

Ann Turner 01294 462834