

Saltcoats St Cuthbert's Church Magazine



October 2021

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Scottish Charity Number: SC002905

Communion Invitation

At our coming celebration of the Lord's Supper on Sunday 3rd 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 the minister will invite you to participate with the elements you have brought.

From the Minister

Dear friends,

As summer moves into autumn, it has been good to continue gathering for worship on Sundays, now being able to sing together, although still wearing our face masks. We are delighted to be able to re-open the halls for Sunday School and post-worship fellowship as well as some other activities during the week. In all our gatherings, though, we remember our responsibility to keep each other safe, practising good hand hygiene, cleaning surfaces and ensuring good ventilation. If we feel comfortable in coming together in groups, let us enjoy this blessing, but let us also remember to keep in touch by phone or other means with those who choose at this time to be more cautious through social distancing. We recognise that Covid-19 has affected us in a variety of ways, so let us be understanding of those who feel differently from ourselves about approaching the new 'normal'.

While taking a day at a time, we also look forward to repeating patterns of the year. October begins with another celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, and beyond that lies All Saints' Day and Remembrance, before Advent sets us off on our spiritual journey towards our annual celebration of God's renewing gifts of hope, peace, love and joy in the coming of Jesus Christ into our world. Already in church the word, "Christmas" has been heard, as we prepare our gift shoeboxes for Blythswood Care and order cards through the Church of Scotland's Crossreach charity.

While enjoying events and experiences that are 'the same' each year, the months ahead will also offer us opportunities to reflect on things that may need to change as we move into the 'new normal', not just of a post-pandemic world, but also of a national Church needing to adapt to changes in our own membership profile in a shifting society. With members from Presbytery, Kirk Sessions and congregations will be helped to explore what it means to be God's worshipping and witnessing people in our local context of North Ayrshire and as part of a presbyterian denomination.

This discussion will focus on five signs of a missionary church:

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
- To respond to human need by loving service
- To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

Why don't we start thinking and talking about this at home and with friends, recognising our strengths, but also acknowledging our weaknesses, and wondering how we could co-operate with our sister congregations to better fulfil the mission of Christ in this place and time?

With every blessing,

Sarah Nicol.

Blythswood shoebox appeal

Leaflets are 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.

If anyone requires boxes to be collected this can be arranged.

Ann Turner 01294 462834



A display of Christmas cards can be viewed at the Church door. Catalogues are available from me and orders should be placed as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Margaret Kelso

News from the Kirk Session

At its joint meeting with the Congregational Board on 30th August, the Kirk Session appointed Mr William Parker to serve as Session Clerk. William is well-known to all of us as a dedicated Elder, Congregational Roll-keeper, Magazine Editor and Representative Elder serving on the Presbytery. We are delighted that he has agreed to serve our Session and congregation in this role, particularly for the next year or two in which the Presbytery will be working with all its congregations on the way ahead for the mission of the Church.

Gone are the days when we expect people to serve in one role for life. It is hoped that more of us will recognise our calling to share in the responsibilities of leadership.

As a sign of this, the Kirk Session decided that it would be a good idea to delegate some of the responsibilities of the office of Session Clerk, so have appointed Mrs Anne Riddell as Minute Clerk. Anne is also working on our behalf as one of our Safeguarding Co-ordinators. We are grateful that Anne has agreed to serve in this additional capacity.

Duties around Communion preparations will be co-ordinated from 2022 by Mrs Ena Hunter and Mrs Shona Turner.

With pastoral concern for our congregation, we will continue our work as a team of Elders, alongside the elected Board members, in the various responsibilities of Church leadership. Please pray for your Elders and Board members, and show your willingness to get involved, as you are able, in the worship, work and witness of our church.

With every blessing,

Sarah.

Parkers Preserves

Orders for jams and chutneys should be placed as soon as possible. Remaining jars will be on sale at church following Communion on 3rd October. Strawberry and Rhubarb & Ginger sold out.

Muriel Parker 471207 / 07910844060

A Fife farmer shares a message of 'Hope' using sunflowers.

A farmer and minister in the East Neuk of Fife have teamed up to share a message of hope, using sunflowers to raise money for charity.

Claire Pollock of Ardress Farm in Fife was approached by Church of Scotland minister Douglas Creighton and asked to sow the word 'Hope' in to one of her sunflower fields.



Rev. Creighton led worship on occasion in St Cuthbert's while training for the ministry before being inducted last year to East Neuk Trinity Church linked with St Monans. He said his congregation wanted to recognise the promise of better days ahead and the 'Field of Hope' is a celebration of the community spirit that people across the East Neuk of Fife showed one another during the Covid-19 lockdown.



Some of over 500 visitors on the first weekend

Supporting local charities was a big driver behind the project, with many having been unable to pursue traditional fundraising activities over the last 18 months. The congregation and the Pollock family wanted to support them, so they can continue helping people most in need.

“Hope is at the heart of the Christian message and the Church is built on hope, even in the darkest of times,” said Mr Creighton. “It has been a grim 18 months for many and we wanted to mark the end of the lockdown with something really spectacular and who doesn’t love sunflowers? They are very bright and cheery and look to one another as they follow the sun around.”

Ms Pollock, who runs Ardross Farm near Elie with her mother Fiona, and older sisters Nikki Storrar, and Tara Clark, said: “After everything we have all been through, I thought it was a great idea to try and give people a sense of hope for the future.



Rev. Creighton with local farmers Claire Pollock and Nikki Storar

“This field near our farm shop is around 1.5 hectares, the size of nearly four football fields, and hundreds of thousands of sunflowers have been planted. “It did not take that long because we use a method of direct drilling whereby we do not plough and the seeds are sowed directly into last year’s stubble,” she explained.

“We employ sustainable farming methods because we are really trying to focus on soil structure and soil health, and it is the same type of drill that the television presenter Jeremy Clarkson uses on his farm in the south of England.”

Ms Pollock’s family have farmed in the East Neuk of Fife for generations and take pride in producing 40 varieties of traditionally grown vegetables and putting the welfare and happiness of their grass-fed beef herd above all else.

She continued: “We work closely with the RSPB and every year we sow wild flowers, including sunflowers, to try and help ground nesting birds and other pollinators. People really like sunflowers and for the last five to six years we have been planting strips of them to spread some joy around the area. “But we could have never imagined anything on this scale until Douglas came along and suggested it and we thought ‘this is fantastic because we know what the reaction to our tiny little strips is normally like’,” she concluded.

Mr Creighton, commented: “It was an amazing opening day and we welcomed around 500 people of all ages to literally walk in ‘Hope’.

“It was simply brilliant and more than £2,000 was raised which will be donated to a range of local charities.

“We are still firming up which ones will benefit but we are particularly keen to back organisations which support children and young people with the aim of enhancing physical and mental wellbeing,” he explained.

“Overall, our main aim is that we can keep giving ‘hope’ to charitable organisations who provide essential support to our community as we emerge from a grim 18 months.”

Visitors to Ardross farm are asked to pay an entry fee of £5 per person or £15 for a family ticket, with all the proceeds donated to charity.

The 'Field of Hope' will be open most weekends from 10am-4pm until the end of the flowering season

Reproduced courtesy of Claire Taylor and first published in The Scottish Farmer.

Snippets from Presbytery

Rev. Dave Sutherland has been installed as the last Moderator of Ardrossan Presbytery before the creation of the SW Scotland Presbytery. At some point during his year as Moderator he will conduct worship in St. Cuthberts.

New representatives were welcomed to Presbytery and a number of members who would not be returning were thanked for their contribution and service. The Moderator made special mention of Ann Turner who retired having served on Presbytery for many years many as it's treasurer.

All churches have been instructed to send two representatives to a meeting to learn more about the changes about to be made in the Presbytery Plan.

Congregations have been urged to adopt the ACORN programme as a means to help members practice mission at grass roots level, and through support in small groups to gain confidence in effective discipleship.

A Ask God to nudge us

C Call: think of people to remember and pray for

O Obey by sharing time with neighbours

R Report back/share stories to encourage faith

N Numerous ways to be active in showing and sharing God's love

William Parker Presbytery Elder

Sunday Readers

October

3 CHRIS KNIGHT

10 ELIZABETH BARCLAY

17 RAYMOND MONTGOMERIE

24 WILLIAM PARKER

31 TOM SOMMERVILLE

November

7 BEA NICHOLSON

14 GRAEME SUTHERLAND

21 ANNITA GILLESPIE

28 MAUREEN CRILLEY

Many thanks to all who volunteer. If

any given date proves unsuitable, please arrange a swap from this list and please let me know. If anyone would like to join the rota of readers, that would be wonderful! Please speak to me at the close of a service or by phoning or emailing me.

Sarah.

Church Cleaning

As slow moves are made towards normality it has been decided that church cleaning can go back to Friday/Saturday.

It is appreciated that some found Wednesdays unsuitable and it is hoped this return to the end of the week will enable more volunteers to step forward to help to spread the load.

If anyone would like to add their names to the new rota please let Angela know by 12 October after which a new timetable will be prepared.

Angela Beattie 829612 / 07950189048

The Afternoon Club

The Afternoon Club will re-open on Monday 4th of October at 2 pm.

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

Measures have been taken to ensure all safety regulations are met.

Nan Smith.

Sunday School

At long last the Sunday school is back on as from the 1st Sunday in October.

We may well be smaller in numbers but hopefully we can build up again. For the time being we will all be in the big hall with all ages together and I encourage anyone with children or grandchildren to bring them along and join us.

I have been helping for few years now and learnt a lot from Senga and Julie but I will never be able to fill their shoes as they were simply the best.

With God's grace and your prayers I will do my best and I will be very grateful any help anyone can give.

Margaret Roberts

Congregational Register

Death

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

August. Mrs. A. Smith, High Road

New Members

We are delighted to welcome Tom and Marian Macintyre, Saltcoats who have relocated from Shetland.

Baptism

Jesus said, "Let the children come to Me"

On Sunday 29th August we welcomed Albie Paul, son of Lesley and Paul Crawford, Saltcoats.



A happy family group on Albie's Christening Day.

Think on!

The grass is not, in fact, always greener on the other side of the fence.
No, not at all. Fences have nothing to do with it.

The grass is greenest where it is watered.

When crossing over fences, carry water with you and tend the grass
wherever you may be.

If you find yourself having to move, be sure you pack the watering can.

Robert Fulghum

And on again!

If at first you don't succeed – just hide all the evidence that you tried!
We may chuckle, for it does sum up the way we all hate to admit defeat.

On second, more serious thoughts, such sentiments are rather a pity.

Not everyone can succeed at everything they ever attempt but the real
shame would be not even to try.

It takes courage to dare to undertake something we've never done before,
so even if you never do quite succeed – be proud – at least you tried!