



Saltcoats St Cuthbert's Church Magazine



February 2022

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From the Minister

Dear friends,

Another year has begun. As with every year, there are uncertainties about what lies ahead, but within these uncertainties are possibilities and opportunities!

Some of us may already have special events marked in our diaries for 2022 such as a family gathering for a milestone birthday or anniversary, or for a wedding postponed due to the restrictions of the past two years.

Some of us may be looking forward to the possibility of international travel to visit family whom we have not been able to see for a few years, while some might still be a bit cautious about planning journeys overseas.

No-one ever knows exactly what lies ahead, but it is good to have something special to look forward to and plan towards, particularly after all we have gone through in recent times.

It is also good to know that whatever happens in the coming year, our personal experiences assure us of the support of families and close friends in the most challenging of times.

We also know the strength we have found through prayer – not only our own, but also of others who have been praying for us.

We find encouragement, too, in the words of Scripture and our hymns.

Perhaps you have turned to Psalm 23, “The Lord is my Shepherd ... He restores my soul” or Isaiah 40 “Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles.”

Perhaps you have held on to the words of the ancient hymn, “Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father... morning by morning new mercies I see” or the more modern hymn, “Look forward in faith, all time is in God’s hand” which encourages us to look forward in faith and hope, trusting in God, sharing His love, and being guided by His Spirit.

The past two years have been tough on everyone in different ways, but as we look forward to the coming days, weeks and months, may we know the continuing blessing of God who is present with us in all the ordinary and extraordinary times of life.

May we also find blessing through being part of the family of faith, worshipping God together in church and from our homes, and supporting each other through prayer and conversations in person and with the help of modern technology.

May God bless one and all for the love and kindness, courage and perseverance they have shown in 2020 and 2021!

And may God bless one and all of us as we build on these qualities in 2022 and beyond!

With prayerful good wishes,

Sarah Nicol.

Communion Service Sunday 6th February.

For our coming celebration of the Lord's Supper on Sunday 6th February 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.

Update

Within this church we still continue to be cautious and for the time being maintain our social distancing routine. However, flowers in the sanctuary the return of the pew cushions, a new sound system and the restarting of post service teas and coffees give us hope that we are slowly progressing towards a nearer position.

Afternoon Club

Because recent restrictions have required people to work from home, we have been unable to send in our used stamps. However, we are still collecting for World Mission and CrossReach. Ladies of the Afternoon Club have had two very busy sessions trimming loads of stamps ready to be passed on when offices re-open. Many thanks for all the donations.

Nan Smith

Church Flowers

Many thanks to all who donated towards the flower fund and the purchase of the poinsettias.

We are pleased to return to having flowers during our Sunday worship. At the moment I am putting the flowers in on your behalf and any small donations towards the flower fund would be much appreciated.

Annita Gillespie (flower convenor)

Sunday School

Although the presence of the Omnicron variant restricted some of our church opportunities the Sunday School was able to start again after the Christmas break. At the moment we are learning about the early years of Jesus and over the next few weeks we will find out about his character and the hope that he gives us.

Margaret Roberts

Christmas Services

£218 has been sent to the Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity's Schiehallion Appeal following the donations made at our Christmas Services. The appeal funds will give access to new drugs for children who have failed conventional chemotherapy

Ann Turner

Guild

Although The Guild in St Cuthbert's have not been meeting during January we are hopeful that we can start again soon.

Members will be contacted direct when we have a clearer picture.

Bea Nicholson

A Baptism extending a family church connection to over 150 years

On Sunday 28th November at the morning service in Saltcoats St. Cuthbert's Parish Church the congregation welcomed another child into the church family.

After the baptism the following intimation was made by the Session Clerk, William Parker, informing those present of the particular significance of this occasion.

"We all know and appreciate the significance of the christening and welcoming into the church of any child.

Today with this baptism we are witnessing a unique occasion in the history of this church as Teddy becomes the 6th generation of one family with an unbroken link to this and the previous place of worship. I suspect that very few churches will be able to record anything similar.

*Over 150 years ago in 1870, the first generation, Teddy's 3 x gr. grandfather **John Robertson** established a ham curing business locally. As founder of the enterprise which trades over much of Scotland his photograph appears on the packaging. By the time of the opening of this church in 1908 he had become the senior elder in the Kirk Session and on a Sunday would occupy the very back pew on my left (where some of the christening party are sitting today) along with his wife and family.*



1st

In 1908 at the laying of the Memorial Stone by the Countess of Eglinton and Winton during the building of this church, Ella, the youngest of their ten children, was one of three girls who laid corn, wine and oil on the stone.



*I share a link with this lineage because there were twins in the family. These were Annie Robertson - my grandmother and her twin brother **Robert Robertson**, who is Teddy's 2 x gr grandfather, the second generation.*

2nd

*Robert became an elder here as did his son Teddy's gr. grandfather – the 3rd generation **Humphrey Robertson***



3rd

Humphrey Robertson and wife Margaret were blessed with twins with the arrival of Lynn and her brother Humphrey.



***Lynn Robertson**, the 4th generation, Teddy's grandmother, became an active member here in St. Cuthbert's particularly in the choir and on the Centenary Celebration committee. She is better known as **Lynn Fraser** after marrying Alistair Fraser in this church.*

4th

*Their daughter, **Jennifer Fraser**, the 5th generation, Teddy's mum, married Kris McCandless in this church 3 years ago and in bringing their son, the 6th generation, to be baptised here they have placed another link in the chain which stretches their family connection with this church and it's antecedent back over 150 years.*



Family snap on the big day.

**Teddy, Kris and Jennifer
6th & 5th**

There is every reason to believe that John Robertson would have been brought up in a church going family in Ardrossan Parish Church, the predecessor of this beautiful place of worship and so at the moment 6 successive generations is the least that we know but could well be more.

We appreciate being present at this unique occasion and extend a particularly warm welcome to this new member of our church family."

Church Register "Let the children come to Me ..."

Baptism Nov. 28 Teddy Alistair McCandless, son of Kristofer and Jennifer

Snippets from Presbytery

The Moderator of Ardrossan Presbytery, Rev. Dave Sutherland, minister of Stevenston Ardeer Parish Church I/w Stevenston Livingstone Parish Church has now been inducted into the charge of Glasgow Hillington Park Church. The previous Presbytery Moderator, Mr. Allan Richardson from Beith has agreed to fill the vacant position until the new South West of Scotland Presbytery comes into being on 1st September.

Almost all Kirk Sessions within the Presbytery have been visited as part of the process to create the new Mission Plan. It is hoped that a draft Plan will be brought before the March Presbytery meeting.

Although any agreed plan is not required to be fully implemented until the end of 2025 the first draft should be agreed by June 2022.

William Parker Presbytery Elder

Sunday Readers

February 6	BEA NICHOLSON	March 6	ANNITA GILLESPIE
13	TOM SOMMERVILLE	13	MAUREEN CRILLEY
20	WILLIAM PARKER	20	SIMON HALES
27	GRAEME SUTHERLAND	27	ANN TURNER

With sincere thanks to all who volunteer. If the date proves unsuitable, please arrange a swap from this list and please let me know.

Sarah.

Plant Sale

There will be a plant sale this year but it will probably be on the same basis as the last two years.

Running the sale in this way reduces the work for myself (and others). Some plants may be available at the church after the sale.

The list of available plants will be in the April magazine and orders will be accepted from then on a first come served basis.

Ann Turner

Century old historic brochure returned for our archives.

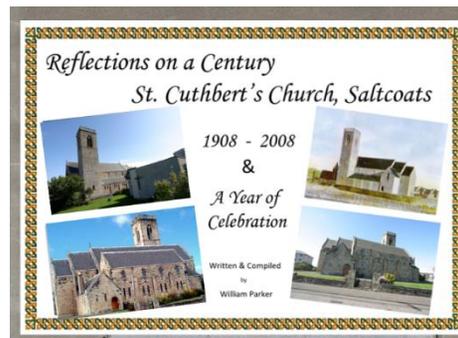
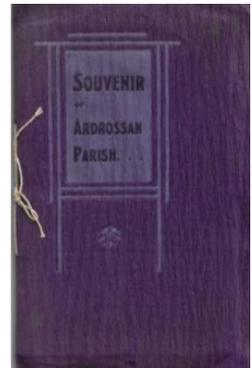
Towards the end of last year an email from a Mr. Everette Surgenor in British Columbia was forwarded to me. While browsing some papers belonging to his late grandmother he found a booklet which had been produced in 1908 at the time of the closing of the old Ardrossan Parish Church and the opening of our current building.

His grandmother, born in 1897, family name Conn, moved to Canada in 1910. George Conn, her brother, is named on the Saltcoats War Memorial. Mr. Surgenor had visited Saltcoats some years ago and saw the town memorial but had been unable to locate "Ardrossan Parish Church", as it was renamed St. Cuthbert's in 1929.

His wish was that the brochure return to Scotland and kindly sent it home. Our memorial plaque at the font also carries his great uncle's name and with my letter of thanks I attached a photo which he indicated he would share with family members.

The soft covered booklet is in remarkable condition and includes history of the old church and some of the ministers during the previous century.

How much this church booklet must have meant to the Conn family that it travelled with them as they set out for a new life on the other side of the world.



Information from this publication has been included in a reprint of the book that was produced in 2008 for the Centenary Celebrations. In recent years additional material has been gathered and it has been expanded to record the events during the year of celebration.

If anyone would like a copy of the updated version both it and the booklet will be available to view either by contacting me or at the church door. Priced £12 it is A4 size and a

much sturdier and glossier historical record. Try before you buy!

William Parker

Sometimes we feel a little daunted by a new task or challenge, perhaps even a little fearful.

Christopher Columbus summed things up this way:

“You can never cross the ocean unless you have the courage to lose sight of the shore.”

The majority of us will never undertake a great exploration or an epic journey.

But life itself can be quite an adventure.

When the future looks to be filled with uncertainty and you are not sure what lies ahead, remember the intrepid explorer and his courage.

Now and then we need to lose sight of the shore and sail out into the unknown.

Who knows what new worlds and things we may discover.