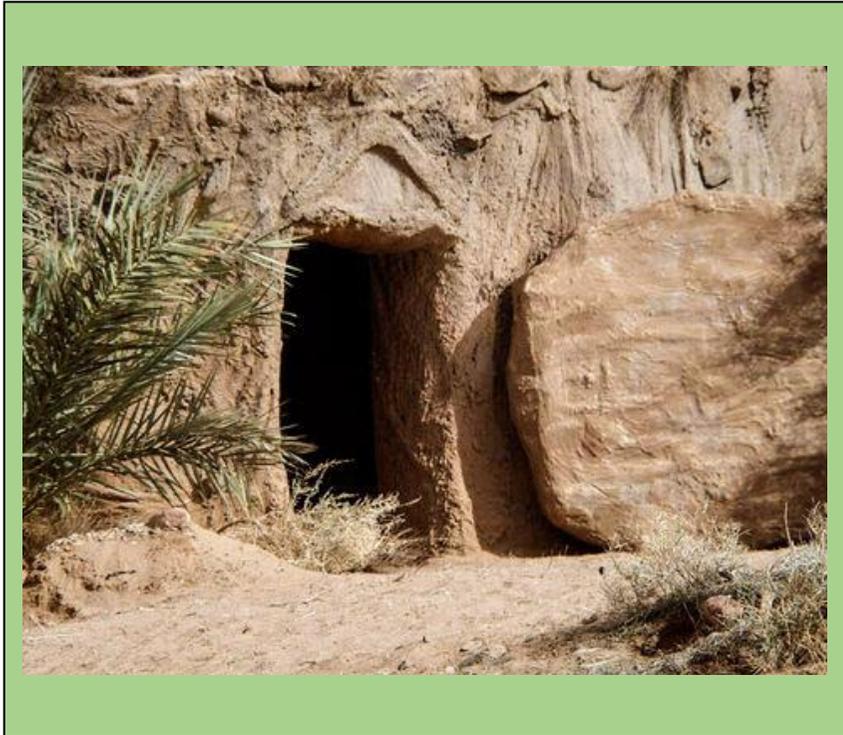


# St. Cuthbert's Church Magazine



*He is not here, but has risen.* Luke 24 v5

## April 2022

Website: [www.saltcoats-stcuthberts.org.uk](http://www.saltcoats-stcuthberts.org.uk)

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

Scottish Charity Number: SC002905

### From our Minister

Dear friends,

This month we will be following the various events in Jesus' life leading up to His crucifixion and resurrection.

There will be recollections of the high praise and anticipation of Palm Sunday when crowds welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem as the Messiah, the King of peace, and we will join in the celebration.

There will be recollections of the anxiety and sorrow felt in the build up to the last meal Jesus shared with His disciples and the intense midnight prayers in Gethsemane, and we will sense the darkness.

There will be recollections of the guilt felt following denial and the grief of watching their loved One, whom they had come to believe was their Lord and Saviour, dying on the cross, and we will share in their tears.

Living beyond the resurrection, though, we know that there will be a speedy end to our sorrowful reflections, as we celebrate the joy of those who encountered their Lord, our Lord, risen from the dead.

Some of our thoughts, feelings and beliefs around Easter will be heightened in significance this year as we live in the shadow of all that has been happening in Ukraine, Afghanistan and Yemen in recent weeks.

We may feel the darker side of the week Christians describe as "Holy Week" more intensely, but let us hold on to the presence of Jesus Christ who suffered not just physical pain, but also emotional and spiritual anguish in the darkness of His battle with the forces of evil on the cross – a battle which He ultimately won.

May His suffering, death and resurrection bring new hope with inner strength and peace to all living through dark times – on a personal, national and international level.

May these words from a Christian Aid prayer for Ukraine bring resurrection light into every experience of Golgotha darkness:

“Lord God, protect those who only desire and deserve to live in security and safety,  
Comfort those who fear for their lives and the lives of their loved ones,  
Change the hearts of those set on violence and aggression,  
Fill earthly leaders with great wisdom to find paths to peace,  
Please Lord come and have your way in your world,  
May your will be done here, on earth as it is in heaven,  
May your peace reign. Now and always,  
We lift this prayer to you, our God who is able to do more than we can ever ask or imagine,  
In the name of Christ our saviour. Amen.”

*With every blessing,  
Sarah Nicol.*

## **Church Register**

### **Deaths**

*“In My Father’s house are many mansions...”*  
7 March Mrs Irene Purdon, Seamill  
17 March Mrs Betty Watson, Saltcoats

We remember their families in our prayers.

## **Holy Week Service**

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April 10.45am Palm Sunday Service led by Rev. Tom Macintyre

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April 7pm Good Friday Service (we will gather in the front five pews of the sanctuary)

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April 10.45am Easter Family Service – please bring a decorated hard-boiled egg to roll outside after the service.

## **Palm Crosses**

I am delighted that Tom and Marian Macintyre will be showing us how to make hand-held crosses from palm leaves during the informal time in church, in Sunday School and at coffee time after the service on 3<sup>rd</sup> April. Hopefully, we will have a good number to use in our service on 10<sup>th</sup> April (which will Tom will be conducting) and then take home / offer to friends and neighbours as a sign of Christian love and hope.

*Sarah Nicol*

## **Church Flowers**

Many thanks to all who have donated to the flower fund enabling me to resume putting flowers into the church.

It is certainly good to see the church brightened by the vases being filled again. Anyone wishing to make a small donation to the flower fund can give it either to myself or Ann Turner.

*Annita Gillespie ( flower convenor)*

## **Sunday Readers**

April	3	Lesley Boyle	
	10	Ena Grove	(Palm Sunday)
	17	Elizabeth Barclay	(Easter Sunday)
	24	Chris Knight	
May	1	Bea Nicholson	8 Tom Sommerville
	15	William Parker	22 Graeme Sutherland
	29	Annita Gillespie	

With many thanks to all who volunteer. If unsuitable, please arrange a swap from this list and let me know. If anyone else would like to be part of this team reading the Bible during the service, please get in touch with me.

*Sarah Nicol*

## **Afternoon Club**

The club continues to meet on Monday afternoons but will have a holiday on Easter Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April.

*Nan Smith*

## Presbytery Mission Plan First draft.

The whole Plan can be viewed on the church website. The extract below covers the area that includes St. Cuthbert's. As each church building is currently being assessed at this early stage it is not possible to indicate which buildings might no longer be required. That is likely to appear in the second draft. Comments will be welcomed.

<u>Current:</u>	FTE	<u>Full Time Equivalent Posts</u>
Ardrossan and Saltcoats: Kirkgate		1.0
Ardrossan: Park		1.6
Saltcoats: North		1.0
Saltcoats: St. Cuthbert's		1.0
Stevenston: Ardeer linked with Stevenston: Livingstone		1.5
Stevenston: High Kirk		1.0
West Kilbride		1.0

### Proposed:

<u>FTE Posts</u> One united charge covering Ardrossan, Saltcoats, Stevenston & West Kilbride	4.5
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### Rationale

In Mission Group 2, we would envisage a team ministry with 4.5 FTE posts with multiple places of worship and one Kirk Session.

Though a united parish, there would be Local Leadership Teams for each worshipping community within the charge.

Currently in Ardrossan, Saltcoats and Stevenston, there are parish boundaries that make little sense and there are difficulties in envisaging how these areas could be defined in terms of bringing together existing congregations into various united charges. Instead, it seems that joining Ardrossan, Saltcoats and Stevenston into one parish alongside West Kilbride would give the best and most sustainable solution.

By having one parish, it will allow working together across these four towns and allow the focus to be upon mission rather than upon who would be joining with whom. It will also allow important questions to be considered - such as the movement of the residential population away from the sea toward more inland areas.

It is clear that West Kilbride has more links with Mission Group 2 than other Mission Groups. One of the major advantages in having West Kilbride as part of this Mission Group is that it allows an increased total of FTE posts in this area which would offer an enriched team approach which would be of benefit to the whole area.

There are good mission initiatives happening across the whole area including Messy Church, supporting the Foodbank, Care and Share for the homeless and more which shared resources could enhance. There are also existing links between the churches and some ecumenical working (particularly in Ardrossan).

Although across this area the possibility of having one charge per town was carefully considered, there was also a recognition that in the longer term one parish with a larger team ministry would allow working together, appropriate support to be in place for those in FTE posts, and encourage working together rather than across town boundaries. As in other areas, the use of non-stipendiary ministries would enhance any team working.

It should be recognised in this area that a short-term form of adjustment is being sought for Stevenston: Ardeer because of the unsustainability of the building which needs considerable work on it to make it wind and watertight and because of a shortfall in Ministry and Mission payments. The General Trustees have agreed to take on full responsibility for the Ardeer building when any form of adjustment has been enacted.

### **New Communicants Class**

Following some approaches Sarah is hoping to run a "New communicants' class" in the near future. Those who are interested in joining the church by profession of faith are asked to contact Sarah for further details.

## Sunday School

Over the next few weeks leading up to Palm Sunday the Sunday School will be continuing with Jesus's journey.

The children would like to donate our collection of pennies (small change) to the people of Ukraine who are suffering great hardship. We would be grateful for any donations that we receive and would like to count it all soon to get it on its way.

A big thanks to all who have given so far. It is much appreciated 🙏 .  
God bless you all.

*Sunday school team*

## The Guild

The Guild is back in St Cuthbert's – why not join us?

Although we have stayed connected throughout the restrictions, and even met early in the year, hoping that we could start physically meeting again, it wasn't until March 12<sup>th</sup> that 9 Guild members met and decided that we were ready to go!

On 23<sup>rd</sup> March we met again having brought in something which was special to us and shared stories. These varied from a much loved garden spade, a piece of jewellery from an ancestor to a photograph of an award winning Ayrshire cow! Relating the stories was an emotional experience for some but all helps to get to know each other a little better.

We meet again on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April at 2pm and would love to welcome anyone who is free. We will each be bringing a piece of Easter memorabilia to help reflect the time of year.

Two weeks later, April 20<sup>th</sup>, we will join with other Guilds in North Ayrshire at Stevenston High Kirk Halls to hear the current Guild National Convenor, Margaret Muir speak about her role and enjoy a time of fellowship.

On May 11<sup>th</sup>, all the Guilds in Ayrshire will gather in Kilmarnock at the Howard Halls for lunch, hear a speaker from the Vine Trust, one of the new Guild projects, sing songs and generally celebrate our continuing existence.

*Bea Nicholson*

**Plant Sale** As last year orders can be collected\_or delivered if necessary.

### Plants available: PACK SIZE IN BRACKETS

Blue Ageratum (6)                      White Alyssum (8)  
Antirrhinum - dwarf (6)  
Bacopa pink (limited) and white (single) limited  
Brachycome (Swan River Daisy) (6)                      Bedding Begonia (6)  
Semperflorens Begonia (single)                      Busy Lizzie (6)  
Dwarf Dahlia (6)                      Dianthus dwarf (4)  
Trailing Begonia single mainly apricot Godetia (6)  
Geranium (mixed) (single)                      Geranium (red) (Single)  
Geranium (pink)(single)                      Geranium (Ivy Leaf) (single) limited supply  
Trailing Lobelia (mixed, dark blue) (10)  
Ordinary Lobelia (dark blue, white)(10)  
Climbing petunia (single)                      French Marigold (8)  
Tagetes (6)                      Livingstone Daisy (12)  
Mimulus (4)                      Nemesis (6)  
Nicotiana (6)                      Pansy (12) probably limited  
Petunia (all mixed colours) (12)  
Trailing Petunia (various colours) (single pots)  
Salvia (red) (6)                      Stock (6)  
Sweet Pea (tall (single)                      Sweet pea – trailing (3)  
Bedding Verbena (4)                      Viola (6)  
Tomato (bush, and tall)                      Osteospermum Purple (single)  
Cosmos (single pot of 10+ plants) tall 4ft and medium 2ft heights  
Nasturtium, Sunflowers, lupins,  
Rosemary, parsley, courgettes, coriander, lovage, dill, oregano  
**PRICES Geranium, Trailing Petunia, Tomatoes, Bacopa, Osteospermum  
Semperflorens Begonia £1.50  
Sweet peas 60p each tube (mainly 2 plants) £6 per dozen  
Large trailing petunia, large fuchsia etc, £3 or £4 depending on size  
Petunia, Livingstone daisy, pansy, £3.50 per pack Cosmos £4  
3,4,6, 8 and 10 packs - all £1.75**

Ann Turner 462834

[annturner62@btopenworld.com](mailto:annturner62@btopenworld.com)

## Treasurer's Remarks Stated Annual Meeting 27 March 2022

Responsibility for approval of the accounts, rests with the Trustees but this opportunity is given to the congregation in the interests of openness and accountability to ask questions and obtain further explanations and information necessary to appreciate these accounts.

The trustees wish to record their grateful thanks to all those who gave of their time, talents and possessions to the work of the church during the year, without which our church would simply not function.

Copies of the full financial statements are available in the vestibule as you leave, but today I am going to deal with the future increasing deficits in our income and expenditure of which you have a copy. Our income is falling, and our costs are rising. The surplus in our general account, built up over many years is gradually being consumed and could well be approaching zero by the end of this year as it currently stands at £21,114.

This takes no account of any future increases in expenditure. Our charges for Electricity and gas are on a fixed contract until March 2023

There is no easy way of saying this. We will come to a point where it will be impossible to sustain this building at all. At present it is not yet known if we will be classed as a necessary building in the Presbytery Plan.

At present we have secured the funding to repair the tower at an estimated cost of over half a million pounds, but this cannot go ahead until the General Trustees regard this as a necessary building. These costs were estimated in November 2020 and there has been no indication of the eventual costs. On the depressing side if this church is not regarded as a necessary building it could close sooner rather than later due to the building becoming unsafe.

On 31 December 2021 our unrestricted funds were £63,663 (2018: £76,099) (£21,114 in the congregational account and £42,549 in the unrestricted Fabric Fund, the restricted Fabric Fund £94,116, the organ fund £23,178 and the benevolent fund £3,853. The endowment fund now at £56,193 as a result of the increase in the value of the investments. The income from this fund is divided between the fabric fund (£1,100) and the Guild (£240). The total funds of the church on 31 December 2021 stood at £257,008 the makeup of which is shown on page 8 of the accounts. At least £110,000 is currently committed to the tower repair

Banker's order and gift aid forms are available from myself and at the church doors for any member wishing to contribute by this method.

Please do not hesitate to ask any questions or speak to me privately if you wish.

<b>Comparison of income and expenditure 2022</b>				
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Year to 31.12.19</b>	<b>Year to 31.12.20</b>	<b>Year to 31.12.21</b>	<b>BUDGET as amended 31.12.22</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>INCOME</b>				
<b>2 Donations and legacies</b>				
Offerings	56224	53472	50394	50000
Gift Aid Tax recovered	13872	13031	13019	12000
Legacies	0	5000	0	0
Donations	1034	7	800	0
Donations from organisations	4800	1537	500	500
Other	822	2144	516	200
	<b>76752</b>	<b>75191</b>	<b>65229</b>	<b>62700</b>
<b>3 Income from charitable activities</b>				
Regular Fundraising Events	6296	4347	3609	3500
Weddings and funerals	1365	890	600	600
	<b>7661</b>	<b>5237</b>	<b>4209</b>	<b>4100</b>
<b>4 Income from other trading activities</b>				
Rent received	685	240	50	0
	<b>685</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>5 Investment income</b>				
Deposit interest	440	385	47	50
	<b>440</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>85538</b>	<b>81053</b>	<b>69535</b>	<b>66850</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
Ministries & Mission allocation	53071	52213	45608	50032
Presbytery dues	866	892	749	900
	<b>53937</b>	<b>53105</b>	<b>46357</b>	<b>50032</b>
Travel expenses	1404	1274	1129	1500
Pulpit supply	240	61	195	450
Organists' supply	6140	5740	1954	2000
Fabric repairs and maintenance	15371	7059	5413	10000
Council Tax	2818	2440	2642	3000
Insurance	6527	6572	6109	6500
Heat and light	5125	4316	2713	5500
Organ and music	660	892	660	650
Printing and stationery	589	554	169	600
Telephone/internet	670	712	527	500
Education/outreach/website	612	149	248	300
Cleaning services/materials	355	329	1615	3800
Other expenses	401	336	443	500
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>94849</b>	<b>83539</b>	<b>70174</b>	<b>85332</b>
<b>DEFICITS</b>	<b>-9311</b>	<b>-2486</b>	<b>-639</b>	<b>-18482</b>



## Well done Deborah Nicol

With her presence in church and often her active participation in some of our services the congregation has come to know “ the daughter of the manse.”

From an early age Deborah, has been interested in architecture and began her studies at Robert Gordon University School of Architecture in Aberdeen in September 2015.

The six-year long Master of Architecture degree included one year working full-time in practice as a ‘Part 1 Architectural Assistant’.

Her year in practice in Edinburgh coincided with the family’s 2018 move to Saltcoats so there were many Saturday visits to and from Edinburgh.

On successfully completing her ‘Part 1’ practical experience she returned to RGU. As for all students, these last two years studying for her Master’s degree were significantly affected by the pandemic, with the majority of the research, teaching, designing and writing being undertaken ‘online’.

Her dissertation at the end of fifth year was highly topical to our situation in the Church of Scotland, considering the ‘green’ credentials for adapting traditional church buildings for modern use, rather than embarking on ‘new builds’. Her thesis for her Master’s degree reflected on the changing sustainability of buildings over time.

Deborah gained her MArch (Master of Architecture) Degree with Distinction in June 2021, but graduations in person were not permitted under the pandemic restrictions in force last summer. Her university has now planned a belated graduation ceremony ‘in person’ this coming April. Deborah will be applauded on that day by her loving mum and uncle who are very proud of her achievements and strength through a particularly challenging two years.

Deborah is now working as an Architectural Assistant Part 2 in another Edinburgh company committed to sustainable architecture. Ahead of her are the professional examinations set by RIAS (the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland) in the next couple of years.

The Church family in Saltcoats St. Cuthbert’s send our warmest love and heartiest congratulations for a special Graduation Day.



## Recognition.

Street names have been added to the housing development in the Sharphill Estate. One of note is Joan Gordon Street named after our late and much loved organist. Her enthusiasm and passion for music not only benefited the children that she taught but across all generations. A fitting recognition of a lovely lady.

Retired local councillor and Congregational Board member Willie Gibson has been similarly recognised.



## Mary’s Meals

As previously reported the “Sunday School Pennies” were sent to Mary’s Meals. Below are extracts from the thank you letter.



*Thank you so much for your precious gift of £300 which is helping the lives of hungry children around the world with a nutritious daily meal in school.*

*Today more than two million hungry children in 20 of the world’s poorest countries – including South Sudan, Ethiopia, India and Yemen – sitting in classrooms with full stomachs, and learning how to read and write, thanks to supporters like you.*

*Together we are bringing the hope of a brighter future to so many little ones who depend on the promise of a daily meal at school.*

*I thank you with all my heart on behalf of the children who eat Mary’s Meals*

*Yours sincerely*

*Daniel Adams Executive Director*

**Howler** I filled my car up today with diesel and as the dial rolled by £100 I instantly lost my sense of taste ,felt violently sick and had a terrible headache. I instantly knew I had the dreaded.....Carowner virus 🙄

## APPEALS

Grateful thanks go to everyone who donated to two recent appeals:

Firstly, the Christian Aid Afghan Appeal, which raised £157. This figure was substantially boosted by Gift Aid.

Secondly, the Ukrainian Appeal which prompted an overwhelming response. Within 24 hours of asking, 2 full carloads of clothing, bedding, toiletries, food, nappies etc were delivered to Sandyford near Ayr, from where everything was sorted and packed, before being shipped to Poland.

*Graeme Sutherland*

Loaded ready to go.



Packing the lorries

