

St. Cuthbert's Church Magazine



On a recent visit to York Minster Peter Livingstone photographed this 15th Century Stained-glass panel of worshippers at the St. Cuthbert's shrine

October 2023

Website: www.saltcoats-stcuthberts.org.uk
Scottish Charity Number: SC002905

Guest Contributor Rev. Andrew Black

Dear Friends,

Your esteemed Session Clerk asked me to write a foreword for your magazine, a formidable challenge.

May I take this opportunity to express my thanks for the warm welcome Isabel and I received when I had the privilege of conducting worship in St Cuthbert's.

When we think of the Church we automatically think of the building. And I can understand the emotional tie to our Church building when we have experienced many of those big occasions of life within it, being married, having our children baptised and saying a final goodbye to loved ones. Then there is the blessing of worship and sharing fellowship in such a beautiful building. So I can understand and sympathise that many of you will be experiencing different emotions as you try to come to terms with your building being closed as a place of worship.

Many of you will be feeling a sense of deep disappointment, a sense of injustice and even a sense of anger at the closing of a building that means so much to you.

That being said, I ask again, What is the Church? The Church at its very core is people. People of faith who seek to witness and serve our God through Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord. A people who seek to glorify God in our lives for all the blessings he has poured out upon us.

What is the Church? Well, as the children's hymn says, "I am the Church, You are the Church, We are the Church together."

May I encourage you to continue in worship, to continue your witness to the love of God we have found in Jesus. And in response to his love may you continue to serve your community.

I look forward to enjoying your fellowship in the weeks ahead as I come to lead worship with you.

Yours in Christ

Andy Black.



Update from Session meeting

With the continuing inability of the Presbytery of SW Scotland to appoint an Interim Moderator, Rev. Tom Cant kindly agreed to moderate the recent Session Meeting. The main item of business was the Basis of Union circulated in the September magazine. After considerable discussion this was approved. All four Kirk Sessions have now voted for the Basis of Union; three were unanimous and St Cuthbert's was a majority approval. An up-to-date Electoral Roll of members and adherents has to be prepared for the congregational vote conducted by Presbytery. Only those on the Electoral Roll may vote on the day and must be present in person. Anyone wishing to be an adherent must complete a form and return it to the Session Clerk for Kirk Session approval.

If the Union is agreed it is possible that the last service of Sunday worship in St. Cuthbert's could be Sunday 31st December. Session agreed that our two previous surviving ministers should be invited to return to lead our worship on a suitable date in December. Rev. Brian Oxburgh has agreed to be with us on 31st December and on 17th December Rev. Sarah Nicol will take the service.

At the conclusion of the meeting appreciation was expressed to the Session Clerk for the workload, much of it unsupported, that he has borne during the six months since Sarah retired.

Sunday School

Thank you to the members of the congregation who continue to collect small change. We would like to donate any money collected until the end of the year to the Sea Queen Festival in appreciation of the amazing time Naomi had following her selection to fill the principal role.

We hope you will agree. Thank you.

The Sunday School Team

Sutherland Tours 14th October

Payments for the trip to Rosslyn Chapel should be made to Graeme on 1st October or William on 8th October. National Trust members should bring their cards. Bus leaves 8.30 prompt. Look forward to seeing you there.

Graeme Sutherland

Saltcoats St. Cuthbert's Guild

We have a programme in place for the remainder of 2023. We encourage everyone to come along and support your Guild. We start at 2pm in the church halls on the following Wednesdays.

The Christmas celebrations won't be quite to the scale of last year's lunch, but we will try and make it a special afternoon.

The strategy for 2022 - 24 is 'Look Forward in Faith' and the theme for the upcoming session was explored by Marian Macintyre at our first meeting.
4/10 - Tracey MacIntosh - South Beach House (CrossReach)

18/10 - 'Old Photos' ** bring along a photo of yourself as a baby or youngster and others will try and match the picture with the person today. No doubt stories to tell could arise?

1/11 - Mary Ford - Home for Good (one of our six Projects)

15/11 - Karen Gillan - Guild Going Forward

29/11 - Inter-Guild Quiz.

13/12 - Christmas celebration!!

Bea Nicholson

Some Historical Artifacts

Some maintenance in the church has meant that the frigate has been taken down temporarily. This votive offering was hand crafted and gifted in 1804 by sailor William Tannahill in gratitude for safe return from a battle at sea. It was suspended in the previous church for 100 years and in St. Cuthbert's for the last 115 years. Because of the manner of display few have had the opportunity to study the model up close. Anyone wishing to have careful inspection near at hand can view it for the next few weeks in the Creche room in the hall. Might be a job for TV's Repair Shop!

Many items of historical and emotional value from the St. Cuthbert's archives of the late Marion Mitchell are on display in the hall. Please have a look – back to 1964 in some cases.

Some lovely photographs too, ladies of the Guild and Afternoon Club

Holy Communion

Rev. Andrew Black will conduct the Communion service on 1st October. Please note that this is likely to be the last or at least one of the last opportunities to celebrate Communion in St. Cuthbert's during Sunday worship before the Basis of Union, if agreed, is implemented.

Readers

October	01	Simon Hales
	08	Raymond Montgomerie
	15	Maureen Crilley
	22	Marian Macintyre
	29	Graeme Sutherland
November	05	William Parker
	12	Ann Turner
	19	Tom Sommerville
	26	Elizabeth Barclay

Contact details

The Session Clerk will be on holiday from 23rd September until 4th October. During that period anyone requiring the services of a minister should initially contact an elder or contact Maureen Crilley direct on 07717135026 or 01294 464294.


Anticipated Pulpit Supply

01 October	Rev. A. Black	05 November	Rev. T. Cant
08 October	Rev. A. Ward	12 November	Rev. T. Cant
15 October	Rev. R. Mitchell	19 November	Rev. A. Ward
22 October	Rev. T. Macintyre	26 November	Rev. A. Sorensen
29 October	tbc		



HEAVEN'S GROCERY STORE

I was walking down life's highway a long time ago.
One day, I saw a sign that read "Heaven's Grocery Store",
As I got a little closer, the door came open wide,
And when I came to myself, I was standing inside.
I saw a host of ANGELS. They were standing everywhere.
One handed me a basket and said; "My child shop with care".
Everything a Christian needed was in the Grocery Store,
And all you couldn't carry, you could come back the next day for more.
First, I got some PATIENCE. LOVE was in the same row,
Further down was UNDERSTANDING, you need that everywhere you go.
I got a box or two of WISDOM, a bag or two of FAITH.
I couldn't miss the HOLY GHOST for it was all over the place.
I stopped to get some STRENGTH and COURAGE to help me run this
race.
By then my basket was getting full, but I remembered some GRACE.
I didn't forget SALVATION for SALVATION is free,
So I tried to get enough of that to save both you and me.
Then I started up to the counter to pay my grocery bill,
For I thought I had everything to do my MASTER'S will.
As I went up the aisle I saw PRAYER and I just had to put that in,
For I know when I stepped outside, I would run right into sin.
PEACE and JOY were plentiful, they were on the last shelf.
SONG and PRAISES were hanging near so I just helped myself.
Then I said to the Angel, "Now, how much do I owe?"
He just smiled and said "Just take them everywhere you go".
Again, I said, "How much do I really owe?"
He smiled again and said:
"MY CHILD, JESUS PAID YOUR BILL A LONG, LONG TIME AGO!"



Hymn Corner

CH4 260 – Eternal Father, Strong to Save

As we walk along the promenade our eyes are drawn over the sea towards Arran and further afield. With the change in weather we can see the little boats bobbing up and down while the sea is crashing over their bows. I think how lucky I am standing on terra firma and this hymn always comes to mind.

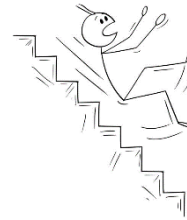


Known throughout the world as the sailor's hymn, this stirring plea for God's mercy towards all in peril on the sea is regularly sung on board ships great and small. It is also one of the best expressions in hymnody of the central Christian doctrine of the Trinity, with its verses clearly delineating the three persons and the respective functions of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

It is the work of William Whiting (1825-78), the son of a London grocer. He was educated at the Winchester Training Institution, a college for teachers and stayed on in the city to become the first Master of the Quiristers of Winchester College. The Quiristers were a group of boys who were supposed to sing in the chapel but were in fact little more than unpaid servants to the young gentleman attending the college.

He wrote this hymn for one of the Winchester quiristers who was about to sail for America and was included in the first edition of *Hymns Ancient & Modern* (1861). Some of the imagery in the hymn seems to have been taken from John Milton's *Paradise Lost*. The first verse recalls the description in Book 7 of the Almighty bidding 'the deep within appointed bounds to be heaven and earth'. While the opening of the third verse echoes the line near the beginning of Book 1 which tells of the Holy Spirit 'who Dove-like sat'st brooding on the vast abyss'.

There have been several parodies of this hymn over the years including 'For those in peril on the Holy See' and a set of cautionary warnings for ministers which appeared some years ago in the Church of Scotland Ministers' Forum:



Whene'er you climb the pulpit stair,
Proceed with caution, and beware,
Lest tripping o'er your long black gown
You find you go not up, but down.
And earthbound falling at full throttle,
Hear the faithful cry 'He's on the bottle!'

The tune universally associated with this hymn is Melita that was written by Revd John Bacchus Dykes (*an author of many hymn tunes*). The name 'Melita' is taken from the story of St Paul's journey from Caesarea to Rome. Acts 28, verse 1 records that after a shipwreck Paul and his fellow prisoners were able to swim to the island of Melita, as Malta was then known.

Peter Livingstone



Concert by Ayrshire Fiddle Orchestra

Friday 6th October at 7pm.

Saltcoats St Cuthbert's Parish Church

Free Admission

Retiring Collection for Orchestra Funds

It is noticeable how regular attenders at Sunday worship have remained in the pews until the postlude voluntary is complete.

Our regular organists, Peter and Rosemary will be providing a musical interlude in each half of the Orchestra's programme. Please come along with your friends and enjoy.

Church Flowers

Thanks to everyone who has contributed towards the purchase of church flowers and to those who have nominated a Sunday special to them . It is good to have them brighten the Sanctuary on a Sunday. We will continue to do so for as long as we can .

Book Stall

We have a wide selection of books, only £1 for 3 . Please help yourself from the table outside hall and put money in donation box . Thank You .

Dee

Dee is a 6 month old puppy in training to be a Guide Dog .

I am grateful to the church for allowing Dee the opportunity to attend church with me. As a puppy raiser it is important to introduce the puppy to lots of different environments .



She has to experience all types of sights, sounds and smells before going on to train with a professional trainer as a Guide Dog. In the meantime we provide her with a loving home and enjoy starting her on the journey.

Annita Gillespie



CROSS REACH

Care you can put your faith in

Christmas Card samples are available

to view in the hall after the service.

The most popular designs sell out quickly, do not delay, complete your order immediately to avoid disappointment.

Margaret Kelso