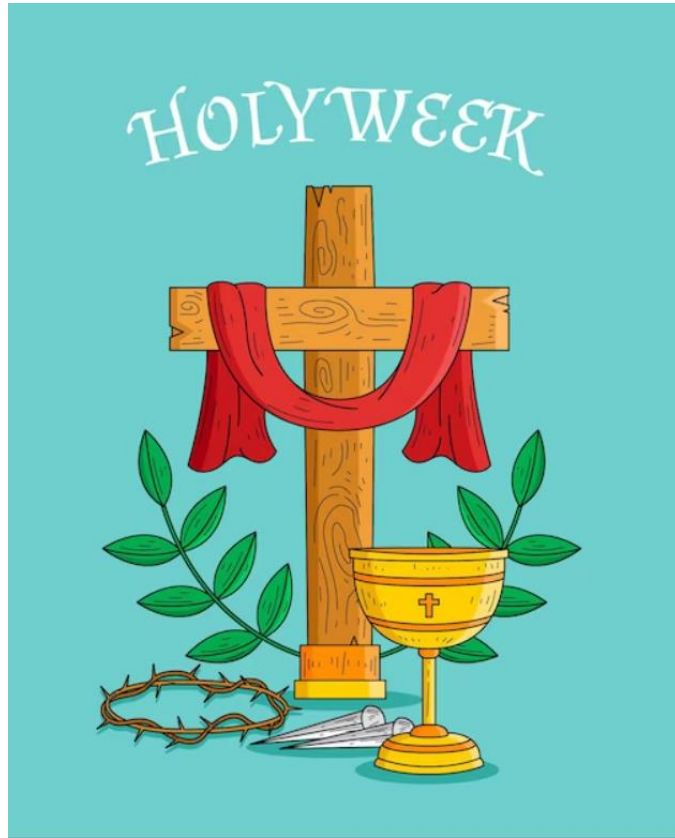


St. Cuthbert's Church Magazine



March 24th - March 30th

March 2024

Website: www.saltcoats-stcuthberts.org.uk

Scottish Charity Number: SC002905

From our Interim Moderator

Dear Friends,

Maybe it is an age thing but I am absolutely bamboozled by modern technology with Ipads, Tablets, Smart Phones all the rage I have to admit that I don't have a clue.

Then there is the new way of communicating on the various social networking sites which has left me well behind the times.

All of these remind me just how fast the world is changing and there is no doubt that these changes affect all of us sooner or later. These changing times also affect the life of the Church as we well know. It remains to be seen whether the changes proposed which will see the loss of many of our buildings will enable the Church to become more relevant in this changing world of technology.

Yet while we adapt to the changes taking place around us we also need to be true to the core message of the Bible. If there is one thing that offers me some comfort as I try to get a grip with the everchanging world around me, it is, God never changes, he is ever old and ever new.

As we approach Easter, we are reminded that its message is focused on an empty cross and an empty tomb reminding us that Jesus Christ has conquered death; we can rest in the knowledge that he is ever present with us which gives us the comfort and assurance that God's love for us is there to guide and keep us at all times through every situation that faces us. Sadly, there are many people who are caught up in the confusion of our everchanging world and they find it difficult to see any real meaning or purpose in life. They need to hear the Good News that Jesus freely offers us life in all its fullness.

In this everchanging world we can be assured of the presence of the Risen Jesus, who is the same yesterday, today and forever. May you find joy and blessing as we make him known to others.

May the peace and the joy of Easter be yours.

With every blessing
Andrew R. Black

Church Register

Deaths *"In My Father's house are many mansions..."*

Feb. Mrs. M. Priest, Ardrossan.

Readers

March

3 Annita Gillespie
10 Elizabeth Barclay
17 Tom Macintyre
24 Bea Nicholson
31 William Parker

Pulpit Supply

March

3rd Rev. A. Black 10th Mr. Jim Morrison
17th, 24th & 31st Rev. A. Black

Holy Week

There will be a short meditation service in the hall at Park Church every day Monday - Friday of Holy Week - at 11am. All other churches are invited.

Services will also be conducted here in St. Cuthbert's on Maundy Thursday (with Communion) and on Good Friday at 7pm. to which a warm invitation is extended.

Ardrossan & Saltcoats Kirkgate have advised that there will be a service at 7pm each evening from Monday to Friday, with Communion on Thursday.

From the Session Clerk

At a recent meeting of the Congregational Board the Annual accounts were presented and approved

The Board also approved the appointment of Mr K McCracken of J R D Partnership in Kilmarnock as Independent Examiner of these accounts.

The non-functioning sanctuary lights have been replaced.

Grass cutting at the church and manse is now done by an outside company resulting in the ride on lawnmower being sold. To reduce costs it was agreed to 'rewild' the grass near the railway line.

The manse is checked weekly and being heated to the minimum level.

Works on the church are only being carried out on a 'wind and watertight' and health and safety basis. It was agreed that the duty squad be

responsible for any necessary cleaning prior to church funerals.

Thanks were expressed to Ann Turner for her work in preparing the accounts and to Roy Kelso for his work in looking after the church fabric.

Presbytery Mission Plan

Presbytery representatives met with the Kirk Session on 15 February to explore ways of moving forward following the rejection of the Mission Plan. They were not prepared to consider any alternatives and repeated their position that St. Cuthbert's will close and that cannot be changed.

Their refusal to compromise meant that Session was left with the choice of a union of Park, North & St. Cuthbert's in Park church or dissolution.

The Session members considered themselves cornered into having to reluctantly agree to the union.

Before anything else happens the other two Kirk Sessions will receive similar visits the outcome of which will be advised.

Ann Turner Session Clerk.

The Guild

The Guild hosted the Guild's Together North Ayrshire Resource Day on Saturday 17th February. The Convener Helen Kerr from Arran led the discussions covering new ways of 'dipping into the Bible', how we can play our part in protecting our environment and tackling climate change, and 'how to do Guild when you don't have a speaker'.

After lunch Helen Eckford gave her reminiscences of her year as National Convener, introduced the new Guild regional reorganisation strategy and the Ekwendeni Hospital Emergency Appeal to which our own Guild has contributed.



Our last meeting in February was 'Music and Movement' by Lesley Boyle. In March we look forward to the life-story of Ray Montgomerie during his footballing career and his current work with junior football.

On March 20th we will be attending Guilds Together in North Ayrshire Gathering in Park Church, Ardrossan.

Mary Ford addressed a recent Guild meeting on Home for Good one of their current projects. A Christian charity passionate about finding a home for every child in the care system who needs one, they work to inspire people to think about fostering and adoption.

Last year in Scotland almost 3,000 children entered the care system, many due to abuse and neglect. They also equip the Church to welcome these families and help support people on their journeys.

This project allows Home for Good to reach all parts of Scotland and will also enable them to build their network of volunteers. Once trained, these volunteers can run events, offer training and build support groups which provide much needed encouragement for these families. Together they want all children to find a loving home and this project will help do that.

Tom Macintyre

A Happy Reunion

Last year, on hearing of the possible closure of St. Cuthbert's, Martin Smart, grandson of the late Rev. Dr. Smart, contacted me and I have been in regular correspondence with him since.

His grandfather was the minister in St. Cuthbert's from 1940 until 1964. Martin is concerned for the future of the window dedicated to the memory of his grandfather – which, as far as reasonably possible, he would like to safeguard.

Martin and his sister, Alison, although brought up in Prestwick were both baptised by their grandfather in this church as were some of the current congregation including myself and Hunter and Ena Grove.

There are fond memories of regular bus and train rides to Saltcoats with their mother to visit her parents.

As visits tended to occur on a Saturday, Martin suspects he often provided an unwelcome distraction to his grandfather as he tried to put the finishing touches to his sermon for the following day! Alison recalls arguing with her brother about who sat at the inside of the manse pew just below the pulpit. Recently Martin, his wife Nadia and daughter Carla had travelled from their home in Suffolk and arrangements were made

for them to visit the church to view again the stained-glass window dedicated to Rev. Dr. Smart. Alison and her husband journeyed from Larbert to complete the family reunion. Both families had accepted our invitation to be present at the Centenary Service and lunch in December 2008. This was the last time they had been able to see the window.

Their mother Aileen and her sister Lois, Dr. and Mrs. Smart's daughters were both married in St. Cuthbert's. Lois (now 97) and her late husband travelled from Dublin to join our Anniversary celebrations 15 years ago. We will continue to keep the family updated.



Alison, Martin & Carla
and the Memorial window

William Parker

Hymn Corner

When I survey the wonderous cross – CH4: 392 (Tune: Rockingham)

This much-loved hymn sung at communion or during Holy Week was written by Isaac Watts (1674-1748). It has an important place in English hymnody as it was the first hymn in the English language to include the personal pronoun 'I' and to express the experience of Christian faith rather than simply limiting itself to matters of doctrine.

It has long been acknowledged as one of the finest hymns ever written. In his Dictionary of Hymnology, first published in 1892, John Julian described the hymn as '*one of the four which stand at the head of all hymns in the English language*', the others being – 'Awake, my soul, and with the sun', 'Hark! the herald angels sing' and 'Rock of Ages, cleft for me'.

Watts wrote this hymn as a communion hymn and its first appeared in 1707 in his Hymns and Spiritual Songs. He there appended the text on which it is based, from Paul's Epistle to the Galatians 6: 14 – '*God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified to me, and I to the world*'.

The tune Rockingham was first found in The Psalms of David for the Use of Parish Churches, published in 1790 with music selected and composed by Edward Miller. He was the organist of Doncaster Parish Church from 1756-1807. He took the name Rockingham from his patron and friend the Marquis of Rockingham, the Whig statesman who was three times Prime Minister.



Peter Livingstone

Sunday School

The youngest member of our Sunday school is 1 year old on the 28th of February. What a quick year that has been.

We are also delighted to tell you that the amount raised for the Saltcoats Sea Queen is a massive £78.56 which will be rounded up to £80. They are having a fundraising event in the Labour Club on 23rd Feb where the money will be presented to them on behalf of St Cuthbert's Church. Once again a huge big thanks to all who donated.

The Sunday School Team.

Please find time to watch this video.

Dr Peter Christie (some time organist at St Mary's Haddington, St James, Paisley and now the Episcopal Church, Greenock) was in playing the organ at St Cuthbert's. A good friend of our organist Peter Livingstone, he is a committee member of the charity 'Scotland's Churches Trust' and has an interest in architecture but especially stained-glass.

He has created this fabulous video of our stained-glass at St Cuthberts. The accompanying organ music is a little-known work by celebrated Parisian organist-composer Alexandra Guilmant (1837-1911) and based on the text of the 6-verse Lutheran hymn 'What God does, is done well'.

Feel free to share the you tube link.

https://youtu.be/otS4j2wL8P0?si=M_OqoouvFOCDLLTC

Book Stall

Book stall has a wide variety of books available at a cost of 3 for £1. If it continues to be poorly supported I am considering donating some of the books to charity shops.

Annita Gillespie

Church Flowers

Many thanks to all who have supported the flower fund. Due to the uncertain future of our church I have not been looking for donations to the flower fund.

However, as it appears worship will be continuing in St. Cuthbert's for the at least a few more months I would be grateful to receive donations again. Anyone who wishes to put flowers in the church themselves is welcome to do so. I will prearrange to be at church to unlock doors.

Alternatively, I will accept donations for the fund and put flowers in on your behalf.

Annita Gillespie Flower convenor

A poem for Easter by John E. Wyttenbach



**On Easter morn' as we reflect
on Christ and His great love,
how, to a cross He took our sins
and prayed to God above.
Asking for forgiveness,
for all that we have done,
rising from a tomb so dark,
the battle had been won.
The blood He shed would cover all,
if only we'd believe,
and rise up from a watery grave,
His Spirit to receive.
On resurrection Sunday,
so fitting that it's Spring,
when new life blooms around us,
and birds began to sing.**

Remember in the 50s & 60s

- Pasta had not been invented.
- Curry was a surname.
- A takeaway was a mathematical problem.
- A pizza was something to do with a leaning tower.
- Bananas and oranges only appeared at Christmas time.
- All crisps were plain; the only choice we had was whether to put the salt on or not.
- Rice was a milk pudding, and never, ever part of our dinner.
- A Big Mac was what we wore when it was raining.
- Brown bread was something only poor people ate.
- Oil was for lubricating, fat was for cooking.
- Tea was made in a teapot using tea leaves and never green.
- Coffee was Camp and came in a bottle.
- Cubed sugar was regarded as posh.
- Only Heinz made beans.
- Fish didn't have fingers in those days.
- Eating raw fish was called poverty, not sushi.
- None of us had ever heard of yoghurt.
- Healthy food consisted of anything edible.
- People who didn't peel potatoes were regarded as lazy.
- Indian restaurants were only found in India.
- Cooking outside was called camping.
- Seaweed was not a recognised food.
- 'Kebab' was not even a word never mind a food.
- Sugar enjoyed a good press in those days, and was regarded as being white gold.
- Prunes were medicinal.
- Surprisingly, muesli was readily available, it was called cattle feed.
- Pineapples came in chunks in a tin; we had only ever seen a picture of a real one.
- Water came out of the tap; if someone had suggested bottling it and charging more than petrol for it they would have become a laughing stock.
- The one thing that we never ever had on our table in the fifties.... was elbows!

