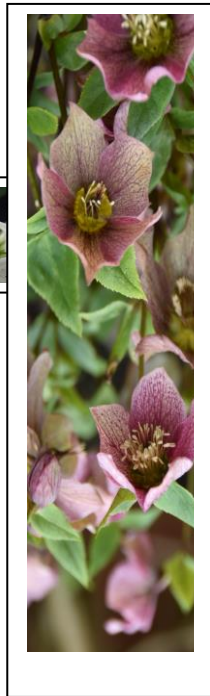


St. Cuthbert's Church Magazine

Lenten Rose
flowers during Lent



Star of Bethlehem



Easter Lilies

April 2024

Website: www.saltcoats-stcuthberts.org.uk

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From the Interim Moderator

Dear Friends,

How would you answer the question, "what has been the most important event in history?" Some would say the first landing on the moon which led to a commitment of space exploration, or the fall of the Berlin Wall which saw the collapse of the Soviet Union and the thawing of the Cold War, or the attack on the World Trade Centre which heralded the fight against Terrorism which is still causing tension across the Middle East. There is no doubt that all of these events had a major influence in our world today.

However, for me, the greatest event in the history of the world was the death and resurrection of Jesus. Most of the things that influence life today flows from this incredible event, we describe history as BC the events before Christ, and AD the events after Christ.

I have a confession. When I was introduced to '[The Jesus Story](#)' in my late teens I found it very difficult to accept the resurrection. However, a book that helped me overcome my doubts, was called 'Who Moved the Stone?' written by Frank Morrison. He was a lawyer and an atheist. He set about looking at the evidence available to him in an attempt to prove the resurrection could not have happened but, by the time he had completed his research and the book, he became a Christian as the evidence pointed to the reality of the resurrection. Morrison joined C.S. Lewis who was also an atheist who tells of his conversion in the book 'Surprised by Joy.'

Through these books and my own enquiries, I came to the knowledge that the resurrection was true. And the knowledge of that truth has motivated my preaching, even if it means wearing football regalia to make the point as it encourages me to tell others of my experience with the living Jesus.

As we move on from the celebration of Easter may the reality of Jesus' presence continue to thrill us. May we, like Lewis, be surprised by joy as we seek to make known the living Jesus to those around us.

May the peace of his presence be yours.

Yours in Christ

Andrew R. Black

Church Register

Deaths *“In My Father’s house are many mansions...”*

March Mrs. A. Hamilton, Saltcoats

From the Session Clerk

Further to March’s magazine I have to report that no more progress in relation to the Presbytery Mission Plan has been made. I understand that the meeting of the Presbytery committee with the Park Church Kirk Session will not be taking place until 7th April.

It is not known how long it will take to proceed further. A vote on the proposals, still to be agreed, will be required. It is still expected that any closure date will not be before 30 June 2024.

Ann Turner Session Clerk

Afternoon Club

Every Monday afternoon the Club regularly has around 20 members crafting, playing bridge and chatting over a cuppa.

The £2 weekly charge has over time generated funds which has enabled us to donate £500 to each of three charities - RNLI, CHAS (Children’s Hospice) and Guide Dogs Scotland.

Nan Smith

Church Flowers & Book Stall

Many thanks to everyone who has donated to the flower fund. It is now quite healthy, and we have enough to see us through till June Books are still available at a cost of £1 for 3.

Annita Gillespie flower convenor

Hymn Corner

Thine be the Glory – CH4 419

This great resurrection hymn is sung at funerals but also during this Eastertide. Its magnificent eighteenth-century tune, based on a chorus by Handel always seems much older than it is. It also seems quintessentially British. It is something of a surprise to discover that it comes from a Swiss original and that the author died only a little over 90-years ago.

The author of the hymn ‘*A toi la gloire*’ was Edmond Budry (1854-1932). Educated at Lausanne, he became a minister in the Eglise Evangelique Libre du Canton de Vaud, an evangelical breakaway from the Swiss National Reformed Church. He wrote this hymn following the death of his wife in 1896 and was translated into English by Richard Hoyle (1875-1937), a Baptist minister whose last pastorate was at Kingston-upon-Thames.



The tune ‘*Maccabeus*’ was written in 1746 by Handel (1685-1759) for the chorus ‘*See the Conquering Hero Comes*’ in his oratorio *Judas Maccabeus*. Born in Halle, Germany, the son of the surgeon to the Duke of Saxony, Handel was originally marked out by his father for a legal career. However, he early showed his considerable musical talents, and after studying at Halle, Hamburg and in Italy he became the chapel master to the Elector of Hanover, later King George I of Great Britain. He moved to London in 1710 and made it his permanent home from 1713. He became chapel master to the Duke of Chandos, a position which gave him security from which to write more than forty operas, seven oratorios and many orchestral and instrumental pieces.

Peter Livingstone

Relocation news from our friend and organist Peter Livingstone.

I need to be open and honest about Alister and I, and our plans for the future. Since we came to Saltcoats we have loved being with you all. Indeed, if the church was not closing, I suspect we would not be in this position. We have made so many new friends.

In the past three years we can show growth to the Presbytery with our musical events including Remembrance Sunday and Carol Services. I appreciate why the Church of Scotland has to make changes; I just disagree about how they are going about it.

Difficulties with my GP practice have led to my decision to leave the partnership. 25th March was my last working day there.

With this in my mind, we have both decided to make the biggest change of our lives and move to Ulster. Although, I am very happy in Scotland (I have been here 24-years), it is now time to move.

We have found the perfect house near a small town called Dungiven, in south County Londonderry. It is an old Georgian Rectory built in 1871.

It will allow us to obtain the quiet life that we both seek .

We aim to move formally at the end of May. I have taken a job in Ulster and will be staying with my mum until we can move into Dungiven. Alister, plans to live in his flat in Helensburgh and commute to Paisley until Dungiven is finalised.

This means that my regular playing and our attendance will come to an end at Saltcoats. We had prepared for the church to close by Easter Sunday (31st March), but this appears not to be happening.

I can play for every Sunday in April. My last Sunday would be Sunday 28th April as we are going to Holland for annual leave over Sunday 5th May and plan to start work on Wednesday 8th May. . As I am sure you can appreciate it has been very stressful for us both recently, with quitting my job, moving house and now moving to another country. Life has been chaotic to say the least and uncertain, but it appears things seem to be moving.

Peter & Alister

Thank you so much

When this unknown Irishman breezed into the lives of the congregation here in St Cuthbert's little did we know the impact he would have.

COVID and the threat to our continued existence posed by the PMP meant that morale was at a pretty low ebb. His drive, ideas and enthusiasm spurred us on to open our eyes to the fact that we are not dead yet and even if there is every likelihood that our beautiful sanctuary may still close we can look back on these last few years with a fondness that could so easily have been a maudlin lingering demise.

In a two for one deal Peter brought along Alister, his then partner and now husband, to join our choir. His shared love of music and his artistic flare has resulted in some memorable post-concert bun fights, BBQ and one of the most impressively bedecked churches in the parish over the Advent and Christmas seasons.

Since Sarah retired a variety of preachers have visited. Dare we suggest that whatever our expectation from the pulpit that the congregation has continued their steadfast attendance even if only to remain seated following the Benediction to enjoy Peter's weekly voluntary!

The Choir has come to "expect the unexpected" and is regularly pushed beyond their comfort zone. Peter's ability to select the appropriate Introit and Anthem has been welcomed and acknowledged by our worship leaders.

This must not sound like a eulogy. As a congregation we have been blessed to have these two gentlemen in our lives and all of us consider them friends.

We are sad to bid them au revoir but do so with our gratitude, love and best wishes as they move to Ulster to the next stage of their lives.

St. Cuthbert's Guild

Our Guild session has been very fruitful and rewarding. Due to the Mary Wood Bequest, we have been able to support a new initiative in Malawi. This will enable workshops and a major conference to take place to explore and develop Guild Women's leadership potential and to lead to the publication of a training manual.



Ekwendeni Hospital in Malawi also benefitted. In the picture you see the much-needed medication being delivered after receiving our donation of £5000. This lady's life was saved due to these vital supplies. A prayer answered.



At home, we have offered a grant to the Young Adults Guild for future development. This is held by the Guild Office for funding conferences as and when required. Finally, South Beach House has received funding for a 'Namaste Therapy Room' – specialist care for residents.

We thank those in the congregation who have come to tell their life stories. This has proved very inspirational and entertaining and has been used as a model at a National Resource Day. We have kept in contact with our neighbouring Guilds by holding a Three Towns Guild Quiz. At other times we have had fun and fellowship together. We hope the congregation enjoyed the Christmas lunch which we provided.

Our session ends this month with an 'Afternoon Tea' at Seamill Hydro on the 10th April together with the Monday Club. On the 24th we will meet to discuss our future plans. The Guild is always ready to welcome new members and Anne Riddell would be happy to furnish you with membership details.

We wish all members and friends a Happy Eastertide.

Tom Macintyre

Sunday School



Margaret Roberts presenting the money from the Sunday School small change collection. This will be used to support the Saltcoats Sea Queen Festival during the summer.

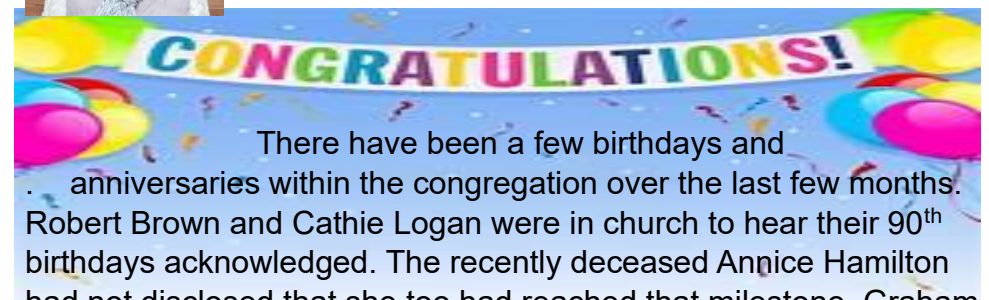
Naomi from our Sunday School was crowned Queen last year.

At the service on Palm Sunday Interim Moderator, Rev. Andy Black displayed his lifelong commitment as a Killie fan to illustrate in his all age talk a modern-day slant to the crowd following Jesus into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.

True followers are not fair-weather supporters but always there through the highs and lows of which there can be many.



Eileen Ramsay attended church on St. Patrick's Day wearing some appropriate headgear for the day.



There have been a few birthdays and anniversaries within the congregation over the last few months. Robert Brown and Cathie Logan were in church to hear their 90th birthdays acknowledged. The recently deceased Annice Hamilton had not disclosed that she too had reached that milestone. Graham and Susan Cross have celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary and we offer our congratulations and best wishes to them all.

Readers

April	7	Simon Hales	May	5	Raymond Montgomerie
	14	Bruce McLellan		12	Rosemary Smith
	21	Ann Turner		19	Graeme Sutherland
	28	Maureen Crilley		26	Gillian Morrison

Cleaning Rota

March

April

For Sun 10	Roy & Margaret	For Sun 7	Muriel & Elsa
Sun 17	Nan & Sheena	Sun 14	Alan & Judy
Sun 24	Eileen & Shona	Sun 21	TBC
Sun 31	Graeme & Liz	Sun 28	TBC

Church cleaning has been brought back in house. Thanks to those who volunteered to prepare the church and hall in March. Anyone wishing to join the rota should contact Shona Turner.

Pulpit Supply

7 April.	Rev. T. Cant	May. 5.	Mr. J. Morrison
14.	Rev. A. Black	12.	Rev. T. Cant
21.	Rev. A. Black	19.	Rev. A. Black
28.	Rev. A. Ward	26.	Mr. J. Morrison

Continuing the theme of the front cover



Passionflower is a flower that represents Christianity, particularly the Passion of Jesus Christ, which is why it is also known as the "Passion Vine". The intricate and symbolic design of the passionflower represents the story of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection.

The flower's ten petals and sepals represent the ten apostles who remained faithful to Jesus after his arrest, trial, and death.

The five stamens in the centre represent the five wounds of Jesus on the cross, and the stigma in the centre represents the hammer used to nail him to the cross.

The three styles represent the three nails that were used to crucify Jesus, and the long, twining stems represent the whips used to flog him.

The passion flower's association with Christianity dates back to the 16th century when Spanish Christian missionaries discovered the flower in South America.

They saw the intricate design of the flower as a divine sign that it was meant to be used in the teaching and conversion of the native peoples.

The passionflower has become an important symbol for many Christian denominations, particularly those who focus on the Passion of Jesus Christ during the Lenten season.