



Church Magazine



April/May 2026

ST CUTHBERT'S TEAM

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Contents: Locum Minister's Letter (p3), From the Tower Room (p4), Reports from St Cuthbert's (p5) including: Working towards Union (p5), Long Service Certificates (p6), Bible Fellowship Group (p7), News from the Ukrainian St Margaret's Saturday School (p8); Out and About (p10) including Friends of St Cuthbert's Outing (p10), Edinburgh Street Pastors (p11), Art Exhibition (p13); General Notices (p13), including Tuesday and Saturday Coffee Mornings (p14), Welcome Guides (p15), Fresh Start (p15), Solutions to the last edition's sudokus (p18).

Front cover: It's Easter again.

Locum Minister's Letter

Dear Friends

You like me may be wondering how we might be approaching Holy Week and Easter at such an alarming speed. It seems little time at all since I was wishing you a "Happy New Year" but in the ensuing weeks much has been going on behind the scenes and we have had a very helpful update issued by the Working Group in relation to plans for the Union with Greyfriars, a great deal has been done to address the many questions that have come in from both congregations and I hope you have had a chance to read the update.



Reading an interview with the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, in the Telegraph*, I was struck by his concerns for the future of the Anglican Communion, for the need for solidarity. He spoke of the importance of this within his church and much of what he said about the importance of togetherness applies to the Church of Scotland at both local and national levels. Quoting out of context can be dangerous but some comments seemed to me particularly applicable: "... solidarity can take many forms, from interdependence and mutual respect to serving the needs of the poor." He goes on to stress the importance of the common good, suggesting that in society, between nations, within churches there is a need to "find something that is the common good", stating: "... [that] you are only secure when your neighbour is secure."

How ever we care to look at his words there is no room for mis-interpretation, and what he states is undeniable: that the church (and here I am also talking about our own congregation and those around us) must realise the need to go forward together with others, standing alone won't work. It is when we focus on the common ground, or working for the common good, when our neighbours' security becomes our own security that we know we are on a safer and more positive footing.

Over the past few Sundays we have been reflecting upon some of Jesus' interactions with those he met during his ministry: Nicodemus, a scholar who became a faithful disciple, the Samaritan woman whom he met drawing water in

the midday sun, the blind beggar whom he healed. Jesus met all of them in their own context, offering them what they needed, these three stories of very different encounters see those involved coming to understand who Jesus was and what his ministry brought. The mantle has fallen to us to meet people where they are, to now share the Easter message of forgiveness through the Risen Christ with those who need to hear. To work for the common good of those in our communities, offering both spiritual nourishment as well as practical help. To do so together and in solidarity with those around us is beneficial, not only to those to whom we seek to reach out, but beneficial to the Church as we continue to develop both the interdependence and mutual respect that will help us continue our mission in the years to come.

The message of Easter Sunday, of Christ's glorious resurrection, brought his disciples together, made them realise the need to depend upon one another at a time when the danger of becoming fragmented was imminent. As we look towards the sombre days of Holy Week, Good Friday and the glorious dawn of Easter Day, may the light, love and unity we find in Christ, our Risen Lord, be with you all.

Yours,

Suzie

*Interview with Rowan Williams by Peter Stanford, published in the Daily Telegraph on Wednesday 18 March 2026.

Solidarity: The Work of Recognition (Bloomsbury £20), publication date, March 26.

FROM THE TOWER ROOM

This edition of the Church Magazine is being issued earlier than normal so that information about our Easter Services is issued in time. These services are included in a separate leaflet with the Magazine.

Many of you will have received the Union newsletter regarding the responses from the recent survey. Anyone who has not seen the newsletter is encouraged to look for it on St Cuthbert's website (see page 5)

Over the last few weeks, eleven of our long-serving elders received Long-Service Certificates from the Church of Scotland. Cumulatively, these elders have served the Kirk Session for almost 450 years and we are delighted to picture a selection of them receiving their Certificates. Congratulations to our magnificent eleven (see pages 6 and 7).

Martin Pearce updates the news from the Bible Fellowship Group, with a continued look at the Book of Romans. He also reports from the Ukrainian St Margaret's Saturday School and highlights just why the school is so important for its scholars.

I am sure most of you will have seen Street Pastors banners dotted about the city centre. But what do these Pastors do? John Kirk reveals all following an information evening in January at St Cuthbert's. The article details how the movement started, the training involved and reveals the contents of a typical rucksack carried of an evening – some things, I am sure, you would not have expected (see pages 11 and 12).

Our annual plea for Welcome Guides appears on page 15 which we again invite you to our Tuesday and Saturday coffee mornings (page 14).

St Cuthbert's has a long connection with the BBC – starting back in the 1920s with the first church service broadcast on the radio then thirty years later, the first television broadcast of the evening service. The BBC once again come calling to record an edition of BBC Radio 4's Any Questions? (see page 9).

Finally, we provide the answers to the two sudoku puzzles from the last edition.

Stewart Cowe

REPORTS FROM ST CUTHBERT'S

Working towards Union



Many thanks to those who completed the survey regarding the proposed merger.

The Union committee produced a newsletter summarising the responses and addresses various comments and questions raised. As it is a lengthy document, we feel it is not suitable for including in the magazine. However, it is available online and anyone who would like to read it, you can find it on St Cuthbert's website: <https://www.stcuthberts-edinburgh.uk/news/greyfriars-st-cuthberts-union-update/March 2026>

Yours

Christine McGuinness

Long Service Awards

Eleven long-serving members of the Kirk Session have been presented with their long-service certificates. The last time these certificates were presented to Session Members of St Cuthbert's was in 2019 and those passing notable periods of service since then were the recipients over the months of February and March.

Interim Moderator, Dr Hazel Hastie, presented the certificates to those present in Church on Sunday 15th February, while others have received their certificates in person from the Minister.



Pictured: top row Dr Hazel Hastie, Jean Watt and Rev Suzie Stark.

Middle row Sheena Cant, Jim McLean and Maggie Barrons.

Bottom row Stuart Stevenson, Geoffrey Millar and Peter Scott

- In 2019, three members of the Session marked 30 years of service: Maggie Barrons, Kenneth Boyd and Stuart Stevenson.
- In 2020, Jim McLean and Jean Watt marked 40 years of service.
- In 2022, Peter Scott and Kathy Smith marked 30 years of service. And Geoffrey Millar completed a remarkable 50 years as an elder.
- In 2025, Sheena Cant marked 30 years of service
- This year, Jeanette Barton and Michael Langdon mark 40 years of service.

Together with the additional years since these milestones, the above recipients have given cumulatively almost 450 years of service to the Kirk Session.

Additionally, Jean Watt had something else to celebrate on the day she was presented with her certificate. Her birthday.

Congratulations to all the recipients.

St Cuthbert's Bible Fellowship Group

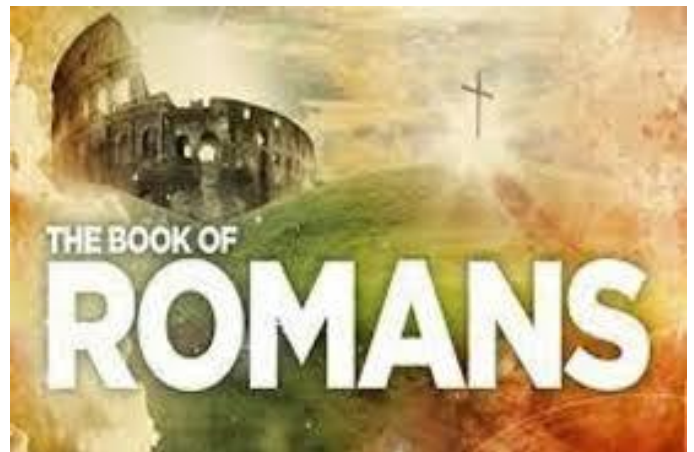
The letter to the Romans was written by the Apostle Paul in the year 57AD to explain and guide all people to the path of salvation (meaning saved from sin, death and judgment day) and righteousness (meaning having the right relationship with God).

The Thursday evenings Bible Fellowship have found much of the readings from Romans over the last couple of months

heavy going because Paul appears to be very verbose and repetitive. And yet, who are we to criticise Paul's writings? Instead, we have learned to focus on some of Paul's inspiring verses about the Christian Faith.

We are all on different Christian journeys through this life but we share the same hope that our sins are forgiven, that death is but a door, and there is a heavenly home to go to once we have been judged by God on judgment day. God cannot have favourites so we must all expect to face a judgment day. However, we are assured that Jesus will speak as our advocate in heaven, and by the mercy of God, we will have a heavenly life to look forward to.

I have ordered the verses according to how they resonate with me. The most inspiring and reassuring to me are towards the top of the list but they are all important in guiding our daily lives.



Romans 1: 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.

Romans 8 verses 38 & 39: 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers; 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 12 verse 2: Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Romans 12 verse 1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

Romans 10 verse 9: If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Romans 8 verse 28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Romans 5 verse 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 3 verse 23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 6 verse 23: For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Food for thought I pray.

All are invited to these Thursday evenings Bible Fellowship meetings on Zoom. Just email me and we will welcome you into the Group with joy.

Every blessing,

Martin Pearce (martin.pearce2109@outlook.com)

Update from the Ukrainian St Margaret's Saturday School

One parent when asked about family back in Ukraine said, "I phone my father every Thursday evening, but I do not know whether he will be there to answer the phone." Another parent, when asked about her husband's situation, replied he has served on the front line for four years and continues to serve his country ... (note: there are not many Ukrainian soldiers who have survived on the front line for four years).

One pupil wrote a postcard to be sent to his school in the east of the country, the teacher gently pointed out that that school is now under occupation, and it is unlikely to be in existence because many children are exiled to Russia to be indoctrinated through government-controlled education programmes.

These are just a few examples of the reality of what is in the minds of some of the Ukrainian parents, teachers and pupils. Each Saturday before School starts, we pray at the school assembly for peace and justice for Ukraine.

The Ukrainian St Margaret's Saturday School endeavours to give the children from ages 5 to 17 hope for the future through gaining a sound education. The parents, mostly mothers and grandparents, are determined for the children to get the best education possible in the Ukrainian language, history, art and craft, choreography, as well as through mathematics and English Language. In consequence, the parents are very supportive of this School. The teachers continue to strive energetically to impart sound educational standards in the children and teenagers. As for the children, they love to be with other Ukrainian children of their own age, and I suspect some will be friends for life.

The Ukrainian School continues to thank you, the church family at St Cuthbert's, for your prayerful and financial support, and your willingness to allow us to use St Cuthbert from time to time. Sadly, as there is no end of the war in sight, the Trustees, who now include John Kirk and Bridget Cameron, are planning to raise funds (£25,000) for the fourth year of the School starting in August 2026. It is the one way we can say to the children and their parents, we care about you and one day there will be peace in justice in Ukraine but until then, we will continue to support you with our prayers, time, and resources because in Jesus there is always hope, no matter how bleak the current situation.

Martin Pearce (martin.j.pearce@blueyonder.co.uk)



Out and About

Any Questions?

On Friday 10th April, St Cuthbert's is hosting the live recording of Any Questions? for BBC Radio 4. Doors open at 6.30 pm. The broadcast starts at 8 pm.

200 tickets are available and these can be found at EventBright on

<https://www.eventbright.com/e/bbc-any-questions-tickets-1984973382822?aff=oddtcreator>

This is a ticket only event and there will be no tickets available on the door.

So, join us live and put your questions to panellists from politics, media and beyond.

If you know anyone with first aid training who might be able to help us for this event, please ask them to contact the Church office at office@stcuthberts-edinburgh.uk

St Cuthbert's is no stranger to live BBC recordings. It pioneered the first religious radio broadcast in 1923 then in 1952 hosted the first church service (the evening service) on the new-fangled television – just two days after the introduction of television to Scotland. One wonders just how many people tuned in that evening but that question was partially answered a few years ago when a guest preacher mentioned in his sermon that over 200 squeezed into an Arbroath hall that evening to watch the service.

Friends of St Cuthbert's Outing



The Friends of St Cuthbert's have arranged an exciting and interesting event and warmly extend this to anyone who may wish to join them for a visit to The Biba Story: 1964–1975 at Dovecot Studios, 10 Infirmity Street, Edinburgh EH1 1LT, on Saturday 18th April at 3:00pm. Refreshments will be provided

ahead of the visit, from 2:30pm.

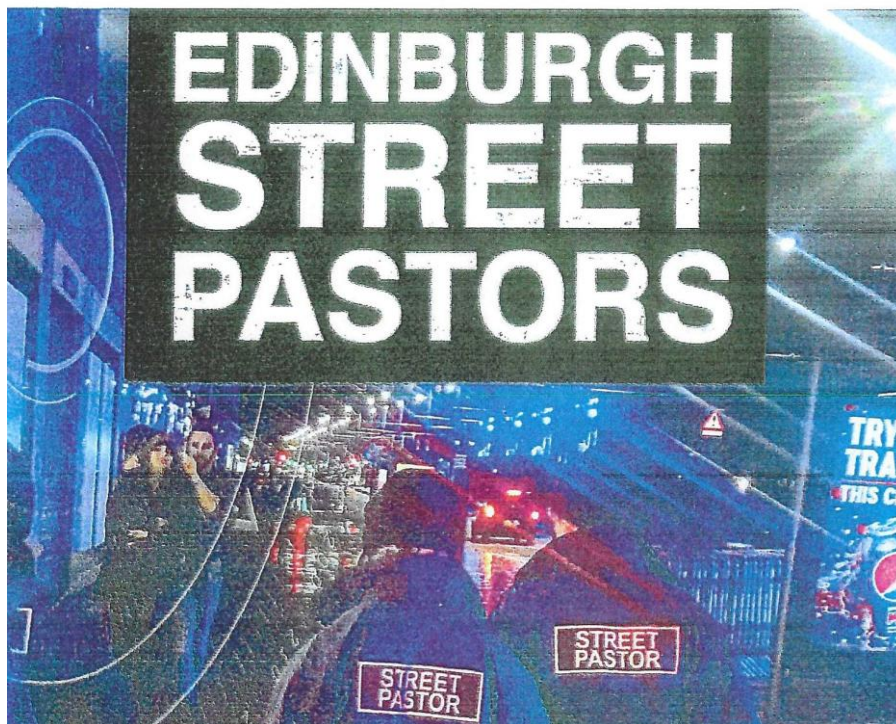
Dovecot Studios is a world-renowned tapestry studio and gallery, located in the heart of Edinburgh. It is known for its contemporary art, craft, and design exhibitions, as well as its active tapestry weaving studio, where visitors can watch master weavers at work. Founded in 1912, the studio has a long heritage of producing handwoven tapestries and rugs in collaboration with international artists, designers, and institutions.

A guided tour of the Biba exhibition has been arranged for the Friends. The exhibition charts the extraordinary rise of Biba, the fashion phenomenon founded by Barbara Hulanicki, which blossomed into the world's first lifestyle label and helped define the look and spirit of the 1960s and 1970s. The show brings together over a hundred rare

pieces, drawn from Hulanicki's personal archives, including garments, press books, marketing materials, and original Biba lifestyle products.

Capacity is limited to 20 guests, offered on a first-come, first-served basis. If you would like to attend, please reply to treasurer@stcuthberts-edinburgh.uk to secure your place. Whilst the Friends have paid for the cost of the visit, if you wish to make a donation to the Friends, this will be gratefully appreciated.

Edinburgh Street Pastors



In January, Edinburgh Street Pastors held an information evening at St Cuthbert's. The intention of these sessions is to let folk know a bit of the history of the Street Pastor movement and how Edinburgh Street Pastors came about. They also explain how to get involved, what the process is for becoming a Street Pastor is and how one is trained. Whilst we all see the banners throughout the city, the posters in the Church and mentions in Services, very few of our congregation are likely to come into contact with a Street Pastor patrol (except perhaps some of our choir).

The presentation was given by Gerard McIvor, our co-ordinator, and included a short film showing activities on the streets and comments from Street Pastors. It is available on you tube and is well worth a watch. The movement began in London when Les Isaacs, a former Rastafarian who was dabbling in criminality, came to Christ and saw the need for a presence on the Streets to listen, help and care for those who are lost. Starting in London the movement spread across the country. The Ascension Trust is the umbrella organisation and each group is a separate charity. A new East Lothian Street Pastors group is planned to start up later this year.

Street Pastors operate in close co-operation with local authorities and police. In Edinburgh, Street Assist are also out on patrol and they have enhanced First Aid skills which are very useful indeed. Our ethos is listen, help and care and if folk want a spiritual conversation or prayer, we are happy to help.

To become a Street Pastor you need to be a Christian and a Church member, which leads to a quite diverse group of folk. Training is provided and the same manual is used countrywide. The sessions are informative and quite challenging. After completing the core courses, two supervised patrols, with different teams, are undertaken before final qualification and commissioning. I can say from my own experience that this is quite a taxing and thorough process. It is also a bit daunting taking to the streets in a uniform, literally wearing your Faith on your jacket.

Gerard then explained how we go about our patrols, the usual hours and routes that we take, how we prepare for going out; in prayer, putting the kit together and contacting the CCTV control and police control before taking to the streets. He unpacked a typical rucksack showing what we carry including; hot drinks, gloves, hats, blankets, biscuits, flip flops, first aid kit, disposable gloves and bags, water and lollipops. You might be amazed to hear how a lollipop can diffuse a situation. We also carry a bible, "Try Praying" booklets and single Gospels to give out. Individually I also carry a torch, disposable gloves, a carrier bag for picking up bottles (which takes a potential weapon off the street) and some of our cards just to let people know who we are and what we do. We also carry details of the help available for the homeless, mental health services and where to get a meal in the city. Of course, local knowledge is very useful too such as where the airport bus stances are or where various hotels are. We do not carry nor give out cash.

We related some of the stories we have about people we have encountered and helped to show what it can be like in Edinburgh's night time economy at 3 am of a Saturday morning. The session was interesting and informative and enjoyed by those from St Cuthbert's and St John's who braved a rather dismal January evening to come along.

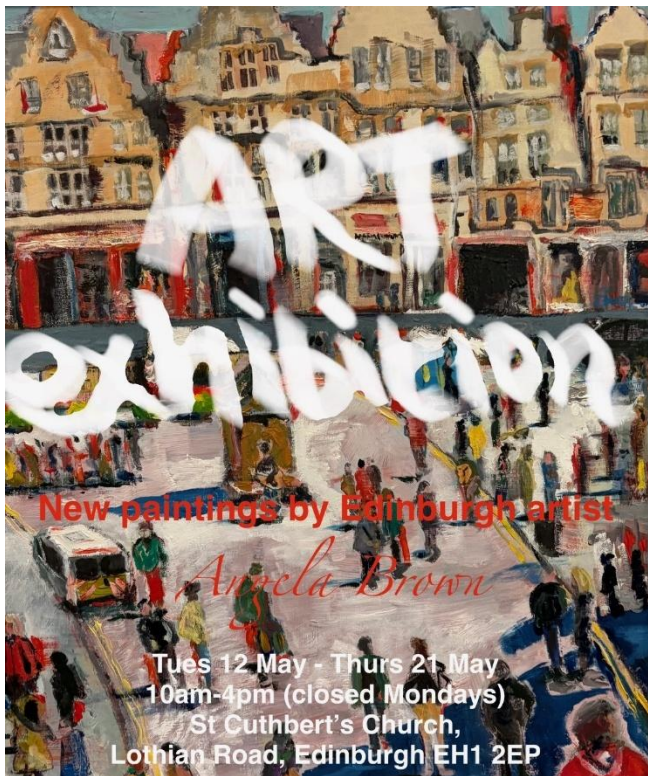
It is intended to repeat the session later in the year. When we do, please come along and find out what Street Pastors do to listen, help and care and take the Good News of Jesus Christ to the streets of our Parish and those in the city centre and Old Town.

John Kerr



John with colleague Fadze

Art Exhibition: Colourful Edinburgh – new works by Angela Brown



Angela Brown, who every year kindly donates an original artwork of St Cuthbert's for our Christmas card, is delighted to be returning to St Cuthbert's for her second exhibition of original paintings. Her previous exhibition here, in 2024, was a great success and much enjoyed by the congregation and visitors alike.

This exhibition takes place between Tuesday 12th and Thursday 21st May in the Sanctuary.

Her theme this time is "Colourful Edinburgh", taking inspiration from the sounds and sights of the city, in vibrant oil and acrylic media.

Thirty percent of all proceeds of the exhibition will go to St Cuthbert's, so this is a

fantastic opportunity to enjoy the paintings, and maybe even take home something beautiful!

As well as paintings, there will also be a large selection of one-off 8x8 inch greetings cards available – each one totally original and unique. Many people have bought these cards to frame: giving everyone the chance to acquire something hand-made and one-off at all price levels.

See you there!

GENERAL NOTICES

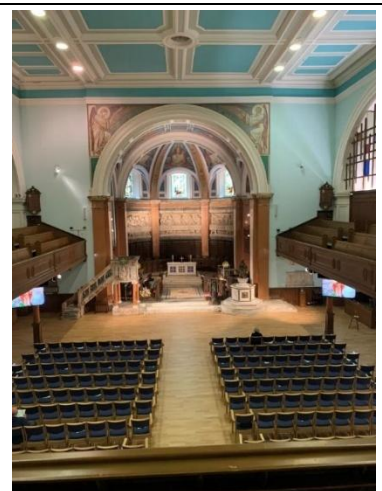
Would you like to be more involved?

We are looking for people who want to become more involved with our Sunday Worship.

Would you care to join our intercessory prayer team, either writing or reading pre-written intercessions for the Sunday Service, or even both?

Or would you prefer to assist our Duty Elders as a Sunday welcomer?

If any of these roles appeals to you, please contact Christine McGuinness at sessionclerk@stcuthberts-edinburgh.uk



These are roles integral to the welcoming and prayerful atmosphere of St Cuthbert's.

Communication

It would be helpful if members moving house would notify either their elder or the Church office of their new address.

Church Flowers

Anyone wishing to donate flowers on an anniversary or other special occasion or give a financial donation to the Flower Fund is invited to contact the Flower Committee via the Church Office or place a donation in the offering bag clearly marked Flower Fund.

We would also like to welcome new members to the Committee and shall be very pleased to hear from any member interested. Help will be provided if required.

Recordings of 10.30am Sunday Services

Recordings of the Church services are available on the Church website (stcuthberts-edinburgh.uk).

Telephone Prayer Circle

Requests for prayer in a crisis situation or in time of trouble should be sent by email to Irene Gill at prayercircle@stcuthberts-edinburgh.uk

Prayer is normally offered for one week. Names of those for whom prayer is required in the longer term should be entered in the Intercession Book (which can be found on the table in the vestibule).

All information will be treated in confidence.

Tuesday and Saturday Coffee Mornings

A reminder that St Cuthbert's have two dates for coffee mornings in the Church.

Every Tuesday, you can come for a coffee and a chat in the Lindisfarne Room between 10.30 am and noon.

The Saturday Coffee mornings on the last Saturday of the month continue.

The next few dates for these are as follows:

28th March 10am to 1pm

25th April 11am to 2pm



30th May 10am to 1pm

27th June 11am to 2pm

Many thanks to helpers and regular supporters of the Saturday coffee mornings. It would be good to see more of the congregation and friends joining us to enjoy the freshly brewed coffee, home baking and company.

If you would be interested in learning more or would like to help, please contact Derek & Lyn for more details on deans_d@sky.com or 07704 131 276

Best Regards

Lyn and Derek

Welcome Guides

The new season starts on Tuesday 7th April (just after Easter) and we would welcome anyone who could spare some time to join our teams of Welcome Guides.

Their remit is to make visitors feel at home in our Church and hope that they leave with happy memories of their visit. It is very rewarding to share the history of the Church and to introduce them to the spectacle of our Sanctuary.

If you would be interested in learning more about becoming a Welcome Guide, please speak to us on a Sunday or contact us by email, telephone or message:

deans_d@sky.com or 07704 131 276

Lyn and Derek

Fresh Start

Fresh Start are very grateful for all our donations of household items and non-perishable food. Please continue to place your donations in the "Big White Box" in the vestibule.



If you are unable to deliver them, please contact Jim McLean and leave a message with your name, phone number and that the call is about Fresh Start. Alternatively, email jamesangusmclean@gmail.com

Stamps

Please note that the Church of Scotland is no longer collecting used stamps.

Other charities though are still accepting used stamps, including RNIB, where you can find more information on RNIBstamps@rnib.org.uk



Future Church Magazines



Are you receiving the magazine the way you would prefer? Are you receiving a printed copy when one sent by email would suffice? Do we have the correct postal address (or email address) for you? If not, please get in touch so that we can sort it out and provide you with the magazine the way you want it.

Please contact the Magazine Editor either by email (to magazine@stcuthberts-edinburgh.uk), by post to Magazine Editor (at St Cuthbert's Parish Church, 5 Lothian Road, Edinburgh, EH1 2EP) or leave notification in the Magazine Editor pigeon hole in the Church Office.

Thanks to those who have already contacted the magazine, but if at any time in the future, you would prefer to receive it in a different format, please do get in touch.

Thank you also for sending in articles for the magazine. Please keep sending them in. If you wish to contribute items to the Church Magazine, please note the following deadlines for the upcoming editions. Material should be sent to the editor by:

June/July 2026 by Wednesday 20th May

August/September 2026 by Monday 20th July

either by e-mail to: magazine@stcuthberts-edinburgh.uk or please leave in the 'Magazine Editor' pigeon-hole in the Church Office.

And now for something completely different

Here are the solutions from the puzzles from the last magazine.

How did you get on? I imagine some of you who attempted the second, more challenging, puzzle, may still be scratching their heads trying to solve it (like the editor). It proved to be extremely challenging.

Easy

9	4	7	2	1	8	3	6	5
1	8	3	9	6	5	2	4	7
2	6	5	7	3	4	9	1	8
7	5	8	4	9	6	1	3	2
6	1	4	8	2	3	5	7	9
3	2	9	1	5	7	6	8	4
8	3	1	5	7	9	4	2	6
4	9	6	3	8	2	7	5	1
5	7	2	6	4	1	8	9	3

More Challenging

4	9	3	6	5	2	1	8	7
1	5	6	8	7	4	9	2	3
8	2	7	1	3	9	4	5	6
5	4	8	3	2	6	7	9	1
3	1	9	5	8	7	2	6	4
6	7	2	9	4	1	5	3	8
2	6	5	4	1	8	3	7	9
7	8	4	2	9	3	6	1	5
9	3	1	7	6	5	8	4	2



STANDARD WORSHIP AT ST CUTHBERT'S

SUNDAY

9.30 am **Holy Communion**, Memorial Chapel, on the first Sunday of the month

10.30 am **Morning Worship**

Communion is included in the service on the last Sunday of each month

We celebrate a more formal Holy Communion service on a quarterly basis: on the last Sunday of January, June and October and on Easter Day

On the second Sunday of each month, Holy Communion is celebrated after the morning service in the Anam Chara Chapel

FIRST TUESDAY IN THE MONTH

12.15 pm Post Coffee Morning Worship, Memorial Chapel

FIRST WEDNESDAY IN THE MONTH (not January, July and August)

12.30 pm-5 pm **soul space** *Come and go!*
Reflection at 1 pm and 4.30 pm,
Soul Space takes place in the Church and is
also available online



THE VISION OF THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST CUTHBERT

To be living out the Gospel of Jesus Christ at the heart of our city as God's people in the West End of Edinburgh; sharing God's love, offering a home to friends and strangers alike, and providing a hub to discern the Vision of God.

St Cuthbert's is a congregation of the Church of Scotland. We also belong to the ecumenical parish grouping Edinburgh City Centre Churches Together. We are also part of the HeartEdge network of churches initiated by St Martin-in-the-Fields, London

St Cuthbert's is an 'eco-congregation'



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