



The Parish Church of St Cuthbert

Dr Hazel Hastie MSc CQSW PhD AIWS *Interim Moderator*

The Revd Suzie Stark BD(Min) *Locum Minister*

Mr Graham MacLagan BMus PGDE CertTh *Director of Music*

The Presentation of our Lord in the Temple

Sunday 1 February 2026

A warm welcome to worship.

Today, we mark the **Presentation of our Lord in the Temple** (also known as **Candlemas**), celebrated each year on 2 February. Candlemas marks the end of the season of celebration of the Lord's Nativity, and the liturgical colours for this day of celebration are **white** and **gold**.

This morning, we welcome **Mr Graeme Brownlee** as Organist and Choirmaster.

Hymns are unannounced and sung standing unless otherwise indicated. Please ask one of the Duty Elders if there is not a hymnbook (purple Church Hymnary) near your seat.

The text of the **Psalm** can be found in this Order of Service. The **Alleluia**, the **Creed** and the **Lord's Prayer** can be found in the hymnbook at the numbers indicated.

Bible Readings are taken from the New Revised Standard Version. Please ask one of the Duty Elders if you would like a copy.

Congregational responses are printed in **bold**. The congregation is encouraged to join in with the saying of '**Amen**' at the end of prayers.

Please join us after the service in the Lammermuir Hall for tea and coffee.

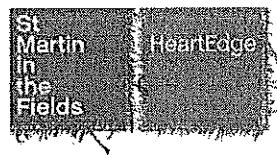
Please note this service is being filmed and broadcast live on the church's website and YouTube channel. If you do not wish to be seen, please make your wishes known.



The Church of Scotland

www.stcuthberts-edinburgh.uk

GREYFRIARS
an inspiring community



Scottish Charity Number SC010592

APPROACH TO GOD

INTROIT

Lumière de Dieu, inonde la terre,
visite nos cœurs, et demeure avec nous.

*Light of God, give light to the world,
visit our hearts, and remain with us.*

Church Hymnary, Fourth Edition, Hymn 784

Text and Music: the sisters of the
Grandchamp Community, Switzerland

OPENING SENTENCE

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.
**The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has never overcome it.**

St John 1: 5

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us worship God.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

460 Join all the glorious names

CALL TO PRAYER

please remain standing

PRAYERS OF APPROACH
AND CONFESSION

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

please be seated

COLLECT FOR THE
PRESENTATION OF OUR
LORD IN THE TEMPLE

**Gracious God,
your Son Jesus Christ was presented in the temple
and acclaimed the light of the nations.
Grant that in him we may be presented to you,
and in the world may shine as lights reflecting his glory;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you
and also with you.

HYMN

560 Jesus, the very thought of thee

THE WORD OF GOD

OLD TESTAMENT

Malachi 3: 1-4

EPISTLE

Hebrews 2: 14-18

PSALM 36

**1 Your steadfast love is great, O Lord;
it reaches heaven high.
Your faithfulness is wonderful,
extending to the sky.**

Tune at Hymn 28

**2 Your righteousness is very great,
like mountains high and steep;
your justice is like ocean depths.
Both man and beast you keep.**

**4 They feast within your house, and
from streams of your delight. [drink
For with you is the source of life;
in your light we see light.**

**3 How precious is your steadfast love!
What confidence it brings!
Both high and low find shelter in
the shadow of your wings.**

**5 To those who know you as their God,
your steadfast love impart;
maintain your righteousness to those
of pure and upright heart.**

'Sing Psalms', The Free Church of Scotland, 2003, Psalm 36: 5-10

THE GOSPEL

St Luke 2: 22-40

ALLELUIA

the music can be found at Hymn 751

THE SERMON

The Revd Suzie Stark

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

ANTHEM

Nunc Dimittis (The Song of Simeon)

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace
according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen thy
salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all
people; to be a light to lighten the Gentiles and to be the
glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy
Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall
be world without end. Amen.

Text: St Luke 2: 29-32

Music: Evening Service in C minor, George Dyson (1883-1964)

THE APOSTLES' CREED *the text can be found at Hymn 628*

HYMN **332 When Mary brought her treasure**

PRAYERS OF
INTERCESSION *One of the following responses may be used:*
Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.
Lord, hear us: Lord, graciously hear us.

The OFFERING is collected, and received during the singing of:

DOXOLOGY **Sing to the Lord of heaven and earth,** Hymn 810
whom angels serve and saints adore,
the Father, Son, and Spirit blest
to whom be praise for evermore. Amen.

SURSUM CORDA The Lord be with you.
and also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PRAYERS OF
THANKSGIVING and
THE LORD'S PRAYER *the text can be found at Hymn 652, second form (b)*

DISMISSAL HYMN **456 Christ is the world's true light** Tune at Hymn 182

DISMISSAL and BLESSING **Threefold Amen**
Music: Danish

ORGAN RECESSIONAL



Weekly Intimations

Prayerful Practice

As we keep Candlemas and turn from Christmas towards the year ahead, may the light of Christ steady our hearts, guide our steps, and guard all who walk in places of fear or uncertainty.

Congregational Survey

You will see from the insert in today's OOS that we are carrying out a congregational survey. If you are unable to fill in the details online, then please stop and have a word with Christine at the end, as she can help facilitate this. Paper copies can also be issued. For further information, please contact Christine at sessionclerk@stcuthberts-edinburgh.uk

Tuesday 3rd February, 12noon: Holy Communion in Memorial Chapel

Please join us for a short service of Holy Communion in the Memorial Chapel at 12noon on Tuesday. All welcome.

Sunday 8th February, 11.30am: Holy Communion in Anam Chara Chapel

Please join us after the service next Sunday for a short service of Holy Communion held in the Anam Chara Chapel.

Tuesday 10th February, 7pm: Session Meeting

The next meeting of the Kirk Session will be held on the evening of 10th February, at 7pm in the Lindisfarne Room.

Sunday 22nd February: Greyfriars-St Cuthbert's Joint Service & Lunch

Please join us for a joint luncheon of soup and sandwiches here at St Cuthbert's following the Joint Communion Service with Greyfriars. All are warmly invited.

Tuesday Coffee Morning, 10.30am – noon

Pop along for a coffee and a chat in the Lindisfarne Room. The coffee morning will not be held on 30th December, but will recommence in the new year

Saturday Coffee Mornings

28 th February	11am-2pm
28 th March	10am-1pm
25 th April	11am-2pm

Bottle Tops

Please note that we are no longer collecting bottle tops. Since the change in plastics, these can now be recycled with your milk bottle. Many thanks.

Stamps

The Church of Scotland will cease to collect used stamps by February this year. Other charities are still collecting them, including RNIB, who can be contacted directly for details on RNIBstamps@rnib.org.uk.

FreshStart

FreshStart 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 telephone Jim McLean on **0131 332 5114** and leave a message with your name, phone number and that the call is about FreshStart, or email jamesangusmclean@gmail.com

St Cuthbert's Bible Fellowship Group

All are welcome to participate in this group every Thursday during term time at 7.30pm. The topic for this term is the Letter to the Romans. The focus of the group is on fellowship. Meetings are on Zoom and details are from martin.pearce2109@outlook.com.

Prayer Circle

Prayer requests should be made to **Irene Gill** on **226 2727**. For longer term prayer, please add names to the purple book in the vestibule. If you could be part of the Prayer Circle and spend time praying for others, please contact Irene.

Interested in being more involved?

We are looking for people who want to become more involved with our Sunday Worship. If you are interested in being involved with intercessory prayer, or in assisting our Duty Elders as a Sunday Welcomer, please contact Christine at sessionclerk@stcuthberts-edinburgh.uk. These are roles integral to the welcoming and prayerful atmosphere of St Cuthbert's.

Greyfriars Kirk & St Cuthbert's Parish Church

Working Towards Union Newsletter: Issue 1 February 2026

It has been some time since we published a newsletter on Union matters and we understand that an update communication is overdue. 2025 brought challenges for both congregations but ended on a more positive note as we explain below.

Union Progress

Following a joint Kirk Session Meeting in March which raised a number of issues, there was a pause in Union discussions. The Presbytery Deployment Committee met with both Kirk sessions so that concerns could be aired and output from the meetings was shared between the two Sessions. The Deployment Committee are now actively involved and are in fact facilitating our Working Group meetings.

This team is led by Rev Dr Stewart Weaver and he is supported by Mrs Karen McKay and Mr Robert Armour. These representatives also met with the elders of both congregations in November. It has been helpful to have their support and experience of other Unions in the presbytery and elsewhere. This support is necessary as we take on more challenging conversations around our Union, and get down to the practicalities of what a Union could look like, to see the positives which could result and, more importantly, how the united congregation could function.

The Presbytery Deployment Group produced a paper, based on the output from that meeting of Elders in November, which focuses in on the key points for resolution before union. The Working Group considered the first two areas for discussion at a meeting in December. We agreed following that Working Group Meeting, we needed to take the mind of the Kirk Sessions and Congregations on the patterns and timings of worship, bearing in mind, that under the Presbytery Plan, we will be allocated only one ordained minister of word and sacrament to the united congregation. If the union is voted through, then, until we appoint our new Minister we will have a single locum Minister covering both St Cuthbert's and Greyfriars, so it makes sense for us to have established a basic model of worship patterns, to take us through the vacancy until a minister is called.

The Deployment Committee has also suggested that if a basic structure is in place, it could prove more attractive for a new incoming Minister knowing groundwork has been done and that they don't have to start from scratch. The new Minister, will undoubtedly have ideas of their own on how the congregation will work, but it is better to have a foundation to build upon.

The two Kirk Sessions have been asked to consider this matter in some detail. Both Kirk Sessions are committed to the continuation of regular services being held at both churches on Sundays, with the exception of Communion Sundays (last Sunday of the month), which will continue to be held in one of the two churches alternately, as we currently enjoy.

Patterns for Sunday Worship in Union

In light of that commitment, two particular patterns for regular services emerged as the strongest options:

1. "staggered" worship times – with the minister leading services at both churches, for example one church having a service at 10am and the other at 11:30am
2. Services continuing at 10:30am at both churches – with the minister alternating between the two.

After consideration, both Kirk Sessions have agreed that the second option, continuing services at both churches at 10:30am the preferable option. A primary factor in this was the number of people and groups that would be adversely impacted by a change to staggered service times, including church choirs who practise before services, bell-ringers at St Cuthberts who have duties at other churches on Sundays too, and the practicalities of travelling to services in the city centre on Sundays, especially for those using public transport to attend the earlier service, or incurring council parking charges to attend the later service.

Another benefit from continuing services at both churches at 10:30am is that the monthly 9:30am communion services can continue at both churches, though as it is currently held at both churches on the first Sunday of the month it is proposed that one of the churches moves this to the second Sunday of the month in due course. It also ensures no adverse impact upon the Gaelic congregation which holds services at Greyfriars at 12:30pm.

Two primary points for consideration come with the preferred option. First, that the minister will not be able to attend services at both churches each Sunday. While this might be seen as a "downside", the "upside" is that the minister will be able to enjoy fellowship over tea and coffee at services at both churches every other week. If a staggered pattern was agreed, they would not be able to do this after the earlier service, thus one church missing out on that aspect of ministry presence.

Following from this, the second point is that others will be required to lead regular services at churches every second Sunday. However, with a mixture of pulpit supply from visiting ministers and readers, and volunteers from both churches, it is thought that this will become a real benefit to the united congregation, creating a wider worship group involved in leading services, sharing their talents and strengthening the sustainability of church life. Members of both churches' Kirk Sessions have volunteered to be part of this group, others who wish to be involved in this are warmly welcome too.

Your Views

The Kirk Sessions are now keen to know whether the two congregations are content with the direction of travel for services on a Sunday. With that in mind, we will be very grateful if you could complete the short survey available in paper format from the welcomers with orders of services on Sundays or electronically [here](#). We would appreciate **responses by Sunday 15 February**, to enable collation and review for the working group to consider when it next meets on 24 February. Any additional questions or comments, to those prompted by the survey itself, are welcome too.

Please do complete this if you presently attend, or intend to attend, services at either church, however frequent (weekly, monthly etc) and whether you are a formal member of the congregation or not. If completing in paper form, please return your survey to a working group representative or one of the two church offices. There will also be a box at each church to receive responses after Sunday services for the next few weeks.

Members of the Union Working Group are available to help you complete this survey over coffee/tea after services, and help with any questions you have about anything contained in this newsletter or the general progress of union discussions. The members of the group representing both churches are:

St Cuthbert's representatives – Christine McGuinness (Co- Chair), and Graham MacLagan, John Kirk, James McLean, Jeannette Barton, Scott Turnbull.

Greyfriars representatives – Gillian Couper (Co-Chair) and Catherine Alexander, Anne Bradbury, Maggie Cormack, Jo Elliot. [Get in touch!](#) Contact Christine/Gillian through church offices: sessionclerk@stcuthberts-edinburgh.uk or tel 0131 229 1142; contact@greyfriarskirk.com or tel 0131 225 1900. All thoughts welcome.

**Greyfriars Kirk & St Cuthbert's Parish Church
Patterns of Worship Congregation Survey – February 2026**

(1) Which church do you currently attend regular services at: Greyfriars / St Cuthberts

(2) Once the two churches unite, are you happy for the Kirk Session to arrange for services to continue at both churches at 10:30 am?

Yes / No

(3) If you would like to add any comments as to your reasons for the above answer, please add those here:

(4) Would you be willing to help lead services as part of a worship leadership group, say once a year (or more if you wish)? **Please tick any/all that apply** (if you are already helping in some way, please do tick again to assist as we gather info).

Yes – I would be willing to prepare a short talk (e.g. 10 mins, like a sermon)

Yes – I would be willing to read out a talk prepared by someone else

Yes – I would be willing to prepare and lead prayers

Yes – I would be willing to read out prayers prepared by someone else

Yes – I would be willing to read Bible passages

No

(5) If you would be interested in finding out how to be involved in services in some other way (e.g. choir, catering, welcoming on the door, or any other role), please add comments here:
