

THE PARISH
CHURCH OF
ST CUTHBERT EDINBURGH



Church Magazine



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ST CUTHBERT'S TEAM

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Contents: Locum Minister's Letter (p3), Ministry during the vacancy (p4), Message from the Interim Moderator (p4), From the Tower Room (p5), Margaret Pollock (p6), Reports from St Cuthbert's (p9) including: A significant change for St Cuthbert's (p9), Community Carol Service and Congregational lunch (p10), Sermon by Rev Stewart Gillan (p10), Bible Fellowship Group (p13), The joy of worship (p14), News from the Ukrainian St Margaret's Saturday School (p15); A final, final word from Rev Peter Sutton? (p16), Out and About (p17) including VE Day 80 celebrations (p17), Life and Work (p18); General Notices (p18), including Congregational Roll (p18), Church service on Sunday 30th March (p19), Welcome Guides (p20), Tuesday and Saturday Coffee Mornings (p20).

Front cover: Easter approaches

Locum Minister's Letter

Dear Friends

Where to start? First of all, it is good to be back in your midst as your Locum Minister, a new beginning for us all. Secondly, I would not be here had Peter not departed to take up his new post in Charleston, bringing to an end his time as Parish Minister. I know that he had a lovely send-off and his letter of thanks is printed in this issue of the magazine, and I join with you in wishing him well in his new ministry.



I'm struck by how much and how little has changed, if that makes sense. It has been lovely to reacquaint myself with many old

friends within the congregation, but at such a sad time as we lost two of our number last month, Margaret Pollock and Jeanette Sheil, and we received word, only last week, of the death of Janice Todd earlier this month.

Another new beginning has seen Rev Dr John Carswell take up his post as Locum at Greyfriars and it was a privilege for me to share conduct of our Ash Wednesday Service with John and to attend Soul Space afterwards along with new friends from Greyfriars. As we travel through Lent ever closer to Holy Week and Easter, we might find ourselves reflecting on endings and beginnings. As Jesus prepares himself and his disciples for what must take place in Jerusalem, he looks to an ending that for us, his people, brings about a new beginning, new life and sins forgiven.

As we journey through life we are faced with endings that can be tough for us to contemplate, and from time to time, we also face new beginnings that can bring with them their own challenges. Through all the changes and challenges that endings and beginnings bring we know one thing, and that is we do not journey alone, we journey together as a community of faith, here to love and support one another and those we meet on the road that lies ahead. We also know that we journey onwards with God, who will sustain, guide and keep us all our days, and for that we give thanks.

With every blessing,

Suzie

Rev Suzie M Stark

Ministry during the Vacancy

The people of St Cuthbert's are no strangers to Locum Ministers. In the last 20 years or so we have had several, including Charlie Robertson and George Whyte - and me (twice now). My role is to lead worship and to assist with the pastoral care of the congregation alongside Kirsten Kooy. Our Interim Moderator, Hazel Hastie, has also contributed to this edition of the magazine and together Hazel and I are two halves of a whole.

Like previous Locums, I am employed for three days a week, and going forward my intention is to work Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays, being in the church on a Tuesday morning as well as on a Sunday and visiting as and when required. Kirsten and I will work closely together and I hope to visit anyone that would like Communion at home or who might like a minister to visit. The suggested days are not set in stone.

Kind regards, Suzie

Message from the Interim Moderator

Dear Friends

My name is Dr Hazel Hastie and I have been appointed by the Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian to be your Interim Moderator, working alongside you as St Cuthbert's and Greyfriars move towards a Union. As well as being Presbytery Clerk, I am an elder at Drylaw Parish Church. I'm really looking forward to being with you all over the coming months.



An Interim Moderator has a dual role to discharge. On the one hand, being the Presbytery's appointee, the Interim Moderator is expected to help in representing the views of the Presbytery to the congregation. On the other hand, as the congregation's minister for the time being, the Interim Moderator may be called on to help in representing the congregation's views to the Presbytery. The Interim Moderator acts with all the powers and authority of an inducted minister, even where the regular preaching and pastoral aspects of ministry are delivered by a Locum.

We are now in the season of Lent, an old English word meaning spring. This special time has been used by Christians since the earliest days as a time for spiritual 'spring cleaning' and 'pruning' so that we may be able to experience afresh the new life of Easter working within us. Joyce Huggett, who has written a number of Lent books, writes "Just as a bulb cannot be ready for spring unless it has lived through

winter, so Christians cannot be ready for Easter unless they have observed Lent: God's Springtime".

Self-control and worship: you might think that they are a strange combination, but these two things help to give us a proper focus for Lent.

Self-control is more than resisting chocolate biscuits! It is about having control over the time you give to God during the days leading up to Easter. How will you resolve to use this God-given time? Perhaps you could join a Lent study group, take time to read one of the many books about Lent which are available, or set aside some time for extra Bible reading. You could quite simply look again at the Sunday morning readings and reflect on them.

Lent is a good time to think about the way you pray and perhaps to try something different — Lent is a wonderful time to draw closer to God and self-control and worship are excellent tools to do that.

Best wishes

Hazel

FROM THE TOWER ROOM

Welcome to this year's Easter magazine.

Christine McGuinness in her article on the next page sums up the events of the last couple of months succinctly – a period of significant change in the life, worship and witness of St Cuthbert's.

Peter has demitted office and is replaced as locum minister by Rev Suzie Stark who I know will be well known to many of you. Suzie pens her first 'Minister's letter' to the congregation and we wish her well in her new role, as we do also for Dr Hazel Hastie, who is the Interim Moderator. As well as introducing herself, Dr Hastie also describes the role of Interim Moderator.

We were delighted to have preaching here in St Cuthbert's in February the minister of St Andrew's Scots Kirk in Jerusalem and we include his sermon that day (p10-p12). Martin Pearce keeps us up to date with the Bible Fellowship Group, the Ukrainian St Margaret's Saturday School and adds another article on the Joy of Worship.

VE day, 1945 was certainly a day of rejoicing not just in Britain but in many countries across the world. The 80th anniversary on 8th May is fast approaching and we are being asked whether we have any photos or other memorabilia of that day. One of the 'case studies' being featured in a booklet created by a London based organisation features a war-time padre, who just happened to be an Assistant Minister of St Cuthbert's before the war (and even more amazingly, spent 30 years as minister at Greyfriars Kirk). Please see page 17 for more information.

Stewart Cowe

Margaret Pollock – a tribute by Peter Watson

I first encountered Margaret in October 1963. I met her sister, Evelyn, at a Student Union dance and went to pick her up later for a date. Evelyn was impressed that I was a second-year student, a year ahead of her. She introduced me to Margaret, who obviously did not share Evelyn's view. The atmosphere was decidedly chilly. She reminded me that Evelyn had to be home by eleven o'clock.

Evelyn and I became an item, but I did not see Margaret a lot. Evelyn told me that Margaret had spotted me driving in town on my new scooter and did not think I looked safe.

I concentrated on impressing Evelyn, going round on Saturday evenings to cook Arbroath smokies. Margaret often seemed to be out. I could not decide if it was the smokies or me that she did not like.

Eventually, Evelyn and I got engaged. I was a student living on £100 a term, so the ring was not spectacular, but Margaret could not doubt my commitment.

When I was a graduate student, the Ministry of Transport gave me a sizeable grant. As a civil servant, Margaret understood this achievement and I went up a little in her estimation. She organised a splendid wedding for us in Blackhall Church. She did the flowers. Perhaps I had finally been accepted.

I tell this story to exemplify the kind of person Margaret was. Her first priority was to protect her younger sister. If I passed this test, I would have earned it. She had very high standards.

She had progressed in the Civil Service by applying herself diligently. This differentiated her from the crowd. I was talking to someone recently who told me that she had been "an exceptional civil servant". He had heard this from her Permanent Secretary.

I discovered she was very keen on flowers. She tended the family garden. Buckingham Terrace was always full of plants and flowers. Visiting, we would find flowers everywhere. That meant that she was doing the flowers for the church. I swear that she had her florist on speed-dial. Evelyn also loved flowers. They shared a special Pollock gene.

But she studied flower arranging. She bought books on it. She was a regular at the Flower Club. She went on courses. She took photographs of arrangements that inspired her. She always did everything to the best of her ability.

A dream job in America came up and Evelyn and I announced that we were moving to Chicago. Margaret did not take the news well. I felt like a traitor.

Evelyn sent postcards from the places we visited. Those postcards are still in Margaret's flat. She really treasured them. She never forgot a birthday. She learnt how to Skype to keep up with family activities. She was more than an aunt; she was a friend and a confidant, a perennial presence in our lives as we were in hers.

After we started a family, Margaret became a regular visitor. She did not miss a single Christmas. She did the floral decorations. Margaret knew all the words to the carols and sung louder than anyone else.

We took her on a hiking trip to the Shenandoah Valley. We hiked down from the road. Margaret did fine. Margaret struggled with the climb up, but made it under her own steam. This too was Margaret: determined to overcome any and all obstacles.

One year, after a family holiday in Sutherland, we bought a remote shepherd's cottage, which we all knew as "Rogart". Margaret loved "Rogart" and its panoramic view with only three houses visible. It became her escape. She went by herself and with friends. She was well-known in Rogart. When I was in the village shop last Autumn, the people asked after her.

She was besotted with Dornoch: its cathedral, watching our children on the beach, looking at the sea, reading the paper. When the drive north began to tire her, she found a B & B to break the journey. She could always find a way.

My family returned to the UK in 1999—yes, two years had somehow become twenty-nine—but Margaret never held it against us! On Millenium Eve in Dornoch, I hid a diamond solitaire ring in Evelyn's cracker to replace her £18 engagement ring that had been lost. I pressed Evelyn to check her cracker. Margaret kept a straight face and roared with laughter when Evelyn discovered the ring. Margaret's stern appearance belies a wicked sense of humour.

When we came home, we brought two extra computers—for my mother and Margaret. Each protested that they had no use for such a thing. I set them up and each became totally addicted! Margaret turned from technophobe to fan, acquiring a Smart TV, an iPad and an iPhone and using Uber for her taxis. She introduced me to Uber.

It would be remiss if I failed to mention Margaret's love-hate relationship with her computer. It had a mind of its own. "It's not talking to the printer." "It's hidden my files." I suggested that she might have inadvertently changed something. Her indignant reply was always, "I did no such thing!" I never convinced her that she couldn't always blame the computer.

After Evelyn died, I called in on Margaret on my way North. Sometimes, she stayed with me in Rogart. We chatted into the wee hours. We discussed politics

about which she was knowledgeable. We shared our doubts about the Scottish National Party. We liked good food and treated each other to meals out.

Margaret lived in a drawing room flat on the edge of the New Town—not a coincidence. She liked to be surrounded by nice things. We invited Margaret to Royal Ascot on a special birthday. Margaret was in her element, right at home with the designer dresses, top hats and tails. We watched the Queen and Prince Philip drive by in their landau, almost within touching distance. She even got onto the observation platform with the Chelsea Pensioners, appearing on ITV's coverage, although she would have preferred the BBC.

In our late-night conversations, the topic often turned to St Cuthbert's. I discovered that being Session Clerk was a full-time job, replete with correspondence, committees and meetings. She was constantly on her computer. Her commitment astounded me as did her attention to detail and mastery of her subject. And it all had to be done according to her watchword, "properly". And the only reward she sought was knowing that St Cuthbert's was in good hands.

As if that was not enough, she took on the organisation of weddings. She delighted in working with young couples starting on their life's journey. She planned everything down to the last detail, not for herself, but so that their special day would be as perfect as possible. Some couples became friends. That brought her great joy.

Could she be stubborn? Yes. Did she suffer fools gladly? No. Did we sometimes suffer the sharp edge of her tongue? Yes. But you know what? These were mere foibles, far outweighed by her commitment, her determination, her compassion and her service.

How can I sum up Margaret? Her faith came first. It sustained and comforted her through thick and thin, and she knew both. Her dedication to her church gave her a purpose in life. Then came family—her sister, her nieces and her great nieces and nephews, and me—and numerous friends that she kept in touch with. She loved the natural environment, flowers and beaches. She loved her flat and she loved her city.

She engaged with everyone and everything that she came across. The world she lived in was constantly changing—and she changed with it. She moved with the times. She adapted. If something was hard, she met it head-on. She accepted, albeit reluctantly, what she could not change. She was fiercely loyal. She lived a rich and full life. She achieved more than most people could only dream of. She was a legend.

Godspeed, Margaret.

A significant change for St Cuthbert's

February delivered significant change in the life, worship and witness of St Cuthberts. We were so saddened to learn of Margaret Pollock's passing and to acknowledge her service, dedication and commitment not only to St Cuthbert's but also the wider Church of Scotland over several decades. As our Session Clerk, there is no denying she leaves huge shoes to fill.

Rev Dr Peter Sutton also demitted his charge, to take up a new post in the USA.

At this time of transition, as we continue the journey towards Union with Greyfriars Kirk, I am sure many of you have mixed emotions. We wish Peter well in his new post: however we are acutely aware that Peter was the last Minister to be appointed as sole charge to the Parish Church of St Cuthbert.

We find ourselves amidst the biggest challenge we have faced as a congregation and as we approach the future, the Kirk Session are ably supported by our Interim Moderator, Dr Hazel Hastie. Dr Hastie is also The Presbytery Clerk to the Edinburgh and West Lothian Presbytery.

The return of our well-known Locum Minister, Rev Suzie Stark, a much-loved friend to St Cuthbert's, provides us with spiritual nourishment, encouragement and a sense of belonging as we move towards the future Union. Suzie is supported by Kirsten Kooy who leads us in pastoral care and provides much needed visits to those within our congregation who are unable to get to church.

The Kirk Session is supported by me as Deputy Session Clerk and Scott Turnbull as our Treasurer along with many others who give freely of their talents by serving in many ways.

We continue to operate as much as we can and soon we will be opening our doors again, for another year, to show others the treasures of our much loved building.

In this time of change we must remember that long after our many visitors have forgotten the frieze of the 'Last Supper' or the Tiffany window, they will remember the warmth of our welcome, the openness of our hospitality, the depth of our love and compassion.

It is the 'living stones' that make us who we are within our capital city and without the people who worship, we are only bricks and mortar. As we move forward into new territory, please be assured that we are leaving no stone unturned to ensure that we remain the living temple God wants in this place.

Christine McGuinness

Community Carol Service and Congregational Lunch

No, we are not planning to hold a carol service in April!

Back in December 2024, St Cuthbert's hosted a community carol service in the sanctuary, followed by a congregational lunch in the Lammermuir Room. Both events proved very successful and we received a thank you letter from one of those present, Moira Brown. We received it just prior to the publication of the last magazine, but owing to an oversight, the letter was not included then. We are pleased to rectify the omission and also include some photos of the event taken by Kirsten Kooy (please see page 22). We are already one-quarter of the way through 2025, but I am sure that the new year greetings ring just as true now as they did at the turn of the year.

"What a wonderful way it was to start our Christmas celebrations. The Carol Service, at which we were joined by members of Fresh Start, was lovely and who doesn't enjoy singing carols!

After the service, Fresh Start went upstairs for their celebration and we went into the Lammermuir Hall. It was super to meet up with people who we hadn't seen in a while and the atmosphere was so happy. I for one didn't realise the discussion, organising, preparing, cooking, serving and of course the tidying up this involved. The tables were beautifully set out and the three course meal with tea and coffee were exceptional.

What a happy afternoon we all had and I, and I am sure all those who attended, would like to say a big 'thank you' to all who helped make this possible. May I also take this opportunity of wishing you all a happy and peaceful new year.

Best wishes

Moira Brown"

Sermon by Stewart Gillan, St Andrew's Scots Kirk, Jerusalem on 16th February

A number of years ago, I took study leave to look into the words faith leaders find to speak in the face of atrocity. How they arrive at them, in the wake of acts of terror and mass murder. The irony was: the chief finding of my research was that words are not what come first. Presence comes first. The words that come, come from presence – spoken to two or three people initially, then to a growing number of people, perhaps



before the cameras, in worship, or public meetings. At the time and years later, at anniversaries.

Presence embodies the word, the living word of God, following in the footsteps of Christ. It is the Word incarnate in spiritual care, pastoral support and faithful accompaniment. Faith leaders pursue a call to embody the Word of God before they proclaim it. Such presence is both a means of grace. The words themselves might be pastoral or prophetic, but they come from having been there.

A case in point: the Rt Rev Munawar Rumalshah (Bishop Emeritus of Peshawar, Pakistan), or Bishop Mano, as he is known.

I met with him at Paddington Station in London, to discuss his ministry in the wake of a double suicide bombing at All Saints Church in Peshawar during Sunday worship on 22nd September 2013. The attack had taken the lives of 127 and wounded over 250 worshippers, many of whom he had baptised, confirmed, or married. When he came to the words he found to speak, he said, 'It was a sermon of tears. I had to begin with my own pain.' He spoke out of his own shaken-ness.

Before he got there, however, he spoke of visiting his diocese in the months after he had been installed as Bishop. Of the need to 'get under every roof.' Village by village. As he went round, he started with a reading from the Bible, asking that the people choose the text and the reader themselves.

In one village he saw a young girl, perhaps eleven, sweeping the ground under a large tree with a homemade broom. When the people gathered, it was under the tree. When the Bible was read it was by the young girl. When she read, it was the text of the beatitudes as we find them in the gospel according to Matthew.

He looked at me and said: 'That is the only gospel story upon which I have never preached! These words – blessed are the poor in spirit, blessed are the meek, blessed are you when they persecute you – were not written for ordinary human beings! Not for me or you! For Supermen maybe! Superwomen! But not for me!' 'And here was this young girl reading me the beatitudes, telling me what it would take for me to be her bishop!'

Today, we have the beatitudes not as we find them in the gospel according to Matthew – all the blessings – but as we find them in the gospel according to Luke – where we have both blessings and curses! 'Blessed are you' ... together with, 'Woe to you!'

Perhaps Bishop Mano would have been happier with these!

Luke 6: the blessings and woes are mirror images of each other in the text. Let's look at them.

²⁰ Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

"Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ “Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

²² “Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³ Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

²⁴ “But woe to you who are rich ... for you have received your consolation.

²⁵ “Woe to you who are full now ... for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now ... for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶ “Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

The story of the Interfaith Forum for Peace and Human Rights. with Rabbis for Human Rights, with Women Wage Peace, Planning the Peace March for June, before the flag day and the aggressive nationalism of settler youth in the Old City of Jerusalem.

Our process, our journey ... became one about ourselves. Who we were together. With Muslim participants, most of them online, saying we need to slow down. Build trust. Great suspicion attends our participation. Talking to Israelis now.

Decided we needed to identify our shared values. Core values. To proclaim them. That this be our messaging.

The first value we named was the sanctity of life. We agreed we needed to examine ourselves, our lives and work, to ensure our lives and work were about the sanctity of life. And then call out all violators equally, on 7th October ... and after 7th October.

We were called to a ‘bold humility’.

In Scotland, how can we be critical without being labelled antisemitic or Islamophobic? We self-censor. We remain silent. And are now accused of abandonment and the silence of complicity by many Palestinian Christians.

The Interfaith Forum in Jerusalem points to a way to address outrage, hatred, violence. Identifying shared values and standing on that firm ground. One way of putting the sanctity of life, said one woman rabbi, was to say we arrest the right of all equally to live and be honoured. This I think can help us find our own voices.

Blessed are those whose lives and work uphold and strengthen this gospel value. Woe to those whose lives and actions violate the lives and honour of others.

Speaking without fear or favour, speaking this word to ourselves in the first instance.

Rev Stewart Gillan, St Andrew’s Scots Kirk, Jerusalem

St Cuthbert's Bible Fellowship Group

The fellowship group have recently worked through the book called "Stirred by the Storm" by Bill Clinkenbeard and Ian Gilmour for discussions on the future of the Church of Scotland. Bill served as minister in Carrick Knowe Church and in the Presbyterian Church USA; sadly, he died on the 24th February. Ian Gilmour is a former minister of St Andrew's & George's West and served on various church committees. The purpose of the book is to identify proposals for growing the Church of Scotland again.

The book describes the decline of the Church of Scotland and summarises the way the world is changing dramatically, not least from wars, strife, climate change, technology, social media, and the aftermath of Covid.

The fascination of the book were the suggestions of how the Church of Scotland could grow again if we adopted some of the suggestions made by the authors. Three proposals stood out for me that I think would help many a church family/congregation, although I recognise, they might not suit historic churches like St Cuthbert's and Greyfriars.

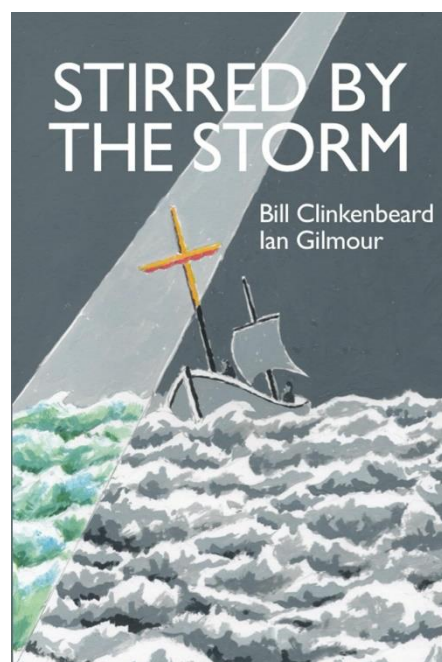
1. Every church family who wants to have children and teenagers in its congregation need a youth worker who is active in the local schools. Ideally, a family's worker / outreach worker should also be employed.
2. Every church who wishes to grow need a worship team in addition to the minister – ministers cannot be present every Sunday morning – nor can they be all things, to all people, in all places – they run out of time and energy.
3. The minister and his/her outreach team need to be with the people through the week – the unchurch will not be present on Sunday mornings – the Church needs to go to the people and establish trust and understanding.

The Bible Fellowship Group has now returned to traditional Bible readings and are focusing on what Jesus preached and did during the days of Holy Week.

All are welcome to join these Thursday evenings of fellowship and discussions at 7.30pm via Zoom.

Please contact Martin Pearce for details at: martin.pearce2109@outlook.com.

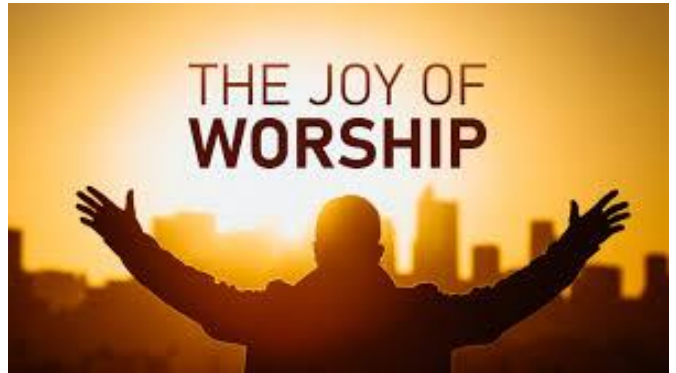
Martin Pearce



The joy of worship

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. (Galatians 5: 22 & 23 -NRSV Anglicised).

I was always surprised in my early days of becoming a Christian that joy came ahead of the other attributes of the Spirit of God. Yes, if you first sense God's love, then you can



accept his forgiveness and have a fresh start to life that very moment, or over time, as you increasingly listen to God's promptings and voice within your soul. You gain a sense of freedom that all the demands and stresses of life no longer threaten to overwhelm you when life gets tough, as it does for most of us at some time in our lives. Christians do not live in protected bubbles. But how long does that sense of joy last for when you experience freedom from anxieties, health challenges or whatever? Perhaps a day or so, perhaps for a few months until the next challenge in life comes along which may wear you down?

The joy of worshipping God regularly through daily prayer and Sunday worship is you can keep that sense of love in your heart, mind, and body, and the Spirit nourishes your soul.

If you make time for daily reflection of life and talk through how you feel with God and give Him thanks for the good things in life like family, church family, and friends, you can sense the love of God in your heart. So often you get an unexpected help to cope with the latest challenge in life when you have shared your hopes and fears with God the Father, God the Son, and with the comforting help of the Holy Spirit.

Such feelings and the development of a personal relationship with Jesus comes together through the joy of regular worship. God is indeed gracious and gives people so many different Christian denominations and therefore so many ways of worshipping. But they all have one essential requirement, that worshippers need to feel the joy of worship.

Music, singing, prayers, the hearing of God's Word preached faithfully from scripture, and church fellowship are all sources of joy. And when we experience such worship, then we receive that inner peace that only God can give. Yes, continue to take your medicines as prescribed by your GP but worship God with all your might and with all your strength and with all your heart and experience the joy of worship.

As we approach the Holy Week services of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Day, there are always additional services to sense God's love, joy, and peace. As we stand before the Cross on Good Friday, we may sense the despair

that the faithful women and John the beloved disciple experienced that day. Nevertheless, the overwhelming joy of worship returns on Easter Day through the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus and his victory over death. Experience the joy of worship through the music and choirs at St Cuthbert's and Greyfriars Kirk this Eastertide, and look forward to your next phase of your life with love, joy and peace in your heart, mind, body, and soul.

Martin Pearce martin.pearce2109@outlook.com

Update on the Ukrainian St Margaret's Saturday School

The Chair of the Trustees, the Reverend Dr Peter Sutton, retired on 31st December 2024 after establishing the School on a sound foundation, and was succeeded by Mr Graham Frost, a retired accountant, financial specialist, and member of Cramond Kirk.

The school has met every Saturday morning since August 2023 during term time at George Heriot's School where the school has generously given access to classroom accommodation. When Heriot's classrooms are unavailable, St Cuthbert's Church has been used for lessons, as well as extra- curricular activities.

Up to seven Ukrainian teachers teach every Saturday morning for 2½ hours. Six English Language teachers, from Edinburgh's private schools, teach on a rota basis such that at least one English teacher is available to teach every Saturday morning.

At the request of parents, extra-curricular activities have increased throughout 2024/25 and take place most Saturday afternoons, which have included singing, dancing, story-telling, first-aid training, visits, a major art exhibition in support of Edinburgh 900 (19th October to 27th October at St Cuthbert's), baking, craftwork, a Christmas Party, and fund raising for Edinburgh hospital charities. Many of these activities have taken place at St Cuthbert's, and some at Greyfriars Kirk and St John's Episcopal Church.

The School has about 40 children registered, ages from 5 to 18. Even in winter, about 25 children attend Saturday mornings of whom most stay on after school to participate in the extra-curricular activities. All children seem to have bonded well with one another, and greatly enjoy the company of other Ukrainian children, notably the teenagers. Nearly all the children and students speak and understand English very well. Funds were raised from parental contributions, private donations, Church of Scotland congregations, donations from private schools, Edinburgh Trades Charity, and more recently the National Lottery.

The School has sufficient funds to continue to the end of the school year in June 2025. The academic subjects continue to be taught by the same teaching staff that started the School. The variety of extra-curricular activities, part funded by the National

Lottery, has increased this year to give the children greater exposure to the culture of Scotland, whilst giving the children opportunities to look out for one another on visits. A decision will have to be made shortly to decide if the school should continue for a third year. This will be dependent upon the number of teachers remaining in Edinburgh, and the likely size of the student intake. Our thanks to all at St Cuthbert's who have supported the refugee children and families so faithfully and generously.

Martin Pearce (Secretary and Treasurer) – email martin.j.pearce@blueyonder.co.uk

A final, final word from Peter?

At the close of his final service on Sunday 23rd February, Peter was presented with a line drawing of St Cuthbert's by the artist Bryan de Grineau (1883 to 1957). He was a prolific artist and was attached to the Field Artillery in the First World War to draw battlefield images. He was also particularly known for his pictures of racing cars and aeroplanes.

The drawing was purchased from the Great Western Auctions in Glasgow, where it was catalogued as Rosslyn Chapel. I think we can safely tell the auctioneers that they were incorrect in their description!

In the last magazine, we included the story of a remarkable link between 'the call' of Peter Sutton's great, great uncle and First (Scot's) Presbyterian Church, where Peter was heading. The title to the story went by the name of "A final word from Peter".

Knowing Peter, surely I must have realised that the word 'final' often has a totally different meaning than that used for other mere mortals! And so it proved.

Subsequent to the presentation, Peter wrote a letter of thanks and I am pleased to share it with you here.

Dear Christine,

Please pass on my heartfelt thanks to the elders, members and friends of the great church of St Cuthbert's which it has been my privilege to lead over the last eight years. My final Sunday was made so special by the wonderful music in our worship so expertly crafted by Graham and our fabulous choir.

Huge thanks to Scott for organising the gathering after the service and to Jim for his kind words. The painting which John sourced was expertly chosen and will ensure many happy and fond memories will be rekindled in the years to come. The



generosity of everyone in the gift I received was overwhelming and I was humbled to receive them.

I move onto new pastures with many happy memories of fine folk who seek to serve Christ in the heart of the West End in our Garden Parish.

I wish you all God's speed in the journey that lies ahead for St Cuthbert's; a Church and a people which I will always treasure in my heart. Once again, thank you ALL so much.

Grace and Peace,

Peter

OUT AND ABOUT

VE Day 80 celebrations

The 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe takes place on 8th May 2025. There will be many celebrations across Britain on that date and members of St Cuthbert's can play a part too.

The Church was contacted by Jennifer Rowland from the *Scots in London* association, an umbrella group for London-based, Scottish organisations. Their purpose

is to co-ordinate members' events, promote Scottish heritage and culture in the London area, support relevant charities and enhance the life in the capital.

Scots in London are currently compiling a short VE Day 80 memorial booklet (which will be issued free to the public) with articles about their member organisations during the war. One of the articles is based on the diaries of Rev Dr Stuart Loudon of the Church of Scotland who served as an army chaplain and was a prisoner of war from 1942 to April 1945. Arriving back in England on 6th May, the next day he took the sleeper train to Edinburgh, marking VE Day, not just in Edinburgh but attending the Thanksgiving Service in St Cuthbert's.

We are being asked by Jennifer if we have any photographs of Edinburgh on VE Day? There do not seem to be any such images in St Cuthbert's archives, and I know it is a long short, but if any readers do have any that they would be willing to share, they would be gratefully appreciated. You would not have to part with these photos as they could be scanned here and the images forwarded to London. Any photos would be appropriately accredited



If you do manage to find any old photos, please send them either by email to the Magazine address (magazine@stcuthberts-edinburgh.uk) or leave in the Magazine Editor pigeon hole in the Church Office.

It is worth mentioning that Rev Louden was an assistant minister at St Cuthbert's for a couple of years between 1936 and 1938, hence his choice of church when he arrived in Edinburgh in May 1945. After the war, he was ordained to the charge in St Mary's Old Aberdeen but for 30 years, he ministered at Greyfriars, our union partner. Is Rev Louden the only minister to have served both St Cuthbert's and Greyfriars?

Life and Work

The April edition contains:

Assembly Trustees

'The heart of ministry continues': Dave Kendall, Chief Officer of the Church of Scotland explains why God's work is not limited by budgets.

Faith Action Programme 'A pivotal issue': The Rev Dr John Ferguson reflects on the importance of the debate surrounding assisted dying.

'A calling like no other': Gifts of Rural Ministry

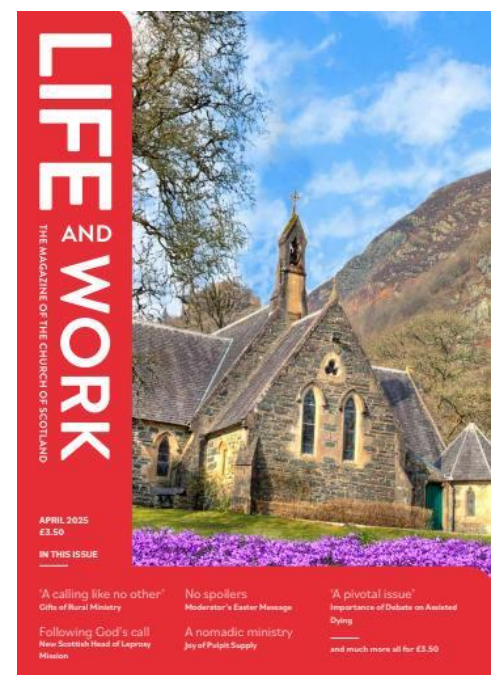
Following God's call: New Scottish Head of Leprosy Mission

No spoilers: the Moderator's Easter Message

A nomadic ministry: the joy of pulpit supply

Plus: official update from the Assembly Trustees, readers' pictures, letters, reviews and puzzles – all for £3.50.

www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe or contact St Cuthbert's Life and Work co-ordinator.



GENERAL NOTICES

Congregational Roll

Deaths *I am the resurrection and the life*

8th February 2025 Miss Margaret I Pollock

February 2025 Miss Jeanette Shiels

.....3rd March 2025 Miss Janice Todd (an obituary will appear in the next magazine)

Note that a Service of Thanksgiving for Jeanette Shiels will be held in St Cuthbert's Church on Monday 14th April at 2pm to which all friends and members of the congregation are warmly invited.

Church Service on Sunday 30th March

Please note that there is no service at St Cuthbert's on Sunday 30th March. The service at 10.30am that day is a joint service at Greyfriars Kirk.

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 who would like 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 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.

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 email Jim McLean on jamesangusmclean@gmail.com

Steps to Hope

Our charity partner continues to provide, on Sunday and Monday evenings, a hot home-cooked meal for people who find themselves in difficult situations.

Would you be interested or do you know of anyone who would like the opportunity to support the local community and volunteer to assist with the Sunday meals at St Cuthbert's?

The main duty is to open and close the building to ensure that our Charity partners can continue to provide their meal service.

Please get in touch with the church office for more details.



Welcome Guides

A reminder that the 2025 Guiding Season starts on Tuesday 22nd April (after Easter). There will be a pre-season meeting on Tuesday 8th April at 12.30 pm to which all guides or those interested on becoming guides are invited. Coffee and cakes will be provided. There will be an opportunity on the 8th to see some or all of the new stock we will have for the 2025 season.

Lyn and Derek Deans

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 10.30am and 11.30am.

On Tuesday, 11th March, the self-styled "best coffee club" in Edinburgh had a special celebration for Joy Kerridge's birthday. Several people enjoyed the magnificent cake and sung Happy Birthday lustily, including former St Cuthbert's minister, Tom Cuthell. The cake was provided by Alistair Bryson and a good time was held by all (see photos, on the next page).

The coffee club is hosted ably by Valerie Blackburn, and all are welcome between 10.30 and 11.30 am most Tuesdays.



We also host a coffee morning on the last Saturday of each month. We had another successful one on Saturday 22nd February with a mix of congregation and visitors. Everyone is welcome and a great big thanks to all the bakers.

The next ones are as follows:

29th March 11am to 2pm

26th April 11am to 2pm

31st May 11am to 2 pm

We look forward to seeing you, the more the merrier.

Further information from Lyn & Derek Deans Contact: 07704 131 276:

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.

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

Thank you 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 by Tuesday 20th May

August/September by Friday 18th July

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

Some photographs from the Congregational Lunch last December





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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Scottish Charity Number: SCO10592