

**THE PARISH  
CHURCH OF  
ST CUTHBERT EDINBURGH**



# **Church Magazine**

## **From St Cuthbert's, Edinburgh to First (Scots) Presbyterian Church, South Carolina**



**February/March 2025**

## **ST CUTHBERT'S TEAM**

### **Parish Minister**

The Reverend Dr Peter Sutton  
07718 311 319 or [minister@stcuthberts-edinburgh.uk](mailto:minister@stcuthberts-edinburgh.uk)

### **Session Clerk**

Margaret Pollock 0131 229 1142

### **Treasurer**

Scott Turnbull 0131 229 1142

### **Pastoral Assistant**

Kirsten Kooy 0131 229 1142

### **Deputy Session Clerk**

Mrs Christine McGuinness 0131 229 1142

### **Director of Music**

Graham Maclagan  
[music@stcuthberts-edinburgh.uk](mailto:music@stcuthberts-edinburgh.uk)

### **Church Administrator/Technical Coordinator/Church Officer**

Oscar Kelly  
0131 229 1142 or [office@stcuthberts-edinburgh.uk](mailto:office@stcuthberts-edinburgh.uk)

### **Magazine Editor**

Stewart Cowe  
[magazine@stcuthberts-edinburgh.uk](mailto:magazine@stcuthberts-edinburgh.uk)

**Contents:** Minister's Letter (p3), Rev Dr Peter Sutton (p3), Ministry during the Vacancy (p3), From the Tower Room (p4), Reports from St Cuthbert's (p4) including A Look Back at St Cuthbert's (p4), Bible Fellowship Group (p6), Temptation (p7), News from the Ukrainian St Margaret's Saturday School (p8), A Final Word from Peter (p10), First (Scots) Presbyterian Church (p12); Out and About (p13) including A Thriving Church (p13), Life and Work (p15); General Notices (p16), including Congregational Roll (p16), Welcome Guides (p17), Tuesday and Saturday Coffee Mornings (p17).

**Front cover:** St Cuthbert's Church and First (Scots) Presbyterian Church, South Carolina together with the flags of Scotland and South Carolina.

## MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I write my final minister's letter in the St Cuthbert's Church magazine, I want to pay tribute to Stewart our dedicated and superb editor.

As a charity St Cuthbert's relies on the goodwill of its volunteers and none exemplify this better than Stewart. To produce six editions of the magazine each year is a huge undertaking and one which many churches no longer continue to do as communication goes more and more online.

However, when one considers that the gospel story was shared in person through initially the letters of Paul then we realise that our Magazine follows a fine tradition in imparting good news centred around our service of Jesus Christ.

My hope is that there will be a similar Magazine in hard copy that will soon be telling the story of the new parish and I greatly look forward to reading it in the years to come.

It just remains to thank y'all for your kindness and support over the last eight years. It's been a huge privilege to serve as the last minister of the Parish Church of St Cuthbert.

God Bless,

Peter

### **Rev Dr Peter Sutton**

---

As previously intimated, Peter will demit the charge of St Cuthbert's on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025 to take up a position in Charleston, South Carolina, USA.

We thank him for his ministry with us since June 2017 and send him every blessing and good wishes in his further ministry.

Going forward to the proposed union with Greyfriars Kirk, last September Presbytery appointed Dr Hazel Hastie, Presbytery Clerk, to be our Interim Moderator to guide us further with union business.

### **Ministry during the Vacancy**

---

We also require a Locum Minister during the vacancy and our Kirk Session has approved the appointment of the Rev Susie Stark to this role with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> March. Suzie has a long connection with St Cuthbert's and is well known to many of us.

We welcome her back. This is a part-time position and Susie will work with us on three days per week including a Sunday.

MP

## FROM THE TOWER ROOM

Welcome to this first magazine of the new year.

2025 will be a notable year in the long and distinguished history of St Cuthbert's. Not only is the Rev Peter Sutton departing at the end of February for pastures anew, St Cuthbert's itself will be venturing out into uncharted waters with its merger with Greyfriars.

Peter signs off his eight-year stay (see Minister's letter and pages 10 to 12) while we attempt to shoehorn five centuries of St Cuthbert's into a two-page article reflecting on some of the more notable events in its history (pages 5 and 6). Peter's final piece may have fans of the board game Cleudo scratching their heads wondering how we can weave "candlestick in the library" into the magazine. Thankfully, there was no body there – just Peter doing some research. You can read his remarkable tale, which links the Aberdeenshire town of Turriff, Edinburgh and Charleston, South Carolina on pages 10 and 11.

Martin Pearce keeps us abreast of news from the Ukrainian Saturday School (page 8) and offers some hope in reversing the decline in church membership in his regular Bible Fellowship update (page 7).

I am sure that many of you will remember Rev Suzie Stark as a member of St Cuthbert's ministerial team in the 2000s and early 2010s and you will be delighted to learn that Suzie will be returning as locum minister from February (page 3).

Finally, a reminder of the coffee mornings being held in St Cuthbert's (page 17) and also a plea for Welcome Guides as we re-open the church to visitors from April (also page 17).

Stewart Cowe

## REPORTS FROM ST CUTHBERT'S

### A fond look back at St Cuthbert's

---

As Peter's time as minister of St Cuthbert's draws to a close, as does St Cuthbert's itself as an independent church, we take the opportunity to look back over the past few centuries at the role that St Cuthbert's has played in the community.

It is believed that as many as seven churches have stood on the site of the current church, which this year is celebrating 131 years since its opening. One part of the current church is even older – the steeple of the previous church was incorporated into the new building.

Both the current church and its immediate predecessor were built to hold congregations of over 2,000 – occasionally, over 3,000 were crammed into the church

which for some time had the distinction of being one of the largest congregations in Scotland.

By my reckoning, Peter is the 49<sup>th</sup> and final Presbyterian minister in a long line of ministers of St Cuthbert's, going back to William Harlaw in 1560, the first Protestant minister after the reformation. For much of its later existence, St Cuthbert's adopted a collegiate ministry with two ministers sharing the work and this approach continued until as recently as 1956 when Dr Leonard Small was appointed as the sole incumbent. St Cuthbert's has had a long and distinguished history in serving not just the local community but also the Church of Scotland. Over the years, seven different ministers have been appointed Moderator of the General Assembly, with the first incumbent, Robert Pont serving in that role no fewer than six times. Pont himself was a bit of a polymath, as he also fulfilled the role of judge and Senator of the Court of Session, Provost of Trinity College and Commissioner of Orkney. The most recent minister to be appointed Moderator was Dr Small in 1966.

St Cuthbert's also played its part in establishing the BBC which broadcast its first religious radio programme from the church, as was also the first television church service in 1955, just two days after the BBC broadcast the first programmes in Scotland. One wonders just how many saw that initial television programme – the evening service in March 1952 – as one would not imagine many people owning TVs then but miraculously, a partial answer to that question arose a couple of years ago when a guest preacher to St Cuthbert's mentioned in his sermon that over 200 viewers squeezed into an Arbroath hall that evening in order to watch that service. Of course, technology has moved on and distant members, or even complete strangers can now take advantage of watching services streamed every week.

St Cuthbert's was an early pioneer in helping the poor, first by providing the registered poor with 'beggars' badges' (way back in 1583), then by providing them with monthly allowances, then building a poorhouse where the Caledonian Hotel now stands. That then moved to a new site at Porterfield, Craigleith. Readers of this magazine will be aware that this venture turned into the world leading hospital now named the Western General.

Schooling was another venture St Cuthbert's should be proud of. Both sessional schools (i.e. those run under the auspices of the Kirk Session) and an industrial school (primarily for the children of poor families) served the community long before the concept of compulsory education came about.

How many young folk attended the four youth organisations over the years, and how many young mothers went to mothers' meetings in the church halls? How many attendees honed their debating skills at the Literary Association debates? And how many gained pleasure from musical evenings organised by the Comradeship?

Moving to more recent times, the upper hall of the King's Stables Road mission hall became a much loved and much used servicemen's canteen during the Second World War while I do not have to remind readers of the excellent work currently being conducted for the Steps to Hope homeless charity and the various initiatives for supporting Ukraine.

St Cuthbert's is blessed not only by the wonderful art work within the sanctuary but also the magnificent music from the organ, originally installed in 1899 and reconstructed at the end of the last century. Over the years, St Cuthbert's has had its fair share of accomplished musicians – both choristers and organists.

Finally, for many years, worshippers have been welcomed into the church with the sound of the bells ringing from the church tower. An almost 'invisible' part of St Cuthbert's but our bell ringers happily ring the ten bells each week as we make our way into the sanctuary. Our change ringers, too, have played their part in the history of St Cuthbert's. The bells, accompanied by a 101-gun salute fired from Edinburgh Castle, celebrated the signing of the treaty of Versailles in 1919. During the Second World War, they rang out after the victory at El Alamein in 1942 and then at the end of the war – both times, the sound of their ringing being broadcast by the BBC.

This short look back can only scratch the surface on the role St Cuthbert's has played in the community over the years. I am sure that other readers will point to other aspects in which St Cuthbert's played its part. If so, please do send in your thoughts. Our readers would be delighted to read your own comments on this subject.

Looking back is all well and good. What of the future? What will we be writing ten years or even one hundred years from now? Will a solution to Britain's chronic housing shortage be found, rendering charities like Steps redundant? Will swords ever be beaten into ploughshares and spears into pruning hooks? We can only wait and see.

I certainly share Peter's hope that news of all this and more will continue to be regularly relayed through the church magazine.

### **St Cuthbert's Bible Fellowship Group**

From the start of the year, the fellowship group has been using the book "*Stirred by the Storm*" by Bill Clinkenbeard and Ian Gilmour for its discussions on the future of the Church of Scotland.

Bill served in the Presbyterian Church USA and was also a worshipper at Carrick Knowe Church; sadly, he died on the 24<sup>th</sup> February last year. Ian Gilmour is a former minister of St Andrew's & St George's West (in George Street, Edinburgh) and served on various church committees. The purpose of the book is to identify proposals for growing the Church of Scotland again.

Initially, the book describes the decline of the Church of Scotland, not least because it has two missing generations. The book also summarises the way the world is changing at an incredible speed. The authors reflect on how wars, strife, climate change, technology, social media, and the impact of Covid has led to a very uncertain future for peace and prosperity for all the nations of the world.

The fascination of the book are the suggestions of how the Church of Scotland could grow again.

For all who are concerned about the future of the Church, and the future of St Cuthbert's and Greyfriars Kirk in particular, please join this discussion. What is it that we must do differently to be relevant to the secular communities in which we live? The authors make some very specific suggestions, which are well worth exploring in advance of appointing a new minister to lead St Cuthbert's and Greyfriars.

To join this Thursday evening discussion at 7.30pm via Zoom, just contact Martin Pearce at [martin.pearce2109@outlook.com](mailto:martin.pearce2109@outlook.com) All are welcome, and you do not have to read the book to offer your views on the way forward for growing the church.

Martin Pearce [martin.pearce2109@outlook.com](mailto:martin.pearce2109@outlook.com)

### **Temptation (the background to Jesus being tempted by the devil) - Luke 4:1-13**

Avoiding temptations is not easy – even for people who strive to be Christians. The Bible says there are seven deadly sins; namely, Lust, Gluttony, Greed, Laziness (or sloth), Wrath, Envy and Pride.

It is easy to become selfish in seeking desires of our hearts whether they involve food (gluttony), money (greed), lust, and fame (pride) to name four sins that regularly fill our media stories.

**How did Jesus avoid temptations** when tempted by the devil as recorded in Luke Chapter 4? (It is also recorded in the Gospels of Mark and Matthew).

The devil, Satan, was and is the personification of evil, and he tried to divert Jesus from his mission of making a new covenant through the Jews of Israel and Judah. Jesus was “full of the Holy Spirit” having just been baptised with the Spirit by John the Baptist and so he was ready to resist the three temptations he encountered from the devil.

The author of Hebrews makes it clear that Jesus bore these temptations for our sake. He was not a remote high priest or King, far removed from the experiences of ordinary people. Jesus had “been tempted like we are, yet without sin” (Hebrews 4:15). He lived with perfect purity. As a result, “he is able to help those who are tempted” (Hebrews 2:18).

The three temptations that Jesus experienced correspond to temptations that Israel experienced in the wilderness:

- The temptation to make bread from a stone (verses 2b-4) is really a temptation not to trust God for sustenance—and is therefore analogous to Israel's failure to trust God for sustenance in the wilderness after the escape from Egypt when they were led by Moses; hence God gave them manna from heaven.
- The temptation to gain the kingdoms of the world by worshiping the devil (vv. 5-8) is analogous to Israel's temptation to worship other Gods.

The Israelites first failed this test at the base of Mount Sinai when they made and worshiped a golden cow (Exodus 32:4; Deuteronomy 9:16)—but that was only one of many such failures of following the one and only true God.

- The temptation for Jesus to throw himself down from the pinnacle of the temple (verses 9-12), forcing God to protect him, is really a temptation to test God.

**If Jesus had succumbed** to any of these three temptations, he would have allowed the devil to have power over him. Jesus needed to avoid temptation because of its evil source.

Jesus countered the three temptations in two main ways and therefore gives us guidelines. The first way depends upon us being “full of the Holy Spirit,” (4:1) if we are to resist temptation. Jesus was indeed full of the Spirit having been recently baptised by John in the River Jordan. The Holy Spirit gives you the mental strength to withstand temptations.

The second way of resisting temptation is through knowing scripture. Knowledge of scripture and having the Spirit of God within us allows us to counter temptations and is what we learn from the theology behind the Temptation of Christ in Luke Chapter 4. To grow in our Christian faith we give our time, talent, and resources sacrificially – not all the time, not every time, because that leads to burn out and extreme stress, but most of the time.

Sometimes we have to rest and recharge our energy levels – but our willingness to serve God becomes instinctive, and hence we often give our time and resources sacrificially.

As far as I know, only Jesus gave all his time sacrificially, through his ministry leading to the cross. Perhaps we should not be too hard on ourselves and accept God's forgiveness when we fall into temptation and accept a fresh start every time we say sorry to God and one another, and mean it.

Martin Pearce (email: martin.pearce2109@outlook.com)

## **Update on the Ukrainian St Margaret's Saturday School**

**Chair of the Trustees**, the Reverend Doctor Peter Sutton stood down as chair on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 after giving terrific leadership and encouragement in getting the School funded and governed effectively by a highly motivated team of Trustees. Peter



frequently raised the profile of the School such that we could secure grants from several different funding bodies and schools as well as encouraging the teachers and the pupils.

Peter is succeeded by Graham Frost, a retired accountant, who brings a wealth of experience in helping businesses. He is also a member of Cramond Kirk.

**Autumn Term 2024** The School started its second year on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August and met at George Heriot's School from 9am to 11.30am every Saturday bar one during term time. When George Heriot's school was closed, we met at St Cuthbert's.

Thanks to St Cuthbert's we also organised an Exhibition of 900 artworks to celebrate Edinburgh 900 in October, which was sponsored by City of Edinburgh Council. More than 1,000 people attended the seven-day event and over 1,000 exhibits showed much of the history of Edinburgh over the 900 years since Edinburgh became a Royal Burgh. The Ukrainian children entertained over 150 people at both the opening and closing ceremonies with their singing, music, and dancing.

Extra-curricular activities included a visit to the Edinburgh Fire Service Museum and visits from the St Andrew's First Aid team, as well as games, art works, singing, and baking biscuits for Christmas. The term culminated with a Christmas Party at St Cuthbert's when 60 children attended, which included children from the Ukrainian Harmony Choir, and singing at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary where the children supported the efforts to raise money for hospital charities.

**Spring Term** Again, we meet every Saturday bar one during term with extra activities after school most weeks. This year we are partly funded by the National Lottery, Edinburgh Trades Charity Fund, Fettes College, Loretto School and the parents of the 35 children we look after most weeks. Private donors also contribute to the on-going work of the School. Recently, Greyfriars Kirk and St John's Episcopal Church have agreed to make their halls available when St Cuthbert's is unavailable. The School continues to grow from strength to strength and we are open to taking on more Ukrainian children.

**Thank you** Our thanks go to all who have supported the School financially, and by giving their time over the last year. Thanks also go to George Heriot's School for the use of classroom accommodation, and to St Cuthbert's Parish Church for the frequent use of its beautiful sanctuary and meeting rooms.

Martin Pearce - Secretary and Treasurer of the School  
martin.j.pearce@blueyonder.co.)

## A final word from Peter

When I was ordained and inducted to the Parish Church of St Cuthbert on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2017, those present may have noticed that I was carrying a leather baton which you can see in the picture (top right). Inside can be found The Call of 1896 to my great, great uncle Robert Simpson, the Minister of Turriff Free Church, to become Minister of the High Free Church in Edinburgh.

Dr Simpson had married Alexandra Mackintosh whose father was the Church of Scotland minister in Tain. My grandmother (on my mother's side) was Dr Annie Mackintosh and she was to become their niece. They were presented with a pair of silver candlesticks by the congregation in Turriff "as a token of love and respect" (see engraving, right) as they headed down to Edinburgh to start their new life. In turn I inherited both the The Call and the candlesticks when I was ordained.

During my doctoral studies, I took the leather bound Call up to The Quad at New College and at the foot of the steps of the General Assembly Hall and, with John Knox looking down, I unrolled the 20-metre long scroll (see next page), supported by the cohort of my fellow students from both the Church of Scotland and the Presbyterian Church of the United States of America.

You might recognise Stephen and Rebecca from the States who both preached at St Cuthbert's during the course of our studies.

Behind John Knox's statue is the New College (Divinity Faculty) Library. The library occupies





what was once the High Free Church where my relative, Dr Simpson, was the Minister. It was awe inspiring to write much of my doctoral thesis sitting in the library looking at the stained-glass windows that Dr Simpson, my great, great uncle, would have known so well during the course of his ministry.



Dr Simpson was related to Robert Rainy who became Principal of the Free Church College (now New College) and in whose Hall students now enjoy refreshments and fellowship as do Commissioners to the General Assembly each year.

During the course of my doctorate, inspired by my fellow students from the United States, I built up, whilst visiting on several occasions, a lovely relationship with the fine folk of First (Scots) Presbyterian Church in Charleston, South Carolina where I will soon be heading to join the ministry team.

Just the other day I received an email from the Session of First Scots saying that somewhere in Edinburgh was to be found the Citation List of those living in Scotland who supported the building of First Scots in Charleston nearly 300 years ago and



Rev Dr Robert Simpson MA, DD

would I be able to try and track it down? I wrote to the Scottish National Records Office who knew of this important historical document and its links with Scotland and the former colony in South Carolina and they told me that it was now held in the archives department of New College Library! You can imagine my excitement when I was invited to inspect the document earlier this week.

Who would have thought the story of the “Reverend in the library with the candlestick” would have another twist in the tale of my Ministry!

As one of the Session at First Scots said when I discovered the document:

Wow, Peter!

It gives me chills to see how this document will be viewed by a newly chosen Scottish Minister for First (Scots).

This is a historical moment and my mind is racing thinking of how this could be presented to the congregation by you!!!!

God truly has had a hand in all of this.

See you soon.

I already have a mission in mind to see if New College will lend this stunning document to First Scots as we prepare to celebrate our 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!



The First (Scots) citation in the New College archives

## **First (Scots) Presbyterian Church, Charleston**

---

I am sure that I am not alone in wondering where Peter is heading.

Charleston has a population of 155,000 and is the largest town in the state of South Carolina. The town sits on the eastern seaboard of the United States and is roughly 760 miles south of New York. The town itself was named after the British monarch, Charles II. Owing to the number of church steeples visible on the skyline, the town's nickname is the Holy City.

The church is known locally as First Scots and dates back to 1731 when twelve Scottish families of the town left the Independent Church of Charleston to set up the new church, named then as the Presbyterian Church of Charles Towne.

The church's first building was a wooden frame structure and was completed in 1734. It stood in the corner of what is now the graveyard. It was enlarged three times over the years before being replaced by the present building in 1814 and is the fifth oldest place of worship in Charleston. It was designed by ex-pat brothers John and James Gordon. This building (seen on the front cover of the magazine) is therefore 80 years older than the present St Cuthbert's building. The site of the original wooden structure is today marked in the churchyard with tartan flags.

First Scots, like St Cuthbert's, is well known for its bells and bell tower (or towers, in the case of the former). The church has two bell towers, but its bells were donated to the military during the Civil War (1861 – 1865). The story goes that the bells were not replaced at the end of the war as a mark of respect to the Confederate dead in the war.



Just 26 years ago, a bell built in 1814 was reinstalled in the northern bell tower, but hopes to install bells in the southern tower were dashed when it was found to be too weakened from the 1886 Charleston earthquake.

## OUT AND ABOUT

### A Thriving Church

The following article is a very good reflection from the team at HeartEdge. It is particularly relevant to us in St Cuthbert's as we move towards union with Greyfriars. It looks at drawing on the abundance of riches we already have in order to become a thriving church.

“What does it mean to thrive? The TV drama *‘Call the Midwife’*, set in the poverty-stricken East End of London during the 1950s and 60s, offers us poignant examples of what it takes for babies to thrive. It highlights the interplay of medical care, social support, and maternal empowerment, showing how the well-being of infants was nurtured amidst the challenges of post-war London.



Many episodes emphasise that thriving is not just about physical survival but also about emotional, social, and spiritual well-being. To thrive means to flourish, grow, or prosper despite challenges. It goes beyond mere survival, encompassing personal, emotional, and spiritual growth. Thriving often involves resilience, building meaningful relationships, and finding joy, purpose, and satisfaction in life. It implies development—mentally, emotionally, and spiritually—and often turns difficulties into opportunities for transformation and success.

In the reading from 1 Corinthians, it seems that the church in Corinth was struggling to thrive, much like many of our churches today. At the time, the Corinthian church was a diverse and dynamic community, yet it was troubled by divisions, immorality, and confusion about Christian teachings, particularly around the use of gifts to help the community flourish.

Corinth was a cosmopolitan city, a hub of trade and a melting pot of cultures. It was a place where public displays of power and eloquent speeches were highly valued. Unsurprisingly, the Christian church there mirrored many of the issues and values of the surrounding society.

Through his letters, Paul challenged this cultural mindset, urging the Corinthians to focus on unity and selfless service so that their community could truly thrive. Like churches today, the Corinthians faced divisions, and some likely viewed certain gifts as more prestigious or important than others. It isn't difficult to imagine the kinds of conversations that might have arisen.

Paul wrote to correct their thinking, affirming that all gifts are valuable and essential for the Body of Christ, the Church in that place. With great pastoral care, Paul addressed their confusion, seeking to nurture them. His goal was to instruct them in the proper use of their gifts, to avoid further division, and to foster a spirit of love, unity, and mutual support so that all might thrive.

Reflecting on thriving today, what about us? What issues or ways of being might we need to address in our locality to ensure that our church, community, and people thrive? You might find it helpful to reflect on this by imagining a letter from St Paul to your church community. If you feel brave enough, write your own version, and use it during your prayer time. Ask God to reveal what might need changing or building upon, and what gifts are present but perhaps not yet valued or used in your community.

Could it be that your church needs to become more inclusive, embracing diversity and reaching out to the marginalised? Perhaps there's a need to grow a stronger sense of community through healthy relationships. Maybe the call is for the Church to renew itself continually, engaging with the world courageously. Above all, is there a call to nurture spiritual depth, with an emphasis on contemplation and inner transformation as the foundation for thriving?

Paul emphasised that all gifts come from the same Spirit, given to strengthen the community. Our diversity of abilities and talents enriches the Church when rooted in God's work. Rather than competing or comparing, we are encouraged to honour and collaborate with one another's gifts. The list of gifts Paul provided is not exhaustive, and the specific gifts your community needs might be different. Sometimes, our greatest gifts emerge during times of challenge, when we realise that we cannot do it all on our own and must depend on God. It is in these moments that gifts within us are often revealed and nurtured.

In "Life of Pi" by Yann Martel, the story of a boy stranded on a lifeboat with a Bengal tiger explores themes of survival, resilience, and spiritual growth. Pi's journey illustrates how thriving can emerge from enduring extraordinary challenges. Can we relate to this? Have there been times when, as individuals or as a community, we have grown because of tragedy or difficulty? Times when gifts and talents were released in ways we never expected? Each gift—whether faithfulness, wisdom, teaching, healing, compassion, or prophecy—is equally important. Let us not forget the gifts of serving, perseverance, and practical skills: the person who understands plumbing or building, who is gifted in hospitality or finance. These are all vital for our communities to thrive.

From Scarcity to Abundance. As we reflect on thriving, we must also confront something that often holds us back: the belief that we are failing, rooted in a mindset of scarcity. We think we don't have enough—enough people, resources, or energy. Sometimes, this is because we mistakenly believe our church should look like another church community. A small rural church is not a failing version of a large church or cathedral!

Sam Wells and the HeartEdge movement, connected to St Martin-in-the-Fields in London, challenge the scarcity mindset. They encourage churches to shift their focus to abundance, recognising and celebrating the resources already present in their people, gifts, and relationships. Wells reminds us that God's grace and provision are limitless. The church is called to share this abundance by building community, engaging with culture, and embracing creativity.

HeartEdge urges churches to be outward-facing, rooted in hope, and to use their assets to serve and transform their communities. The Gospel story of Jesus turning water into wine reflects this abundant love of God overflowing into the world. Jesus takes the ordinary and makes it extraordinary. Ordinary water becomes the finest wine. Ordinary you and me are transformed. Gifts are released, used, and valued. Thriving. That's what Jesus demonstrated at the wedding in Cana. What joy!"

## Life and Work

The February edition contains:

### Assembly Trustees

'God's transformative mission': Dave Kendall highlights the importance of stewardship and creative income generation in mission.

### Faith Action Programme

Hope for the future: The Rev Tommy MacNeil highlights 'Vivid Vision', a new resource of hope for the Church of Scotland.

### 'More than we could ever have hoped':

Warm Welcome Spaces and churches

### Cultivating generosity:

Stewardship in north-east Scotland

### Silent spaces: Silence in worship

### Hope for the future: Faith Action's 'Vivid Vision'

### Regulars

### Worship column by the Rev Roddy Hamilton



**Reflection by the Rev Dr Richard Frazer**

**The Rev Ruth Kennedy on digital church**

**Bible study by the Rev Richard Baxter**

**My Church: Connie Anderson of Duror Church, North Argyll**

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

[www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe](http://www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe) or contact St Cuthbert's Life and Work co-ordinator.

## **GENERAL NOTICES**

### **Congregational Roll**

---

**Baptisms** *Suffer the little children to come unto me*

29<sup>th</sup> December Craig Brenchley

Miss Olivia Eden Barker

**Death** *I am the resurrection and the life*

Early 2024 Mrs Jean Burns

### **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](http://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](mailto: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 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](mailto:jamesangusmclean@gmail.com)

---

## **Welcome Guides**

The 2025 Guiding Season will start on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April (just after Easter). There will be a pre-season meeting on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

Please note that due to a late outside booking, there will no coffee morning in January. The next coffee mornings are:

22<sup>nd</sup> February      11am to 2pm

29<sup>th</sup> March          11am to 2 pm

Once more, thank you to our helpers and bakers. We look forward to seeing everyone, the more the merrier. You are all most welcome.

Lyn & Derek Deans



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](mailto: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:

April/May by Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March

June/July by Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May

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



## 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'*



5 Lothian Road, Edinburgh EH1 2EP  
[www.stcuthberts-edinburgh.uk](http://www.stcuthberts-edinburgh.uk)  
Facebook :St CuthbertsEdinburgh  
X (Twitter):@cuthbert\_church  
Scottish Charity Number: SCO10592