

THE PARISH
CHURCH OF
ST CUTHBERT EDINBURGH



Church Magazine



August/September 2023

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Contents: Minister's Letter (p3), From the Tower Room (p4), Letter from the Moderator (p4), Reports from St Cuthbert's (p5) including Bible Fellowship Group (p5), Ukraine Update (p6), Feature Article: The Sunday School Picnic (p9), Soul Space (p10), Out and About (p11), including The Society of Friends (p11), Life and Work (p11), Art Exhibition (p12), General Notices (p12), including Tuesday and Saturday Coffee Mornings (p13) and Proposed Golf Outing (p13).

Front cover: Taken at the Concert for the Support for the Heroes in Ukraine in St Cuthbert's on 3rd June. With kind permission of Paul Sinclair.

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

Earlier in the year a good pal sent me this picture. She knew I was struggling a wee bit and her message of support came at just the right time.

I hope it is of equal help to anyone who finds themselves in a similar situation. This July the umbrellas have been up more often than not and summer sometimes feels like it has been washed away!

We try to protect ourselves from life's trials and tribulations and

sometimes hiding away under the umbrella or the duvet seems like the best option. In fact, sometimes it can be the best option but not for too long!

It is reassuring to know that God does not have 'duvet days' and as The Psalmist reminds us in Psalm 121: verse 3, He is on constant watch over us. However, he does not expect the same of us. Whilst we are certainly called to reach out and support one another we must also learn how to be kind to ourselves. As a Platoon Commander in the Army, support was best achieved through team work. When we were out on operations the platoon would 'harbour up' for the night usually in a wood.

A good platoon harbour is a place of safety where we all look out for each other; allowing some to rest, whilst others go out on patrol, but most of all, some are on sentry duty at all times; rotating through all these vital roles.

It is exciting to know we will shortly be advertising for a new pastoral assistant who will become a vital team member in St Cuthbert's, our own sure harbour and space.

Enjoy the rest of the summer!

God Bless,

Peter



FROM THE TOWER ROOM

Welcome to the summer edition of the magazine.

We open the magazine with a contribution from the Rt Rev Sally Foster-Fulton, the newly appointed Moderator of the Church of Scotland. Her topic is one many of us can hardly comprehend occurring in Europe, and although the Memorial Day has passed, it is worth reminding ourselves what horrors we still seem able to inflict on others. Almost thirty years have passed since the events, but we do not seem to learn – witness what is happening today in Ukraine.

It is always pleasing to announce new ventures in St Cuthbert's and this magazine invites you not just to one but two. We are delighted to revive the monthly Saturday coffee morning and for those budding Brian Harmans, the return of a golf outing, playing for the 'royal and ancient' St Cuthbert's Cup. Further details on these events can be read on page 13.

St Cuthbert's have been standing firm with Ukraine since the war started last year and the magazine devotes several pages updating readers about the recent concert (the next is in November) a proposed August Art Exhibition and the work of the Spiders.

Our Feature Article returns with a fond look back to the always popular Sunday School Picnic. You can read how St Cuthbert's often had to charter a train to take everyone, such were the numbers wishing to attend.

We have our usual update from the Bible Fellowship Group and mention another concert being held in the Church on behalf of the Help for Ukraine initiative.

Stewart Cowe

Letter from the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland



Dear Friends,

The theme for my year as Moderator centres on a South African word, Ubuntu, most closely translated 'I am because you are.' Ubuntu encapsulates the powerful truth that human beings are meant for each other, that we are intricately interrelated. We cannot be fully human without others to be human with, and we are called to cherish the sacred nature of each human person. We also know how fragile we are and how quickly relationships fracture when we forget we are one.

Between 11th and 16th July 1995, the inhumanity we are capable of inflicting on each other manifested itself in then war-torn Bosnia-Herzegovina. 8,372 Bosnian men and boys were tragically killed by Serb forces in the town of Srebrenica in Bosnia, and, to our shame, the rest of the world stood by and did not intervene. In 2015, I went to Bosnia-Herzegovina with the charity Remembering Srebrenica Scotland, a group dedicated to peace, education and to not allowing that tragedy to fade into a history that doesn't learn. It was one of the most harrowing, inspiring and transformational experiences of my life. To hear from those who experienced the frightening and rapid unravelling of their long-time co-existence, taught me that 'living alongside' each other is not good enough, but we must be willing to 'live with' each other, be part of each other – to embrace our differences, not let them define us.

In 2009 the European Parliament declared 11th July to be the official Memorial Day to commemorate this tragedy. I invite congregations across the Church of Scotland to remember Srebrenica over the next two weekends, to pray, to learn and to remember, 'I am because you are.' I encourage the whole Church to make use of the resources made available by 'Remembering Srebrenica Scotland' and 'Remembering Srebrenica' that we might be informed and motivated:

www.srebrenica.scot

<https://srebrenica.org.uk/news/remembering-srebrenicas-2023-theme-together-we-are-one>

Peace,

Rt Rev Sally Foster-Fulton

Moderator, General Assembly of the Church of Scotland

REPORTS FROM ST CUTHBERT'S

Update on Bible Fellowship Group

After a summer break, the Bible Fellowship Group will meet again every Thursday evening from 7th September 2023 on Zoom from 7.30pm to 8.30pm.

We will read through the Second Book of Samuel which continues the story of David's life after Saul's death. The author reflects on David's humility and compassion. He is a man who grieves the death of even his enemies. David goes on to experience much success and divine blessing and rules over Judah and eventually all Israel for 40 years as King, but his road to the throne was never easy. He was an imperfect King but there is much we can learn from David about how his relationship with God developed.

In our 24 meetings so far this year we have read about some of the people that Jesus encountered during his ministry. There are too many to list in this article, but we were reminded through our readings that Jesus often engaged in one-to-one conversations

about God the Father and who he is – the long-awaited Messiah as prophesised in the Old Testament and our Saviour as testified by many eye-witnesses in the New Testament.

This group has now been meeting for three years and we would love more people to join us. Learning together and sharing experiences works well and if you have not tried such a group before, then please give this group a try.

All are welcome whether you come infrequently or most weeks. Dip in and out as your time allows. You will be assured of a warm welcome.

Zoom details from martin.pearce2109@outlook.com (please note new email address)

Every blessing

Martin Pearce

Ukraine Update

We continue our support for Ukraine by hosting music galas, the Spiders camouflage netting group - who will shortly move to the Tower Room from the Nor Loch Room, and meeting specific requests like medical supplies. The latter are sent to Ukraine via our friends at Granton Parish Church who have organised a regular transport service to Ukraine.

You can read about the recent music gala and the continuing work of the Spiders in the next articles.

We hope to host an art exhibition of paintings from the frontline in August – as you might expect, transporting paintings back from the frontline is problematic so we do not have firm dates. Hopefully the exhibition will take place in August which is always a busy month at St Cuthbert's.

The next Music Gala in aid of Ukraine will be held at St Cuthbert's on Saturday 18th November. Once again, we need a team to facilitate this event (please volunteer). All are invited to hear some outstanding musicians and singers.

Sadly, the war is well into its second year and no end is in sight; in consequence, our help will be needed for a long time to come. We pray that this dreadful unnecessary war will come to an end soon, the people of Ukraine will have peace and justice, and the Russian Regime will be replaced by a government seeking peace and reconciliation.

Thank you for supporting the people of Ukraine with your generosity and prayers.

Martin Pearce

email: martin.pearce2109@outlook.com

“Support for the Heroes” in Ukraine

This was the fourth fundraising event "Support for the Heroes" that took place at the Parish Church of St Cuthbert on 3rd June. The event was organized by local Ukrainians and supported by Scottish volunteers. The creative collaboration of talented Ukrainian and Scottish musicians, artists, and chefs presented Ukrainian traditional food, a decorative Yavoriv painting workshop, and an Intertwined Melodies concert.



The concert featured outstanding folk and pop singers, pianists, cellists, violinists, and guitarists. The audience was amazed by exceptional performances and enthusiastically sang along to songs that hold special meaning for many people in Scotland and Ukraine. Numerous guests of the event enjoyed tasting Ukrainian refreshments, such as borsch, Crimean meat and mushroom pastries, Kyiv cake, and many others.

Those interested in trying traditional decorative painting had the opportunity to paint wooden Yavoriv birds. These wooden toys are hand-painted with a strictly yellow base and elements in red and green. The Yavoriv toy (Ukrainian: zabavka) originated in the city of Yavoriv, Lviv region, over 400 years ago and has been recognized as intangible cultural heritage of Ukraine.

Over 500 people attended the concert which included many international visitors to the City and the generous donations helped raise over £2500. The funds will go towards supporting the Ukrainian people in the southern part of Ukraine and provide a mobile laundry bus that will be equipped and sent to aid residents in the most affected war-torn areas of Ukraine.

The event organisers express their endless gratitude to the united and compassionate community of St Cuthbert's for their sympathetic support of Ukrainian defenders and their clear, principled and consistent stance towards the terrible war raging in Ukraine.

Warm wishes, and with grateful thanks

Svitlana Iniakoviene

We are the Edinburgh Spiders – and you are too

Greetings everyone! My name is Barbara, and I am one of the Spiders currently weaving camouflage nets for the Ukrainian Army. You might have heard of us, every week we meet at St Cuthbert's Church and weave strips of green, brown and grey fabric into a net. Once completed, we send it off to the Ukrainian Army for a variety of uses including field hospitals.

We have been here since February 2023, when the St Cuthbert's community welcomed us with open arms, for which we could not be more thankful. We could not do our work if we did not have time and space to meet, both of which we have thanks to this community. Furthermore, we have received words of encouragement as well as donations of both money and fabrics, and these have helped us immensely in continuing our work.

We have seen this generosity reflected everywhere we work. Our volunteers work in two other locations, the Morningside United Church and the Heart of Newhaven Community Centre. Our volunteers have busy schedules, and with more locations and more times available they have more opportunities to help whenever they can.

Furthermore, St Cuthbert's and all the other locations that have opened their doors to us have allowed us to create a vibrant community of volunteers. Here people of all ages, nationalities, and religious beliefs come together to talk, connect, and support each other.

We can often be led to believe that we are too insignificant to bring about meaningful change. While it's true that none of us can single handedly liberate Ukraine, we are more than strong enough together. We cannot be on the battlefield fighting, so we help protect those who are. And that is why we do it, to help.

I hope everyone who reads this knows just how far their support goes. You are helping protect Ukraine, for our nets are not just for protecting military equipment, they protect homes and other civilian infrastructure that are indiscriminately targeted by Russian attacks. With your support, you are shielding both Ukrainian civilians and service personnel.

So we thank you, the St Cuthbert's community and the Edinburgh community as a whole, for your support. We could not do this without you, you are all Spiders, too.

Barbara Labbate





Many of us will have fond memories of attending these end of session events, when the sun always seemed to shine, when we were amazed at the different locations that were found and where we enjoyed plenty of 'skoosh', sandwiches and cakes.

These away days always took the same format – plenty of 'races' for each age group: conventional races, three legged races, egg and spoon races and of course, the sack race. Parents weren't left out either with plenty of mothers' and fathers' events too. Then came the highlight of the day for many – the food.

But not always did things go completely to plan. An account of a St Cuthbert's picnic in 1938 mentioned that neither milk nor sugar had been put in the children's tea and that those serving should be reminded to do so the following year. How did the children survive such deprivation?

In recent times, those attending were often taken by bus or a coach hired for the day. Venues were not particularly far away – requisites being a flattish field for the races and an indoor hall or barn nearby in case it rained. But what happened years ago when the number of youngsters attending the Sunday School (or Schools, as was the case in St Cuthbert's) were significantly higher?

In St Cuthbert's case, the numbers attending from the three Schools (at the halls in King's Stables Road, at Freer Street and at Castlebarns) could be counted in the hundreds. At its peak just before the outbreak of the Second World War, the numbers attending the three Schools totalled 850!

St Cuthbert's solution was often to charter a train! Apparently, this method was cheaper than hiring a fleet of buses and certainly less risky than using the local service buses or trams. With St Cuthbert's being so close to the Caledonian Railway Station across Lothian Road, one may have assumed that that station was the one invariably used. Not always. It very much depended on the location of the picnic and which railway company serviced the nearest station.

We have an excellent account in the Church Magazine of the Sunday School picnic held 100 years ago in June 1923. Over 400 youngsters plus many parents and friends were

conveyed in a special train from Haymarket Station to Duddingston and Craigmillar Station for the outing to Craigmillar Castle. The station was just off Duddingston Road West and was part of the Edinburgh Suburban rail network. The train departed Haymarket at 10.15 am and returned nine hours later. The cost of this day outing depended on the scholar's age – 6d (2½p) for the older ones and 3d for the younger one. Parents and friends paid 2 shillings (10p), "inclusive of the special train fare, luncheon and tea".

These payments did not come close to covering all the costs incurred. For that picnic in 1923, these payments left a deficit of around 1 shilling (5p) per scholar, although the adult price was sufficient. In order to make up the deficit of around £20, an appeal for donations was made.

Many will think that that deficit of £20 is trivial: it was anything but 100 years ago. At a time when the average weekly wage was just £3, that deficit is equivalent to almost two month's average wage. Putting that into context, the average weekly wage today is around £630, so the deficit by this particular measure is equivalent to £4,200 in today's money. Even increasing this deficit by the rate of inflation since 1923 results in a lower, but still substantial amount of £1,300 (source: ONS July 2023).

Financial aspects aside, happy days.

Soul Space

In advance of the official flyer which will be available in August, here are the Soul Space topics that will be covered this session.

This year's theme is Home, Hospitality and Welcome.

All meetings are held on a Wednesday

2023	6 th September	A House of Welcome
	4 th October	A Booth in Nineveh
	1 st November	On Shed *
	6 th December	Jesus the Homeless
2024	7 th February	Jesus in Capernaum
	6 th March	Going Home
	3 rd April	Hiraeth
	1 st May	Entertaining Strangers
	5 th June	Welcoming Refugees

* I am reliably informed that the term 'On Shed' is railway terminology meaning that you are at your home depot or visiting another depot.

OUT AND ABOUT

Society of Friends of St Cuthbert's: visit to the National Gallery of Scotland

There will be an opportunity to join a guided visit to the gallery on Saturday 26th August with Rev Peter Sutton. Numbers are limited by the Gallery so please apply soon to Geoffrey Millar by email. We shall meet at the main entrance by 2.00pm, and if you want to join us for lunch come at 1.00pm to the Scottish Cafeteria under the Gallery. Tables cannot be booked in advance and folding stools can be picked up at the Gallery. Please note the date of the Friends AGM on 1st October after the morning service when the preacher will be Rev Dr Donald MacEwan, chaplain to St Andrews University. If you would like lunch please add your name to the list available in the Lammermuir Hall by Saturday 23rd September or notify the secretary elect Fiona Pengelly at email: fiona.pengelly@hotmail.com by that date.

Geoffrey Millar

Life and Work

The August edition contains:

'Inclusion is not Difficult': Helping churches welcome people with disabilities. A new Christian community for autistic people

A Justice Issue: Why rich countries should pay for climate damage

A Mammoth Task: A new Bible in Doric

'Win-win': A partnership helping the church to connect with young people in Tayside

Humanity is Community: In her first column as Moderator, the Rt Rev Sally Foster-Fulton explains why the African concept of 'Ubuntu' is one of the themes of her year

View from the Pulpit: The Rev William Boyle reflects on a successful start to his ministry in Port Glasgow

Regulars

The Rev Roddy Hamilton on worship

The Rev Dr Martin Johnstone on leadership

The Very Rev Albert Bogle on digital church

Reflection by the Rev Dr Richard Frazer

Bible Study by Ruth Harvey

Plus: official updates from the Assembly Trustees and Faith Action Programme, readers' pictures, news, letters, reviews and puzzles – all for £3.50.

Visit www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe or speak to your church's Life and Work co-ordinator.

Art Exhibition

Details of Festival events being held in St Cuthbert's are shown separately, but one of particular relevance to members of St Cuthbert's is that of an art exhibition being held in the Church.

The exhibition includes recent scenes from around St Cuthbert's, as well as some works inspired by periods that the artist, Angela Brown, spent working with a gallery in Athens. Angela will be undertaking a Masters in Fine Art Practice at Glasgow School of Art from September.

LUMINOUS SENTIMENT

An exhibition of new work by Angela Brown



St Cuthbert's Church,
5 Lothian Road, Edinburgh
Tues 15, Wed 16 Thurs 17 August
Tues 22, Wed 23, Thurs 24 August
10am-4pm
Contact haffieliesel@hotmail.co.uk
Tel:07305 605739

GENERAL NOTICES

Congregational Roll

Death I am the resurrection and the life

24th May David Ben Arayah

13th July Rev Edwin Beveridge

Admission by Resolution of Kirk Session

Mrs Kirsten Kooy

Marriage

13th Pilar Cobanera and Alistair Connal, Edinburgh and New York

Communication

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

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 (to be found on the table in the vestibule).

All information will be treated in confidence.

Recordings of 10.30am Sunday Services

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

Tuesday Coffee Mornings

A reminder that St Cuthbert's have two coffee mornings on Tuesdays.

For those able to come to the Church, you can come for a coffee and a chat in the Lindisfarne Room between 10.30am and 11.30am.

If you can't make it to the Church in person, why not join the others online between 10am and 11am (sadly, technology has not yet evolved to allow us to provide the coffee – you will have to brew your own!).

Please use the following meeting details:

Zoom meeting ID: 898 2204 8959

Passcode: CuthCoffee

Saturday Coffee Mornings

Following the restart of the Saturday Coffee Morning on the 22nd July, the next one will be on Saturday 23rd September from 11am to 2pm. A further one is planned for 28th October. Due to the Festival in August, there will be no coffee morning in that month.

Thank you to all those who helped at the inaugural coffee morning in July and to all who gave donations of food.

If you can help or supply home baking for the coffee morning, please contact Derek and Lyn Deans on deans_d@sky.com for further information.

Proposed Golf Outing

Some of you may remember that St. Cuthbert's used to hold an annual Golf Competition playing for the St. Cuthbert's Cup.

We would like to revive this competition, so if golfers of any age or ability are interested in taking part, could they please contact me. We are looking to play this at the end of

September (hopefully on a weekend day). The competition will not be restricted only to congregational members but can be open to family members.

There will be a limit to numbers but please contact me if you are interested in playing or helping on the day.

Derek Deans deans_d@sky.com

Future Church Magazines



Thank you for sending in articles for this edition of 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:

October/November by Friday 22nd September

December/January by Tuesday 21st November

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

The magazine encourages anyone to send in articles or pictures. When sending pictures by email, please ensure that you send them in the highest possible resolution (by choosing the 'large' or 'actual size' scale version).



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,

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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