



# Back To Church Sunday



**Coming home:  
Being involved**

## St Cuthbert's Ministry Team

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## PASTORAL LETTER

Dear Friends,

*“Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together” (Hebrews 10:24-25)*

You may have seen the poster that reads:

**CH - - CH**

What’s missing?

**U R!**

You get the point! When you, or any of us, is not around or attending or involved, then church is somehow incomplete. You are missed.

As we begin a season of Stewardship in the congregation the one outcome that will be more important than any other is that of more of us being more involved; more involved in the worship of the congregation, more involved in the mission and work of the church, more involved in faith development, more involved in spiritual growth, more involved in our relationship with God, more involved in prayer, and so forth.

The writer of the letter to the Hebrews tells us to “provoke” or “encourage” one another to love and good deeds and meeting together. This Stewardship season is not mainly about “supporting the church” but about being involved in the life of God, the way of Jesus and the mission of God’s Spirit in the world.

And when you are not involved, you are missed!

Of course, there are some of us who are no longer able to attend worship regularly. We miss you very much, and I am very aware that many of you miss being at worship and being actively involved. But you still belong: you are part of us. And you can still be involved in very important ways; through your prayers (and I know many of you pray regularly for the people, life and work of St Cuthbert’s) and through your expressions of interest and the many encouragements which are greatly valued. We are in the process of putting in place a renewed system of visiting so that we can ensure that even if you can no longer attend church, the church will come to you in the person of designated visitors.

But then most of us are in the happy position of being able to be involved in the worship and work and mission of the church, but somehow other things can crowd out matters of faith and worship. It may be that we simply get out of the habit! When we’ve been away for a while it

can be a little awkward to take that first step of returning and it can be equally difficult for us to begin to attend when we have never been in the habit of doing so. **Sunday 26 September** has been designated by churches in the UK as “Back to Church Sunday”; an opportunity for us to re-establish our involvement in the worship and mission of the church knowing that we will not be alone! Others in the same position will be there too on that day.

We are all loved and welcomed by God, we are all called to share in Christ’s mission, and we all belong in the worshipping and witnessing and serving community of God’s church.

Your minister and friend,

*David Denniston*

## CHURCH DIARY

Wednesday 1	7.30pm	Time for Prayer
5 September	9.30am 11.00am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Morning Worship Evening Worship: Holy Communion
12 September	9.30am 11.00am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Morning Worship <i>Young Church meets during Morning Worship. Holy Communion is celebrated following the service.</i> Evening Worship
Wednesday 15	1pm & 7.30pm	Reflective Service: “Music in Prayer”
19 September	9.30am 11.00am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Morning Worship: Revd Ray Simpson, Lindisfarne - <i>Friends of St Cuthbert’s Sunday</i> Evening Worship: Reflective Worship input
26 September	9.30am 11.00am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Morning Worship <i>Back to Church Sunday</i> The Sacrament of Holy Communion Evening Worship: Healing Service

## BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY - 26 SEPTEMBER

Some folks find it relatively easy to decide to return to church attendance or decide to come to the church for the first time. But they are not the majority. Most people find the prospect of returning to worship or of coming along for the first time a very daunting prospect. And for others, going to church has never occurred to them because no-one has ever invited them.

“**Back to Church Sunday**” provides an opportunity for those who have not been to church for a while to come back on a day when there will be several others there in the same position. But this Sunday also gives those of us who do attend the opportunity of taking the very simple step of inviting someone we already know to come with us to church on that Sunday.

In the course of September invitation cards will be available for those who come to church to use to invite a friend or relative to come with them. And this is also the perfect opportunity for those of us who have got out of the habit of attending to come back to church.

Note the date (26 September). Plan to attend on that day. Pray for the day. Look out for the invitation cards to pass onto a friend and begin to consider who you might invite.

DD

### LECTIONARY READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER

5 September	Old Testament Psalm Epistle Gospel	Jeremiah 18: 1 - 11 139: 1 – 6 & 13 - 18 Philemon 1 - 21 St Luke 14: 25 - 33
12 September	Old Testament Psalm Epistle Gospel	Jeremiah 4: 11 – 12 & 22 - 28 14 1 Timothy 1: 12 - 17 St Luke 15: 1 – 10
19 September	Old Testament Psalm Epistle Gospel	Jeremiah 8: 18 - 9: 1 79: 1 - 9 1 Timothy 2: 1 - 7 St Luke 16: 1 – 13
26 September	Old Testament Psalm Epistle Gospel	Jeremiah 32: 1 - 3a, 6 - 15 91: 1 - 6, 14 - 16 1 Timothy 6: 6 - 19 St Luke 16: 19 - 31

*NB – the actual readings for the 11am services on 19 and 26 September may vary from the appointed lectionary readings.*

## EVENTS TO BE HOSTED BY ST CUTHBERT’S IN SEPTEMBER

Wednesdays	10 am to 12 noon	Chest, Heart & Stroke Society meeting
Thursdays	11.45 am to 2 pm	Scottish Slimmers
Tuesday 7	7 pm to 10pm	Edinburgh Bach Choir Rehearsal
Thursday 9	10 am to 12 noon	PROBUS Club meeting
Tuesday 14	7 pm to 10 pm	Edinburgh Bach Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday 15	2 pm to 4.30 pm	U3A meeting
Saturday 18	1.30pm to 3 pm	Society of Friends St Cuthbert Conference
Tuesday 21	7 pm to 10pm	Edinburgh Bach Choir Rehearsal
Thursday 23	10 am to 12 noon	PROBUS Club meeting
Sunday 26	2.30 pm	Girl Guides’ Centenary Service
Tuesday 28	7 pm to 10 pm	Edinburgh Bach Choir Rehearsal

### REFLECTIVE WORSHIP – why not give it a try?

As someone who could be described as a traditionalist, at least when it comes to worship, I must admit to having been a little bit sceptical about Reflective Worship when I first came to St Cuthbert’s almost 2 years ago.

For various reasons I was unable to attend for the first few months, but eventually I ran out of excuses, allowed curiosity to get the better of me, and went along to one of the lunchtime (1 pm to 1.30 pm) Reflective Worship Services.

I’m glad I did! Any anxieties I may have had, such as “would I be picked on to do something?” or “will it be possible to be anonymous within a relatively small group?” were soon dispelled. I find the atmosphere, the simple format of the service, and the wonderful, ever changing arrangement of candles to be very uplifting. The time offered for silent personal reflection is enormously helpful, and I was amazed at how peaceful the church could be in the middle of the working day, given our location at the heart of the West end!!

How often do we get the opportunity to sit in silence in the magnificent surroundings of the church, without feeling guilty for not rushing around dealing with the everyday busyness of our lives? Happily, as a Reflective Worship regular, the only anxiety I have is whether or not I’ve switched my mobile phone to silent!

If you haven’t been before, or you haven’t been for a while, then I would thoroughly recommend that you give it a try. The next one is on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September from 1 pm to 1.30 pm and 7.30 pm to 8.30 pm, and thereafter on the third Wednesday of every month through until June next year. After each service there is a welcome opportunity to chat over a cup of tea or coffee.

*Craig Marshall*

## REFLECTIVE SERVICES

Now that our rewarding journey of exploration into the Apostle's Creed has reached its conclusion, the Reflective Services over the coming year are going to be addressing the different ways in which we can pray and the different ways that we can experience God through prayer. Prayer is not a dry, cerebral exercise or empty duty of the Christian, a task that we are just 'supposed' to do. No, far from it, it is the very source from which everything else in the Christian life flows.

In our Reflective Services this year we will address the many and varied ways that we can communicate our heart's desires to God, at the same time listening to His, in a two-way conversation. There will be something for everyone. Topics through the year will range from the quiet contemplative style through to investigating prayer that engages each of the five senses, making room in the year to explore the place of loud cries and tears in our prayer life. The Reflective Services happen on the third Wednesday of the month, with a lunchtime service beginning at 1pm and evening service at 7.30pm. Additionally, the reflective theme will also contribute to the third Sunday evening service in the month.

Our first Reflective Service begins on Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>. All are warmly invited and we look forward to seeing you there.

*Howard Espie*

## STEWARDSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

A letter has been sent to members in the Edinburgh postal code area announcing the beginning of this campaign. Over the course of this month adherents will also receive a copy.

The first Fellowship event is a dinner + "home-grown" entertainment in the Lammermuir Hall on the Saturday 4th September at 7:30pm. (Tickets only £4 each). This will be followed by a visit to the theatre on Friday 17th September for which 20 tickets are available free of charge on a first come first served basis.

A weekend of events is planned for the celebration of Harvest starting with a dinner on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October at 7:30 pm, a celebration of Talents on Saturday 2nd October from 9am -12pm in the Lammermuir Hall and Church, and culminating in the Harvest Festival Service on Sunday 3rd October. More details of the October events will be announced in the weekly intimations and the October magazine. Tickets and more information for all events can be obtained from Lyn & Derek Deans on 01383 620472 or the Church Office on 0131 229 1142.

*Derek Deans*

## TIME FOR PRAYER – STARTING IN SEPTEMBER

Wednesday 1 September, will be our first 'Time for Prayer'. The church will be open between 7:30 pm and 8:30 pm, for quiet prayer.

The aim of this time is to encourage us all to pray more - for our church, our country, our world, as well as those things that touch us personally. If you can't be there for 7:30pm - please come when you can. If you need to leave before 8:30pm, please come and stay for as long as you are able.

If you are be unable to join us in person, but would still like to be involved in this 'Time for Prayer', please speak to the Minister for more information, or leave your details with the Church Office. We would very much like everyone to be involved in this, even if you are unable to come to the church during this time.

Why not come along and have a look, and find out more about what will be happening at this quiet hour which is a 'Time for Prayer' - between 7:30pm and 8:30pm, on Wednesday, 1 September, and then on the first Wednesday of every following month.

*DWD/RMG*

## CHRISTIAN AID NEWS

### Jams & Jellies for Jamaica

In spite of our not so perfect summer, there has been a plentiful supply of soft fruits which make super jams and jellies. The Wider Church Task Group is proposing to hold a Coffee Morning in aid of our partners, Roy and Jane Dodman, on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September from 10.30 am to 12 noon in the Lindisfarne Room. There will be a stall selling the above preserves as well as home baking. Donations for this stall will be required and most welcome. Tickets priced £1.50 will be on sale in early September at the book stall. The ticket price includes coffee or tea, with a scone or pancake and jam. This will give you an opportunity to sample some of the preserves on sale before you buy!

### Film Night Sing-along

Start practising and get your voice in tune for the Film Night Sing-along on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm in the Candlish Hall, St Andrew's & St George's West, Shandwick Place. Tickets price £8 (includes ice-cream at interval). All proceeds to Christian Aid. Contact Maggie Romanis for further details.

*MR*

## THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS OF THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST CUTHBERT

The Friends Annual Service this year is on **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September** at 11am. Our Guest Preacher is Ray Simpson, the co-founder and Guardian of the International Community of Aiden and St Hilda based on Lindesfarne. Ray is a widely regarded author and expert on Celtic Christianity and on Cuthbert. These early Saints were responsible for establishing the first Christian communities in what was Northumbria back in the seventh century. What will they tell us today? You are warmly invited with family and friends to join us for what will be a spiritually enriching Service. After the Service we will have the Friends Annual General Meeting in the War Memorial Chapel followed by lunch together in the Lindesfarne Room. Members will have received the Annual Report and Accounts to give an update on the Society's contribution to St Cuthbert's in the last year.

On **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September** in the church from 1pm to 3.30pm, the Friends are sponsoring a short **Cuthbert Day Conference** when Ray will be leading us in thinking about and sharing "What aspects of the life of St Cuthbert inform and challenge the life and mission of the Church today" We hope that this meeting together will enable us to quietly listen, share, enrich and refresh our spiritual understanding as we go forward on our Christian journey. You are most welcome to join us. We aim to publicise this as widely as we can, both with our Together Partners and all who wish to explore what can be both challenging and relevant as we go forward. Tea and coffee will be served at the end of the conference and it will be very useful if you can confirm that you will be joining us so the necessary arrangements are made.

*Gordon Wemyss (Secretary)*

### CHANGES TO CONGREGATIONAL ROLL

#### Death: "I am the Resurrection and the Life"

27 June 2010 Mrs Isobel Old, White Rock, BC, Canada

#### New Members by Transference Certificates

August 2010 Reverend S Edwin P Beveridge and Mrs Sheena C M Beveridge,  
19 Rothesay Terrace, Edinburgh

#### Marriages:

10 July 2010 Katharine Parton and Guy Edwards, Melbourne, Australia  
7 August 2010 Nikki Francis and Shane McLaughlin, London

## CONGREGATIONAL GIVING – JANUARY TO JUNE 2010

Our total offerings for the period were £40,960 and £2,361 up on 2009.

Open Plate	£3,984
Free Will	£1,910
Gift Aid	£23,260
Evening	£622
Ordinary	£214
Easter	£10,970

However, as our Easter Thanks offering was an excellent £4,525 up on 2009, this means our week by week offerings were £2,164 or 5.6% down on last year. Tax recovered through Gift Aid was £13,234 which included £3,800 from tax paid on a legacy which was being finalised.

Looking to the second half of the year I know we will all keep the level of our personal givings in mind, and where appropriate do so by Gift Aid, which turns each £1 into £1.25, this can make a big difference to the achievement of our annual givings budget of £70,000. Please just ask Iain Reeder or myself if you would like to have details of either Gift Aid and/or Bankers Order giving.

St Cuthbert's is an expensive building to run and we are working hard to both increase our income from all other sources and keep running costs down. The new heating system is producing really sound savings which will be highlighted by our ECO group. Thank you for your continuing financial support to enable St Cuthbert's to continue to develop our mission in the Parish and City.

*Gordon Wemyss (Treasurer)*

### DUTY ELDERS

#### September 2010

Mr Cooper - C Miss McNeel-Caird  
Dr Langdon - C Mr Revolta  
Mr McLean Mr Watson-Grigs  
Miss Wilson

#### October 2010

Mr Dunbar - C Miss Moyes - C  
Mr Hunter Miss Rose  
Mr MacKenzie Mr Reeder  
Mrs Reeder

C – Communion Duty after morning  
service on Sunday 12 September 2010

C- Communion Duty after morning  
service on Sunday 10 October 2010



## ECO CONGREGATION NEWS

### Energy Use

The Treasurer, Gordon Wemyss, has given me the following report on our consumption of Gas and Electricity.

*“During the last quarter of 2009 we installed a new highly efficient heating system which enables temperature control to be managed according to daily weather conditions and in particular for separate areas within the large building. The computer control is programmed each week to mirror the exact usage of the Church each day.*

*As from April, we changed supplier from Scottish Gas to Scottish Hydro as we are part of the Church of Scotland corporate savings scheme. This has ensured lower unit costs for the next two years. Gas is paid monthly and electricity quarterly by Direct Debit.*

*The Eco measures already in place to encourage everyone to play a part in ensuring lights are switched off in areas no longer in use on the day will keep on contributing to extra savings.*

*For the January to June period in 2009 and 2010 the utility costs are as follows:*

	<b>2009 (Jan -June)</b>	<b>2010 (Jan- June)</b>	<b>Saving</b>
Gas	£ 9,830	£6,211	£3,619 (37%)
Electricity	£ 4,823	£ 2,925	£1,898 (39%)
Total	£14,653	£9,136	£5,517 (37.6%)

*The new heating system cost £170,000 so it can be seen how important it is that we continue to keep our utility costs as low as possible.*

*At the end of this year we will calculate our carbon footprint savings, which, so far, show an excellent result.”*

Justin Synclair has put this information in graph form and this will be displayed in the vestibule for all to see!

### Used Stamp Collection

We have received a letter of thanks from the Church of Scotland World Mission Stamp Appeal for the latest parcel of used stamps sent to them.

“It is through your support that vital funds are raised to help our partners worldwide in small projects which otherwise would not be funded. Each year in March we launch a new project and this year we are raising money to help fund the Girls’ Hostel at St Columba’s Religious Training Centre in Sialkot, Pakistan.”

More information is available from [www.churchofscotland.org.uk/worldmission](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/worldmission)

We are most grateful to Rena Scott, who trims the stamps before they are sent to the World Mission Appeal. Please keep saving your used stamps and do ask your friends to give you their stamps also instead of throwing them out. Used stamps should be put in one of the wicker baskets in the Lammermuir Hall.

*Irene MacKenzie (Eco Congregation Group)*

### Telephone Prayer Circle

Requests for prayer in a crisis situation or time of trouble should be made to Mary Stewart (443 3015). 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 for the evening service (to be found on the table in the vestibule). All information will be treated in confidence.

**Tape Ministry** – Tape recordings of Sunday Morning Services are available for the sick or housebound members. For further information, contact George Gilchrist on 339 7899.

### October 2010 Magazine

Material for the October 2010 Magazine should be sent to the Editor, Mary Wilson by e-mail [magazine@st-cuthberts.net](mailto:magazine@st-cuthberts.net) or put in her pigeon-hole by Monday 20 September 2010.

## FRESH START

Your contributions of household items for Fresh Start have enabled Starter Packs to be completed and distributed to those who really need them. Here is just one example of how someone’s life changed for the better.

Please contribute pots, pans, cleaning materials, kitchen utensils, crockery; anything you feel will be useful. Bring them in to St Cuthbert’s and we’ll get them to Fresh Start for immediate use. Thank you.

*Ben Williams (Convenor - Parish & City Centre)*

## A GRATEFUL CLIENT'S STORY

### 4 Years Ago My Life Was Turned Upside Down!

I had a brilliant job working as a volunteer in a special needs school; I had a lovely flat which I shared with a fellow volunteer and I had built a life for myself away from my family and friends in Edinburgh, living and working in Irvine.

I became involved with a man who was abusive and eventually I had to leave and return to Edinburgh, moving into a Women's Aid Refuge. I was housed in temporary accommodation where I lived for three years. I was seriously ill and drinking or taking drugs daily. My life spiralled out of control resulting in a mental breakdown, which led me for the very first time, to take control of my life and resolve issues from my past and to "move on".

I learnt to begin taking responsibility for myself and met with a Housing Officer to begin looking for permanent accommodation. I was offered my house about five months ago and was given 11 days to move from my fully-furnished flat to what can only be described as a shell. I began to take stock of my belongings and the things I would need to set up home, but the elation I felt at finding the permanent housing I wanted in an area I wished to live in was short-lived. The thought of moving into an empty house with only an old fridge, a bed, a chest of drawers and a little crockery was depressing and frightening; I even considered refusing my offer of housing.

A referral was made to Fresh Start and within half an hour I got a phone call from Ian McFadyen. Meeting him was like a massive weight lifting – due to the nature of my medical problems I can't live without a washing machine. Through the Christmas appeal a re-conditioned washing machine was funded and I began to feel hopeful and positive about my future home.

A Hit Squad was organized to decorate my living room and bedroom and Ian took me to the warehouse. He invited me to pick some things for my house and told me to take as much as I needed and I went from feeling embarrassed and a bit like a charity case to feeling comfortable and supported due to his enthusiasm and encouragement. Being given simple things like lamps, a television, bedding and kitchen appliances like a George Foreman grill and a pretty pink toaster and kettle have made a bigger difference than most people could imagine. These are the things that make a house a home and are usually unobtainable for someone setting up home whilst living on benefits.

Ian visited two days after I moved in and we picked the colours for my rooms together and he offered advice on preparing the rooms for painting. I was told that the more work I put in before the Hit Squad arrived, the better finish I would get. With the help of my support worker and some family members I stripped, filled in holes, sanded and cleaned the walls and not only did I get a fantastic looking living room after our two days of work I had a massive sense of pride and achievement.

The day the Hit Squad arrived I was really nervous and unsure about what to expect. Ian came with the volunteers so there was a familiar face and it really helped put me at ease. All the volunteers were patient, supportive and kind and whilst two volunteers started work painting the living room, Tamsin, one of the Hit Squad team, and I finished stripping and sanding the bedroom walls. She took time to chat with me and we quickly built up a rapport which spurred us on to work even harder. At the end of the two days work I had one room that was completely re-decorated and another almost finished and the difference that made, along with the Starter Packs and the things Ian had given me, is massive.

From simple things, like being able to make more than two cups of tea at a time to having a room that's finished that I can relax in, Fresh Start has given me help that is truly priceless. Fresh Start provides a service that no other charity does and it's all thanks to the volunteers, the support of the Church, fundraising and donations and the dedication and passion of its staff. It's a service I hope continues as the difference it makes to the homeless and vulnerable is enormous.

## LIFE AND WORK September Issue

### Ten Years of Love

Scottish Love in Action, a charity with its roots firmly in the Church of Scotland, celebrates its first decade.

### Buildings and Blessings

Profile of James Wells, Kirk Elder and chief executive of EMMS International.

### Communion at Calvin

Jackie Macadam reports from the Uniting General Council of the newly-formed World Communion of Reformed Churches in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

### A Voyage Round Our Presbyteries

Robert Ross shares his conclusions after three years of writing the Our Presbytery series.

### Meaningful Changes

Laurence Wareing describes how congregations are giving their own brand of overseas direct aid.

### Suffering and Destruction

Lynne McNeil reports on the response to the flooding in Pakistan.

### Scotland's Greenbelt

Thomas Baldwin reports on Solas2010, a new Christian festival.

### Stepping Stone to the Future

In the second of our series examining the great characters of the Old Testament, the Rev Martin Allen analyses Isaac.

### The Growing Church

Martin's Memorial Church, Stornoway.

**Plus** all the regular columnists, news, letters, reviews and crosswords – all for just £1.60. Available at the bookstall now.

**Daily Prayer Diary – September 2010**

Wed 1 The growth and development of our Congregational prayer life, Prayer Diary, Time for Prayer (this evening), Prayer Co-ordinator.

Thu 2 Bethany Christian Trust, the Rock Trust, Fresh Start. Our ministry with the homeless and needy; those homeless in Edinburgh

Fri 3 The persecuted church in Jordan. Justice where there is inequity. Peace where there is conflict in the world. For integrity in public life. Victoria Linford in her new Parish of Stow and Heriot

Sat 4 Ministers, choir, organist, readers, and all involved in leading our worship tomorrow. All attending worship tomorrow. Thanksgiving for what has been and is being achieved in St Cuthbert's, guidance and discernment for the Stewardship Team to build on this good foundation

**Sun 5 *I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. (Psalm 139: 14)***

Mon 6 All who visit those in our congregation who are housebound or sick. The Organ group in their search for a new Organist and Choirmaster for St Cuthbert's.

Tue 7 Ecumenical Matters Convenor. The churches and clergy of the Edinburgh Presbytery (meeting tonight)

Wed 8 Law Committee. A spirit of generous giving in the congregation (time, talents and financial); all who give.

Thu 9 Our Wider Mission Task Group. Nominating Committee of St Andrew's and St George's West in their search for a new Minister.

Fri 10 The persecuted church in Kazakhstan. Justice where there is inequity. Peace where there is conflict in the world. Christian Aid

Sat 11 All St Cuthbert's elders (conference today). Ministers, choir, organist, readers, and all involved in leading our worship tomorrow. All who visit our church for Sunday worship, or during the week. Young Church and their leaders

**Sun 12 *God is present in the company of the righteous (Psalm 14: 5 NIV)***

Mon 13 Bookstall and 'Life and Work' promoter. Those who are suffering as a result of natural disasters, and continue to suffer long after the media have moved on to other stories.

Tue 14 The Kirk Session (meeting tonight), the Session Clerk, Development Group and key office bearers of the Kirk Session

Wed 15 New forms of worship and church; "Sanctuary in the City"; the Reflective Services (tonight); For new opportunities to explore faith;

Thu 16 Parish Task Group. Thanksgiving for new members, new elders, generous giving, but that all may be challenged and guided in ways to give more of our time talents and money.

Fri 17 The persecuted church in Kosovo. Justice where there is inequity. Peace where there is conflict in the world. The City Centre Task Group. For economic stability and social justice.

Sat 18 Way of Cuthbert seminar with Ray Simpson of Lindisfarne today. Ministers, choir, organist, readers, and all involved in leading our worship tomorrow, all attending the Friends of St Cuthbert's service. Those who prepare the floral displays, and those who distribute the flowers.

**Sun 19 *We your people, will give thanks to you for ever (Psalm 79 : 13)***

Mon 20 Church magazine and editor. Bethany Christian Trust as they plan the night shelters for this coming winter. St Cuthbert's night shelters (planning meeting tonight).

Tue 21 Possibilities being considered by Together in relation to "new forms" of church.

Wed 22 New attendees at St Cuthbert's. The stewardship of our congregation's resources; the Finance and Fabric Task Group (meeting tonight) and the Treasurer who administer our finances and care for our fabric on our behalf.

Thu 23 St Andrew's Church, Jerusalem and the English Reformed Church, Amsterdam.

Fri 24 The persecuted church in Kyrgyzstan. Justice where there is inequity. Peace where there is conflict in the world. Our mission in the parish

Sat 25 Ministers, choir, organist, readers, and all involved in leading our worship tomorrow. Services and Communion convenor. That "Back to Church Sunday" may encourage those who have given up on church, to attend worship. Healing and prayer ministry offered at Evening Services and on Tuesdays. Healing convenor.

**Sun 26 *I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." (Psalm 91 : 2 NIV)***

Mon 27 Congregational Communication and Publicity. Our Website, for internet evangelism and those seeking to learn more of God through this medium

Tue 28 The Tuesday coffee morning. Healing Time; healing and prayer offered on Tuesdays.

Wed 29 Roll keeper. The clergy and congregation of St John's; The minister and congregation of St Andrew's & St George's West

Thu 30 The unity of the church and an openness to God's Spirit. Those in our armed forces around the world. Forces chaplains.

**Daily Prayer Diary – October 2010**

Fri 1 The persecuted church in Laos. Justice where there is inequity. Peace where there is conflict in the world. Our shared witness with Together partners in the City. For the Stewardship campaign to encourage us to become even more involved in the life and service of our congregation.

Sat 2 Ministers, choir, organist, readers, and all involved in leading our worship tomorrow. All who transport others to church. The Belfry.

**Sun 3 *Trust in the Lord and do good... Take delight in the Lord.... Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act" (Psalm 37: 3-5)***

Mon 4 Eco-congregation convenor. The development of our Eco-Congregation efforts. The care of Creation in all aspects of our lives.

Tue 5 The congregations of our city and the mission of the church in Edinburgh

## **The Christian Church Around the World**

In the Prayer Diary this month, we will be specifically praying for the persecuted Christian church in Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kosovo and Kyrgyzstan. Here is a little information about the church in each of these countries. (All information provided by the Barnabas Fund.)

### **Jordan**

Although Christians have been able to reach senior positions in society, the percentage of Christian citizens is declining steeply, and they now number less than 3% of the population. The Church in Jordan has been watching its government's actions with growing concern. In recent years many foreign Christian workers, all of them long-term residents, were deported, denied re-entry or refused renewal of residency. Most of them were not given any reason for their deportation, but later the government admitted that it was because of their preaching and missionary activities.

While Christianity is a recognised religion, and Christian communities are tolerated in the country, the government imposes certain restrictions on their freedom. Sharing one's faith with a Muslim is prohibited, and Christian converts from Islam are often socially ostracised and harassed by the authorities. In the past year a few converts have reported being summoned by the General Intelligence Directorate after family members complained about their conversions. They claimed that officials questioned their beliefs, threatened court action and offered inducements to recant, and also that they withheld from the converts the certificates of good behaviour required for job applications or to open a business, and told employers to fire them.

### **Kazakhstan**

It seems that Kazakhstan, one of the most ethnically diverse Central Asian countries, is now following the trend set by its neighbour Uzbekistan in cracking down on the Christian community. More than half of the population are Muslims, and there is also a large Russian Orthodox community, both of which are well tolerated. But Protestant Christians face negative coverage in the media.

Yet, amidst oppression, the number of (known) believers among ethnic Kazakhs, a traditionally Muslim people group who make up just over 50% of the population, has grown from none in 1990 to some thousands (only the Lord knows exactly how many). These believers frequently face pressure from their Muslim communities to reconvert to Islam.

In June 2009, a church in Aktau was targeted by anti-terrorism police with support from local prosecutors, the courts and an imam. Two female church members, Feruza and Vera, were fined for "carrying out missionary activity without local registration". Feruza was deported back to her native Uzbekistan because she gave a Christian children's magazine to a 12-year-old girl who lived next door.

A German citizen, Viktor Leven, born in Kazakhstan, is due for deportation, accused of conducting missionary activity without state registration. He argues that he is not a missionary, just a church member professing his faith.

### **Kosovo**

In 2009 the population of Kosovo was around 1.8 million. Islam is the predominant faith;

however, the law states that there is no official religion. Kosovar society remains largely secular and the observance of Islam is mainly cultural. Christianity accounts for less than 5% of the population.

Christians have experienced discrimination under the new independent Kosovar government, such as not being allowed to register property in the names of their churches or establish a Christian cemetery. This has resulted in Christians being buried in Muslim graveyards and many Christian funerals being performed by Muslims. Between 1999 and 2009, 150 churches were destroyed in attacks, including 30 in a single outburst of violence in March 2004. NATO forces are still protecting the Serb minority and their religious sites.

In recent years a growing number of ethnic Albanians in Kosovo have left Islam for the Christian faith of their ancestors, and therefore face hostility from the Muslim community. In the same time period, Middle Eastern influence has made the tolerant Muslims of Kosovo increasingly conservative and some of them radical.

Gjon Mehaj left Islam to follow Christ in 2009, along with 20 members of his family. He received a number of anonymous threats from radical Muslim groups, and in August 2009 his house was burnt down. A group called the "Islamic Defence Organisation of Kosovo" declared, "If the Church thinks it can convert the Albanian Muslims to Christianity, then a religious war is to be expected between Christians and Muslims."

### **Kyrgyzstan**

Kyrgyzstan was one of the least restrictive of the Central Asian countries for Christians until a new religion law was unanimously approved by parliament on 12 January 2009. Amongst other repressive measures, the new law states that any religious organisation needs at least 200 members to register. This makes it virtually impossible for most churches to register and thus gain the protection of a legal status. Distribution of religious literature is prohibited in public places, and activities directed to the conversion of others are forbidden altogether. The law thus brings Kyrgyzstan in one leap to a situation of intolerance comparable with many of its neighbouring countries.

Despite the fact that many Kyrgyz do not have a strong Muslim identity, ethnic Kyrgyz who convert from Islam to Christianity often face severe pressure and threats from family and local communities. Leaving Islam is seen as betraying one's Kyrgyz identity and family. In recent years, local Islamic and community leaders have opposed the burial of Christian converts in Islamic cemeteries, or insisted they be buried according to Islamic rituals. In May 2008 a village mob and the local imam prevented a Christian family from burying their 14-year-old son in the local cemetery. The police did nothing to help them; instead they forced their way into the family's house, stole the body and buried it carelessly in an abandoned place 25 miles away from the village. They demanded that his father Isaakov return to Islam before they would let him bury his son, but Isaakov refused to deny Jesus. A spokeswoman for the Regional Administration commented: "As a Kyrgyz national I am against the Kyrgyz accepting other faiths. We need a stronger law putting a constraint on all kinds of religious sects. Only then would we not have such problems."

## Worship at St Cuthbert's

### Sunday

- 9.30am Holy Communion (Memorial Chapel)
- 11.00am Morning Worship  
*Communion on Last Sunday*  
*Communion following service on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday*  
*Young Church on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday*
- 6.30pm Evening Worship  
*Communion on 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday*

### Tuesday

- 12 noon Healing & Listening Time (Memorial Chapel)

### Wednesday

- 7.30pm Time for Prayer (1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday)
- 1.00pm & 7.30pm Reflective Service (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday)



## The Parish Church of St Cuthbert

### OUR VISION

Our core vision in St Cuthbert's is:

**Living out the Gospel of Jesus Christ at the heart of our city as God's people**

**nurturing hearts for God  
offering a home to friend and stranger, and  
providing a hub to equip the people of God  
for the mission 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**

5 Lothian Road  
Edinburgh EH1 2EP  
[www.st-cuthberts.net](http://www.st-cuthberts.net)  
SC010592

**IT'S NOT QUITE "GOODBYE" FROM HIM  
BUT IT'S DEFINITELY "HELLO" FROM ME**

I welcome this opportunity to introduce myself as  
Chairman of Edinburgh City Centre Churches  
Together in succession to Russell McLarty.



Let me first pay tribute to Russell's achievements in this ambitious attempt to create a new ecumenical partnership. The future of the three congregations lies in working more closely together while retaining their distinctive identities. From his position as Interim Minister at St Andrew's and St George's West (STAGW), he has given unstintingly of his time, his negotiating talents and his experience combined with his skills in the art of storytelling. This has released a new spirit of mutual trust and forbearance among the Trustees and the Clergy with which we can do great things. So, we say a hearty thank you to Russell and wish him everything that is good for the remainder of his career in the ministry. Russell will continue as a Trustee while he is Interim Moderator of STAGW.

My own background is more conventional in that I have been an elder in St Cuthbert's for almost 40 years and, like a number of others prominent in constituent Churches, I was once a mandarin in St Andrew's House.

I spent a lively year in 1972 – 3 as Chairman of the committee which ran the Corner Stone Coffee House as an outreach project of the Council of West End Churches, whose meetings I attended. It was through the Corner Stone that I met my wife, Irene. Later I chaired the CWEC/WECT Christian Aid Group and spent four fascinating years on Christian Aid's governing body for Britain and Ireland. I remain an unrepentant enthusiast for the ecumenical partnership in which I believe we should do together those things which can best be done at TOGETHER level, mainly outreach to the community on our doorsteps from the homeless at our gates to directors in their board rooms. Other examples of outreach are, Christian Aid fundraising events, the Night Shelters for the Homeless, the Story telling events plus activities under the banners of "Creative Space" and the Festival of Spirituality and Peace.

The Trustees' role is to take decisions, allocate resources and plan ahead and not in any way to influence the worship and management of the three congregations. Nor should we become involved in the Pastoral Care of their members which is best left to the constituent Churches to pursue. We will, however, continue to promote joint services and other occasions in which we can join together for prayer, study and worship.

None of this work has so far been particularly visible but it should become more so with the arrival in post of our part time Co-ordinator, Joe Evans, who is a member of St Andrew's and St George's West. Thanks to the kindness of that congregation, Joe has the use of an office in the George Street building and can currently be contacted on 0131 225 5921. He will act mainly as a central link between the various TOGETHER projects, between the congregations, and with the local community; finding common ground and trying to help us to find better ways of working together. By meetings in person as well as communicating through the magazines and the internet, he hopes to find new resources which we didn't know we had and use the resources we already have in more productive and innovative ways.

So to those who wonder when is TOGETHER going to start in earnest, I say that we are already in business and are currently moving on the publicity, Homeless and Christian Aid fronts. Progress has been slower on other items such as Communications through a quarterly magazine, now due in November, a Workplace Chaplain for the shops and offices and Street Angels/Pastors for the club scene. I hope this gives you some feel for what TOGETHER is doing. We can only succeed with the support of individual members of the Churches and I will keep you informed of developments. Joe and I plan to meet as many of you as we can during the remainder of this year. *An arrow prayer: Fill us with a passion for righteousness and a zeal to serve where there is need.*  
*Kenneth MacKenzie (Chairman)*