



\St Martin of Tours
Diocese of Edinburgh Scottish Charity No: 011137

Living our faith in our community
through prayer, reflection and action



June July 2024

St Martin of Tours Episcopal Church
is part of the Worldwide Anglican Communion
www.stmartinsedinburgh.org.uk

Who are we?

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John's letter

A Visit to The Farne Islands

Last month I visited the Farne Islands off the coast of Northumberland; the first time in a while as the islands have been closed because of bird flu. The Farnes are home to 70,000 Puffins, Terns, Guillemots, Eiders, Cormorants, Kittiwakes and a large colony of seals.

It also is a stopping off place for Gannets as they make their way north to their breeding grounds on Bass Rock.

While it is a place of relative security for the wildlife, away from many would be predators, it is not without its challenges; the gulls jostle for position on narrow ledges on the rocks, the bull seals frequently fight with each other (their life span is half that of the females because of the injuries they sustain – plus ça change!) and a severe pecking awaits visiting humans who stray too near the Artic Terns when they are nesting.

The only permanent humans on the islands now are the Rangers who monitor the wildlife, but over the years, the islands have been home to heroines and saints. Perhaps the most famous resident on the island was St Cuthbert; he had served as Abbot at Lindisfarne Priory where he gained a reputation for having a profound insight and wise counsel, resulting in many people seeking him out for advice. He was a national celebrity and given the name ‘Wonder Worker of Britain’.

It was perhaps because of all this attention, that he longed for a life of solitude and austerity and retired to the Inner Farne where he built a cell for himself and presumably hoped this was sufficiently difficult for others to reach. Yet undeterred by this, many continued to seek him out; at first he received visitors, but eventually confined himself to his cell and would only give blessings through the window. The quiet life eluded him and King Ecgfrith of Northumbria persuaded him to accept the appointment of Bishop of Lindisfarne. Barely 18 months later, Cuthbert left to go back to The Inner Farne, where he died in 687.

Cuthbert’s legacy is evident across the North of England and the Scottish Borders, given that he spent most of his life there. He was particularly popular among the Viking invaders who ruled the North and East of England and at war with the South. Alfred, King of Wessex had a vision of Cuthbert and he dedicated himself in prayer and devotion to Cuthbert, and partly because of this, began the journey to an eventual reconciliation between the Vikings and Anglo Saxons. What is remarkable is that St Cuthbert, renowned for his wisdom in life, helped the reconciliation of the nation in death.

St Bede, writing in 720 said of Cuthbert, that he was perhaps the most popular saint in England before Thomas Beckett in 1170.

It was while I was on the islands that The Prime Minister announced he was calling a general election; perhaps another trip out to The Farnes is in order so I can light a candle and pray that the values that defined St Cuthbert; wisdom, humility and an ability to reconcile, may inspire and direct all who are seeking public office.

John



We are looking for volunteers to go on the church rota for "LOOP"

What does this involve? It is looking after the sound system for the Sunday morning service. There are instructions provided, but they are rather lengthy, and it is easier to show you what to do. You turn on the amplifiers, replace the battery in the throat microphone for the clergy and put out the hand microphone for the person doing prayers, plug in the lectern microphone and test the whole system well before the service.

Stuart Campbell

The Frontals



The pattern for the gold frontal.

Some of us were admiring the gold frontal and I was remembering Isobel Marshall painstakingly sewing it, which led to other reminiscences. Isobel also embroidered the pigeon on the green frontal, complaining loudly that there was no standard colouring for her to copy: they were all different and would not keep still!

The green frontal was the first to be attempted, having been inspired by the small banners Rosie Mann had made for St Luke's. Brian Hardy had suggested that some colour stating that the Wester Hailes social work cabin was being used with a religious purpose would help. What we did not realise was that Rosie's design was stitched in a very sparse use of thread which did not pull at the cotton fabric. Our designs used a much denser stitch which did pull - but it did not cause too much of a problem. On moving from the old church the old frontals looked shabby but we needed to replace them with the least cost possible.



Mary Reilly's cousin, Lena Mackintosh, began with the brambles that crop up all over the place. She was having (successful) treatment for cancer and wanted something to distract her. Then followed the pig from the farm, the fox which watched Douglas Yeoman digging his garden, the canal and the cross, though I don't remember who did what. I expect Isobel did some more.

Madge Baillie sewed the red frontal and (Mrs) Liz Moir made the Advent/Lent one with applique from a design by Gre Mann. We have just seen the red frontal for Pentecost. I am wondering if Gre (his professional name) Mann designed it too. Does anyone else remember any details that could add to this background to the frontals? It would be lovely to record more.

Jenny Brockie

Flowers

Thank you to all who donate regularly, or not so regularly, to the flower fund. Please remember to donate through the summertime when flowers may not last so long. Donations may be placed in an envelope marked "flowers" in the plate or simply handed to me. Lynn

Art Show

Please put the Art Show in your diaries for the last week in August Saturday 24th to Saturday 31st August. Much help will be required during that week.

If you, or any of your family, friends or neighbours are artists, silversmiths, potters or craft workers please consider exhibiting with us. I can share more information as required.

Lynn

Proposed for Art Show 2024

I thought that we could do a sea themed picture this year if enough people are interested to join in. I have a 2m long roller window blind (it takes acrylic paint) which could be used to depict a seascape under water. I feel that fish, seaweed, shells and plastic litter could be used to adorn the picture. A warning showing the damage down to the water around our coast (specifically omitting sewage though!).

Let me know if you would be interested?

Stuart Campbell

Eco Congregation Scotland Annual Gathering

Sustaining Hope

Although I only attended on line, it seemed to be an enjoyable day allowing people to mix and discuss the subjects presented.

Jess Pepper felt that the urgency of climate change seemed no longer to be important. She had attended a course to help share resources and had introduced Climate Cafes, places where people could meet and discuss the problems and by doing so had linked with other cafes. There is now a whole network of cafes worldwide to help share information, ideas and progress. They even have a primary school in Inverness linked to a school in Nepal to enable pupils to discuss their countries' problems.

Our next speaker was Lucy le Roux from Christian Aid Scotland. After the build up to COP 26, politics have changed. Scotland's targets are no longer credible, and government cuts have reduced action on heating, transport and agriculture.

There is a need for constructive dialogue involving all political parties working together and Christian Aid is pushing for more help. It goes beyond politics, requiring faith and action for a sustainable future and international justice.

Fairtrade recognises the need to change and unite with Christian Aid to show the importance of global solidarity (a website with many digital resources).

David Coleman's afternoon session on creation reminds us we are creation and we shouldn't just use creation time for worship for September but be involved all year round. We need to enrich our lives and enjoy creation.

There is need to acknowledge the urgency to deal with climate change. The speakers all agreed that that is so important, often simple but required to enable the sharing of ideas, leading to action and dialogue to find solutions and sustain hope.

Working together has more impact than one working alone.

Don't just have one signature on a letter, have several. Don't have one MP involved have several, then they have to act.

Work done in common is more efficient, it is a source of pleasure, stimulation and happiness.

Penny Allen

Walking group

June 1st (Saturday) Pilgrimage Walk (Fife - Culross to Dunfermline)

Quote on the Pilgrim board at Culross

'It is good to have an end to journey towards; but it is the journey that matters, in the end.'

Ursula K Le Guin (1929-2018)

We had an early start to arrive in Dunfermline by 8.45am to catch a 9.05am bus to Culross. Duncan, the Fife Pilgrim Way Pastor, was pleased that we had brought the sun with us again as last June. We walked by an old railway with views of the Firth of Forth passing a monument to commemorate the site of the Valleyfield Colliery 1908 -1978. The area suffered greatly when the mines closed.

We had lunch at Cairniet Hill Parish Church and were made welcome by their minister and colleagues who served us a very welcome cup of coffee or tea and biscuits. After a short service we set off again to reach Dunfermline. We passed a tablet in memory of the last person to be burnt for witchcraft, Lillas Adie. We learnt later from the guide at Dunfermline Abbey that a remembrance ceremony will be held in Dunfermline Abbey graveyard to apologise to all the witches who were tried in the 16th and 17th century of being in league with the devil.

The walk was peaceful, hearing birds singing, seeing wildflowers and having good company.

Felicity



This is the plan of walks for 2024

June 29th (Saturday) Jim's Caravan in Fife
August 15th (Thursday) Cramond to Newhaven
September 19th (Thursday) West End to Botanics
October 12th (Saturday) Gullane Beach
November 7th (Thursday) Glasgow
More details of each walk will be given nearer the time

The Big Day Let Us Pray at St Mary's Cathedral

A group attended from St Martin's, having a chance to join in various workshops.

I attended a Walking Pray workshop led by Willie Shaw of St Mary's, Grangemouth. He took us on a walk near the Cathedral stopping at points to pray. We stopped opposite the Russian Consulate on Melville Street, and Willie Shaw recalled "when I was a curate at the cathedral, the staff of the Consulate were in and out of the cathedral, even holding events there. I even signed a form for one of them to get a driving licence. How things have changed."

It was good to be reminded that we can pray at any time and as we walk can pray for situations that are stimulated by what we see. It was also good to be out in the sun and not in the cold cathedral. There was also a labyrinth outside.

In the afternoon after a Taizé session I attended a workshop about New Monasticism with Lectio with Marion Chatterley and Andrew Bain. I later discovered Tim Tunley who preached for us at Pentecost was a member too. We learnt about the rule of St Benedict.

Prayer of St Benedict

Gracious and Holy Father, please give me:
a mind to understand you, a reason to discern you,
diligence to seek you, wisdom to find you,
a spirit to know you, a heart to meditate upon you,
ears to hear you, eyes to see you,
a tongue to proclaim you,
a way of life pleasing to you. Amen.

For more information about the Emmaus Community of St Benedict
andrewbain99@hotmail.com or marion@cathedral.net

The day came to a conclusion with Compline.

I found the day helpful and good to meet people from all over the Diocese.

Felicity

Memories

Often when I read a book it triggers memories of happy times in my life.

I was reading Susan Hill's book *In the Springtime of the Year* and the mention of a donkey took me back to the holidays I spent in Dorset in Lytchett Matravers which is about 7 miles from Poole, Wimborne Minster and 12 miles from Corfe Castle, places we regularly visited from there. My father made a friend when he was at Keble College Oxford, and they both became clergymen. Freddie Manon went with his mother for a holiday to Italy every year and asked my father to come and do a locum and stay in the rectory and take the Sunday services for four weeks and having a holiday too. My father did this for seven years, so Lytchett Matravers almost became a second parish but was also a great place for a holiday. I remember the picnics at Studland Bay, my mother spreading the sandwiches with liver sausage and trying to avoid adding sand too.

My brothers borrowed a yellow RAF dinghy and had great fun paddling out to sea and causing my parents great concern lest they went out too far.

The donkey named Honeysuckle was in a field next to the rectory garden and I really enjoyed feeding her grass.

The journey down to Dorset was always fun, as sometimes I went by steam train, I loved going and gazing at the engine before we had to board. We only had a small Morris minor car and with three older brothers could not all fit in. One year my eldest brother Hugh cycled from Leicester, our home to Dorset.

1966 was a special year when we sat and watched England win the World cup against West Germany on a pouring wet day, so the match kept us well amused.

Felicity

Craft club

The craft group continues to meet in Monika & Sonia's lounge on Saturday afternoons 2.00 - 4.00. We stop for tea, coffee and biscuits at 3.00 pm, and of course, we have a good natter too.

Diana

Our archives

When our son Simon died one of the strange things that went through my head in a panic was "What if I forget what he looked like, if he fades from my memory - I don't have nearly enough photographs of him." As it happened there were hundreds and I thought we'd seen them all. However, on looking through the photograph album kindly donated to St Martin's by Mark & Sally Ashcroft I thought I spotted a familiar face. I called Andrew over to look at it and he said "that's definitely him". Simon. Just to be sure I looked at photos we have and there he was wearing the same top. We were absolutely delighted. Unfortunately, the person standing behind him has been partly obliterated.

Diana





Calendar: June July 2024

June 2024

Sun 2	10.30am	Celebrating Communion – Trinity 1 Preacher: John Vincent
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Sun 9	10.30am	Celebrating Communion – Trinity 2 Preacher: John Vincent
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Sun 16	10.30am	Celebrating Communion – Trinity 3 Preacher: Tim Tunley
Sun 23	10.30am	Celebrating Communion – Trinity 4 Preacher: Sarah Kilbey
Sun 30	10.30am	Celebrating Communion – Trinity 5 Preacher: John Vincent

July 2024

Sun 7	10.30am	Celebrating Communion – Trinity 6 Preacher: John Vincent
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Sun 14	10.30am	Celebrating Communion - Trinity 7 Preacher: John Vincent
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Sun 21	10.30am	Celebrating Communion - Trinity 8 Preacher: Eileen Thompson
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Sun 28	10.30am	Celebrating Communion - Trinity 9 Preacher: Sarah Kilbey
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