

Outlook
Gullane Parish Church
August 2019



Autumn

***You are warmly invited to join us in the
SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION
Sunday 25 August 2019
9.45am and 6.30pm
All welcome***

Dear Friends

Some months ago, a good friend gave me a birthday gift. It was a book; a slim volume entitled "*A Splash of Words*" and written by someone of whom I had never heard, Mark Oakley. The subtitle of the work is "*Believing in poetry*", a neat play on words, as its focus is both the importance of poetry and the conviction that "*from its very beginnings the human intuition that the world is a gift, that it has a divine origin, and that life and love come from this same source, was explored and shared poetically.*" (*A Splash of Words*" page xviii).

In the moment of receiving, I was, of course, appreciative; grateful for my friend's thoughtfulness and generosity. When I unwrapped it, my gratitude grew as I read the title and some of the reviews printed on the back cover. It looked like something I would enjoy. When I sat down, some weeks on, to read the first chapter, I had, once again, an increased sense of blessing as I felt immediately at home with the writing and enriched by it. The trend has continued as I have savoured the rest of the book and ordered another by the same author. I know that I will continue to dip into and benefit from Mark Oakley's writing. Truly this has been a gift that keeps on giving.

In the postscript to "*The Collage of God*", Mark Oakley refers to the fact that as a member of the staff at St Paul's Cathedral in London, he regularly encounters the world of theatre. He mentions the belief of the veteran theatre critic, Benedict Nightingale, that the importance of live theatre will only increase as we continue to be swamped by the vast and mega-rich entertainment industry which is available to us at the flick of a switch through the mediums of cinema, television and, ubiquitously, the internet. Nightingale is convinced of the capacity of drama in a physically intimate and shared context to be "*a gymnasium for underused imaginations.*" He, like Oakley and many others, recognises our universal need to be cajoled and enabled to go deeper in a world that seems to exist, to such a degree, at the level of the superficial; to expend effort in moving towards that which our minds do not yet comprehend.

I am certainly convinced that inner exploration, through which we seek to know and understand more of ourselves and our capacities, is a project every bit as important, if not more so, as seeking to colonise space, if we wish to secure and enrich our future as a species. That inner journey is the journey to which Christ calls us and it is one that, as a species, we have scarcely begun, even after two thousand years. At the heart of Christ's teaching is the essential importance of underpinning our exploration with worship. Worship is the core function of the Church; worship in which we come together in intimate spaces, to share collectively and to explore together. It remains the case (but for how much longer?) that we have, throughout the land, extraordinary places in which people have worshipped for generations. If we are not to lose them, and if humankind is not to be impoverished beyond comprehension by that loss, then our worship must be the very best that we can offer.

It is with that in mind that I propose to run a series of open meetings in the autumn, affording the opportunity for interested folk to come together to explore how we might use the resources available to us to enrich and develop our worship. The first of these, entitled "*The gift that keeps on giving*" will be held in Gullane Church on Sunday 13 October at 6.00pm and is open to everyone.

Grace and peace to you all.

Brian



Twinnings with the Eastern Himalaya Diocese of the Church of North India: Sadly, the proposed visit of the delegates (Miku and Nirwan) had to be postponed from May. It will now take place in September. Establishing our own links is accordingly taking more time than anticipated.

Worship Plans 2019 / 2020

United Services

Sunday 22 September 2019:

United Open-Air Ecumenical Worship Service, Goose Green, Gullane. The Kirk Sessions have given approval to plans for an ecumenical open-air worship service to be held in conjunction with St Adrian's Scottish Episcopal Church on Sandy Loan / Goose Green, Gullane on Sunday 22 September 2019. This will be held at 11.00am, taking the place of morning service in all three participating congregations and followed by an informal picnic. Please put the event in your diary now and give it your support on the day. A limited amount of seating will be available so please bring your own folding chair if possible.

Sunday 20 October 2019:

United Service at 10.30am Aberlady Parish Church

Christmas Day 2019:

United Service at 10.30am in Gullane Parish Church

Communion Services

The usual quarterly celebrations of Holy Communion will be held in both Churches on Sundays 25 August 2019; 24 November 2019; 23 February 2020 and 31 May 2020.

Midweek Communion Services:

I will be seeking Session permission in September to hold a weekly celebration of Holy Communion each Wednesday at 1.00pm and alternating between Gullane and Aberlady. I hope to begin these on Wednesday 9 October, and it is likely that we will use the Church Centre / Kirk Stables as the venues. More information will be published in the weekly Service Sheets and fliers.

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Douglas Laird

Having served as an elder of the Church of Scotland for over 50 years, much of that in Gullane, Douglas has now retired from active service on the Kirk Session. We give thanks to God for all that Douglas has done for the Kirk in this capacity and wish him every blessing as we offer our own appreciation and gratitude.



Update from

Sunday Club

Continuing their theme of 'exploring' the church, Sunday Club children explored the Sacrament of Communion. On 26 May, alongside their families, they took part in leading the service and the celebration of the Sacrament.

Making the most of the sunny summer-term weather, JAM CLUB moved outside in June. The children explored God's world - the flora and fauna - and discussed the importance of protecting it.

The sun continued to shine for the annual Manse BBQ and it was the perfect celebration of the end of the year for the junior church. We are incredibly grateful to all who support us with our endeavours.

The new term will begin in September and we look forward to welcoming the children back. All are welcome; we are always happy to see new members. The crèche will continue to look after the under threes whilst the JAM Club children will enjoy stories, games and crafts during the morning service at 9.45am.

Sarah Gibson





The Guild

A message from the Church Guild

“Whose we are and Whom we serve”

Time moves on and we are soon thinking of our Winter programme for the Gullane Guild. This year again we are very fortunate to have interesting subjects and people who are willing to come and talk about them.

We hope to start the season with a lunch at Craigiellaw Golf club on **September 30th**. This is always a very happy and enjoyable occasion and we will contact people before the event to find out about transport etc.

On **October 6th** Elders from the church and other volunteers have invited the Guild members to a tea party with fun and games. We hope young people from the Sunday Club will come and join in the games and entertainment.

On **October 21st** we will be delighted to hear from Fran and Nigel Goodman about their visit to Israel. This will be our first official Guild meeting and we hope there will be a very good turnout.

The meeting on **18 November** will be a very joyful one: we are fortunate to have an afternoon with Frank Prior. Frank lives in Longniddry with his wife Bonnie and he has many talents of which music is one. This will be a musical afternoon and I can guarantee that everyone will have a good time. If anyone reads the magazine East Lothian Life, you may have read an article in the Spring edition about Frank Prior, which tells us about his outstanding career in pharmacy and 50 years of research, experimentation and innovation. So make a date in your diary for this afternoon. Everyone is welcome and tea and cake will be served.

On the **16 December** the Guild will celebrate their Christmas party. It seems to come round so very fast each year. We will have musical renditions, sing carols and have lovely food. This will get us all in great form for our own Christmas celebrations.

All are welcome to any of the Guild meetings, and you will find them enjoyable, friendly and informative

Angeniet Black

Tuesday Morning Coffees

Most of you are aware that after Sunday morning worship you can enjoy refreshments: coffee, tea, biscuits, the occasional birthday cake, in the Church Centre. This is a great opportunity to chat with friends, talk to visitors and generally to enjoy the company of others.

But do you know that every Tuesday morning from 10.30 to 12 there is the same opportunity to do this, also in the Church Centre?

There are a number of regulars who, judging by the noise, enjoy meeting up each week. We are also happy that residents from Muirfield, some in wheelchairs, join us and enjoy being part of the community. Several gentlemen also drop in. This is open to anyone in the community.

Why not call in one Tuesday. You will be made most welcome.

A small group of volunteers ensures that this happens each week but we are in need of a few more helpers, so if you have any free time we would welcome you on our rota.

Eppie Dobson.



On the button

Thanks to everyone who has donated buttons to this appeal in aid of Marie Curie. I know that the organisers are extremely grateful at the response from both our congregations. Once the sale is over I will let you know how much was raised.

Dorothy Hilsley

COMMUNITY LINKS

Some thoughts for autumn activities:

Wednesday Night Bridge

Every Wednesday evening from the beginning of October until Easter, we run a very friendly bridge club in our Church Centre from 7pm till 10pm.

This is relaxed and suitable for all levels of players, who draw for partners.

We welcome anyone who is interested to come along and join us, or anyone you may know who would like to play bridge in a friendly group.

Please contact me

Paula Jackson

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There is also a Bridge club on a Tuesday evening, which is run for a range of abilities and experience and is affiliated to the Scottish Bridge Union. If this is of interest to anyone, please get in touch with Elaine Hutchison,

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Gullane Flower Club

Meetings

5 September Alyson Christie.

Topic to be confirmed

3 October Pam Galloway. Painting with Flowers

7 November Julia Loudon. After a Fashion

all on Thursdays in Church Centre at 7.30pm

and 5 December - Supper and demonstration

Lilias Hoskins . Christmas Joy

Glen Golf Club North Berwick 6 pm for 6.30

Sew Forth

This is stitching and craft group, exploring a mixture of textile and mixed media crafts. It meets on the first Saturday of each month 2-4pm, beginning on **7 September**. Everyone is welcome and there is tea/coffee and cake to enjoy in a relaxed atmosphere. An annual membership fee applies but it is also possible to join in and pay for an individual meeting. Normal venue is Gullane Village Hall, Small Hall but the first meeting will be held in Gullane Bowling Club. More details at www.sewforth.org.uk



Gullane and Dirleton History Society
Meetings until Christmas
Weds in Gullane Village Hall, Thurs in Dirleton Kirk Hall
All at 7.30

Wed 25 Sept: David Haire
A flavour of Haddington in and around the 1930s
Thurs 10 Oct: Andrew Bicket
on topic of Underwater Archaeology
Wed 6 Nov: David Caldwell on The Battle of Flodden
Thurs 5 Dec: David Sowerby on history of Saltcoats Castle

The History Society also contributes to East Lothian Archaeology and Local History Fortnight with the following walks:

A walk around Dirleton, Mon 2 September 10-12noon and
Sun 15 Sept 2-4pm

Defending East Lothian against invasion in World War II,
Aberlady Bay Tues 3 Sept, 10am-c.1.30pm

Down the Gullane railway branch line with old photographs,
Thurs 12 Sept, 10am-11.30am

All walks require booking at

www.eastlothian.gov.uk/archaeologyfortnight

A full list of events, can be found in the *Heritage on your doorstep* brochure available in the library

..and continuing the walking theme:

Join the **Kiltwalk** to raise funds for **the Bethany Christian Trust** – a walk to end homelessness in Scotland one person at a time.

The Edinburgh walk will be held on 15 September.

Further details and registration are available at the website thekiltwalk.co.uk – thank you!

Ann Hay
Retail Manager, Bethany shop, Gullane

... *and more:*

the recent launch of the Fife Pilgrim Way provides a timely reminder of our nearest Pilgrimage route –

The Forth to Farne Way between North Berwick and Lindisfarne is a 72 mile trail composed of 11 stages, ranging from 4 to 13 miles in length and visiting such places as Whitekirk, St Abbs, Coldingham and Burnmouth. Even for those who don't feel up to a long distance walk, there are short sections but also many of the places of interest along the way can be reached by car and by bus.

More details can be found at www.forthtofarne.org – worth a look



...and someone who took it a bit further:

'Skye walker'

In May Rev Rory MacLeod of Strath and Sleat Parish Church trekked for five days criss-crossing the Isle of Skye for 155 miles as part of a mission to help Christian refugees forced to flee Iraq amid rising religious conflict. He braved the wind and the rain and slept in a tent for most of the time to fulfil a dream and raise £1,240 to enable him and his friend Archie MacCalman to visit his parish's twinned church, St Paul's Church in Amman, Jordan

The United Nations estimates that more than 750,000 people in Jordan, which has a population of 10 million, are refugees. Mr MacLeod said the world is witnessing the "exodus" of Christians in Iraq where they have existed since 1AD. The population, many of whom speak Aramaic, has sunk from 1.5 million people to around 250,000 and most of them are expected to leave Iraq in the coming years via Jordan. This is due to a civil war raging on the Nineveh Plain between Kurds and government forces who have disregard for Christians.

Although Iraqi Christians are refugees, the Jordanian government officially considers them guests and therefore they do not qualify for emergency relief and are not allowed to work. Exiled and without status, they lodge where they can in the growing urban sprawl of Amman.

A variety of denominations have responded to the refugee crisis: independent Evangelical, Eastern Orthodox, Chaldean Catholic and Protestant. They are providing such services as Sunday Schools, a school for traumatised and disabled children, workshops and a health clinic. During Ramadan, one church distributed thousands of gift boxes to their Muslim neighbours with fruit and snacks to break their fast and including a message from King Abdullah II, exhorting good relations between Muslims and Christians.

Mr MacLeod hopes that the minister of St Paul's Church, with his wife and some of their colleagues will visit Skye next Easter.

Celebrating Nature and Art at the SOC

The wild garden at Waterston House is in full bloom this summer. It offers a perfect environment to butterflies, bees and birds as well as being an absolute treat for the visitors to the SOC (Scottish Ornithologists' Club).

The SOC promotes the study of birds in Scotland and encourages everyone to take an interest in our birds. Visitors to the centre, can expect further treats inside, as the SOC presents a programme of art exhibitions focused on wildlife throughout the year. The exhibition this August is KYST (Coast) by Ben Woodhams. Ben is a British artist who lives in Denmark, on the Island of Bornholm. In this exhibition Ben presents a visual diary of life on Bornholm throughout the year in 52 paintings, one for each week of the year.

The next exhibition in September/October will bring together work by four artists: Helen Denerley, Greg Poole, Nik Pollard and Lara Scouller, who work in a range of media, sculpture, pastels, painting and print.

The SOC is open Daily 10am – 4pm



*Not only information and notices of events, both in church and community, but also articles and ideas are always welcome.
Think ahead! Ed*

ONE SOLITARY LIFE

Some time ago, when I was staying in the Y.M.C.A. in Skegness, I saw a most unusual notice on the notice-board. It was a quotation taken from a newspaper printed in Hamilton Ontario, and the author is not known. It was headed, "One Solitary Life", and it ran thus:

Here is a man who was born of Jewish parents in an obscure village. He worked in a carpenter's shop until he was thirty, and then, for three years, he was an itinerant preacher.

He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never owned a home. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put his foot inside a big city. He never travelled two hundred miles from the place where he was born. He never did one of these things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but himself.

He had nothing to do with this world, except the naked power of his manhood. While still a young man the tide of popular opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. One of them denied him. He was turned over to his enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross, between two thieves. His executioners gambled for the only piece of property he had on earth, while he was dying. And that was his coat. When he was dead he was taken down and laid in a borrowed grave, through the pity of a friend.

Nineteen wide centuries have come and gone, and today he is the centre piece of the human race, and the leader of the column of progress. I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that were ever built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon the earth as powerfully as has that solitary life.

This is the very beautiful description of the life of Jesus.

Contributed by Gordon Davie

Earlier in the summer Rt Rev Colin Sinclair, Moderator of the General Assembly, wrote a special prayer to mark the 24th anniversary of the massacre at Srebrenica when on July 11, 1995, more than 8,000 Muslim men and boys were executed by Bosnian Serb forces on account of their faith. Tens of thousands of men, women and children were tortured, killed or detained in concentration camps under the banner of ethnic cleansing. Mass graves are still being discovered. Mr Sinclair said the Bible calls on Christians to 'weep with those who weep' and bless those willing to be peace-makers.

A Prayer for Srebrenica

Living God

We confess we are fascinated when we hear of a part of our world in pain.

We drink in the details,

and while, at the time, our hearts go out to its victims to our shame we, as quickly, forget.

However you never forget

nor do you distant yourself

from anywhere there is need

In Jesus you have shared our humanity

and tasted its pain.

Bless Srebrenica

and all parts of the Balkans

that saw too much and suffered too much.

Bring healing where there is hurt

trust where there is suspicion

and strengthen those who would build bridges to overcome hate.

May your light shine in that darkness

and your love overcome all hate

that one day life and joy might return

and peace be a deep reality.

For Jesus' sake

Amen

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Baptisms

16 June 2019	Thea Christina Jane Melville	Aberlady
30 June 2019	Lilyana Victoria Anderson	Gullane

Marriages

1 June 2019	Hannah Begbie and Alexander Ratcliffe Aberlady
15 June 2019	Niamh McLennan and Sinclair Cooper Aberlady
13 July 2019	Nicola Kavanagh and Peter Little Aberlady
20 July 2019	Caroline Smith and Adam McNally Aberlady

Deaths of Members

6 June 2019	John M. Stevenson	Aberlady
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~~ Directory ~~

Minister	Rev Brian Hilsley
Session Clerk	Tom Walker
Treasurer	Joe McGrane
Gift Aid	Morag Black
Free Will Offering	Carol Murray
Beadle	Bill Scott
Roll Keeper	Ken Wright
Sunday Club	Rachel Wallace
MAC group	Church Office
Cradle Roll	Elsbeth Walker
Safeguarding	Win Wright
The Guild	Church Office
Presbytery Elder	Janice White
Christian Aid	Rachel Wallace
Flower Convener	Anne Dobie
Life and Work	Tom Walker
Church Centre Bookings	John Holm
Secretary	Zena Shand
Newsletter	Anne McCarthy

www.aberlady-gullaneparishchurches.org.uk

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