

Outlook

*Gullane Parish Church
March 2021*



The Easter Issue

Dear friends,

If you have been following news coverage of world events you might think that there is little to celebrate. We long for an end to isolation and suffering, for peace and justice, and for a new beginning.

During Holy Week and at Easter we remember something that happened which changed the world for ever.

Jesus had arrived in the city of Jerusalem. People knew that he was compassionate, that he healed the sick and took care of the lonely and the poor, that he performed miracles and spoke about God in a way that no-one else could. But still they did not fully recognise nor understand him and the message of hope he brought. They arrested him and killed him in the most brutal way they knew how.

The followers of Jesus were afraid and they felt all hope was lost. Yet something amazing happened. Three days after the crucifixion some of the women went to the tomb where the body of Jesus had been laid, and they found the tomb was empty. Two men in bright shining clothes appeared to them and asked, "Why are you looking among the dead for one who is alive? He is not here; he has been raised"

We are a people of faith in what is a great mystery. Christ loved the world so much that his love for us was stronger even than death, bringing hope of new and unimaginable life for all. We believe in a God of new beginnings - that wherever things come to an end (and things do come to an end) God offers us a new beginning too.

In the strength of the Holy Spirit, the churches of Aberlady and Gullane are doing amazing things in seeking God's purposes and new beginnings. The current discussion with Lothian Presbytery to re-focus, re-energise and renew our mission is just one example. As a church we know that there is hope, and we have faith that God's kingdom of peace and justice is coming. Even now we can find glimpses of it already among us as together we learn to live in God's ways.

I hope that you do celebrate this Easter Sunday and, whatever age you may be, have great fun rolling and enjoying an Easter egg.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev'd Ruth Halley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Rev Ruth Halley (Locum Minister)

Vacancy Update

The churches of Aberlady and Gullane have been in vacancy now for several months. During this time, your Kirk Sessions have found a way through the challenges of pandemic with wisdom, patience and faithfulness and it has been my privilege to walk alongside you in this. In the early months of vacancy our church buildings were able to be open, albeit within tight Covid-19 safety guidelines, and that was a blessing. In more recent times we have relied upon online opportunities and a particular highlight has been the growing numbers gathering for the Worship Together Online services each Sunday. If you want to take part in these then please send an email to me at **rhalley@churchofscotland.org.uk** and you will receive the link each week.

Alongside everything that the Kirk Sessions have been doing to continue the worshipping life of the churches there has also been time to reflect together on the way ahead. Meeting together in a joint steering group we have sought to discern God's purposes for the churches of Aberlady and Gullane in a time of change for the Church of Scotland unprecedented in our lifetimes. A number of options are under active discussion with Lothian Presbytery including the possibility of forming a 'hub' with other local churches. However, that is only one possibility and no decisions have yet been taken. The Kirk Sessions will ensure that all members of the church are appropriately involved as the process is taken forward. Given the current restrictions on meetings in person it would be helpful if you would make your elder aware of any email address you have which could be used to communicate with you about this. The next step in the process is that representatives of Lothian Presbytery's Strategic Planning and Mission committee will meet with the Kirk Sessions on 23 March (Aberlady) and 24 March (Gullane)

Rev Ruth Halley, Interim Moderator



Plan for worship

The Scottish Government has announced that church buildings may be allowed to open for worship from 26 March. Our plan for **28 March, Palm Sunday** is for services to remain online at 9.45am and 5.30pm as at present.

On **4 April** a service will be held at 9.45am in Gullane church employing the same seat reservation system in use in the second half of 2020, that is via the form on the church website. For any changes, please keep an eye on our church website.

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In addition the following Covid-19 guidance is provided:

If you are experiencing any Covid-related symptoms, are feeling unwell or you, or a member of your household, have received a positive Covid test please do not attend Church for any reason until you have completed a 14 day self-isolation period.

For full guidance visit

www.churchofscotland.org.uk/resources/covid-19-coronavirus-advice

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Holy Week

This year, we are not able to hold the usual services that we share across local churches during Holy Week. There are, however, many online events that are being held to mark Holy Week. The Church of Scotland's website is a good source as are some of the local churches and we will post some useful links on our website.

Maundy Thursday prayers for the world

Humble Jesus,
who washed the feet of the disciples
In the quiet sanctuary of this time of prayer
with others from Aberlady and Gullane
In the sacred sharing of our yearning hearts
In the union of this time with all eternity
We offer you our prayers for the world.
For in the incompleteness of history,
the cries of the oppressed
and the groaning of creation
have not yet ceased.
Humble Jesus,
Bring your healing,
bring your hope.

Lord and Master,
showing us the way
We bring before you
the weariness and the ache
the brokenness and pain of our world
and ask for your cleansing, soothing waters.
We remember
the illness, suffering and death of pandemic
the pain of poverty, oppression and upheaval
We ask your care for
the victims of sectarianism, racism
of violence and of war.
We pray for people everywhere
who are sick in body, mind or spirit
the lost and the lonely,
the sad and the bereaved.
We think of those who fear for the future,
bereft of family, income or work,
facing their own illness, or death.

In a moment of silence
we name before you those whom we know.....

Christ of the soothing waters,
of suffering, liberating,
and reconciling love for the world.
Teach us to love one another
as you first loved us.
In your spirit of sacrifice and service
make us ever ready to
wash the feet of others
to the glory of God, Amen.

Rev Ruth Halley, Locum Minister

Words of thanks from the Minister

As many of you already know, my husband Kenny sadly died in December.

Death is never easy for us, not least when it is so personal. However, we remember and draw on the resources of our faith at such times. The words of Jesus who said, "I will be with you always, to the end of time." (*Matt 28.20*) and from the book of Psalms, 'In his favour there is life. Tears may linger at nightfall, but rejoicing comes in the morning.' (*Psalms 30: 5*)

I would like to record my heartfelt thanks to the Session Clerk and Kirk Session, and to the wider congregation for the many ways in which you have supported me in love and kindness since then. I am very grateful too for the kind donation made to Christian Aid in memory of Kenny.

It has been a blessing to be with you through these difficult days and I hope that I can continue with you for many more days ahead. Thank you one and all.



Pastoral

Care

We are still missing the comfort and fellowship of weekly worship and social activities, and know that life continues to feel challenging for many. The Pastoral Care Team are keen to help, and can offer a friendly phone call to anyone who needs some support. Please contact Carol Murray to arrange a call for yourself or someone you are concerned about. Our Interim Moderator and Locum Minister, Rev Ruth Halley can also be contacted

March Outlook Magazine

Covid-19 restrictions (at time of writing) prohibit door to door deliveries by elders of this Outlook publication. We have therefore resorted to mailing them out (to the first named member of each household on the Roll) and it may be that, in creating a mailing list from the Church Roll, there is the odd inaccuracy. Apologies for that and do please let the Session Clerk or Roll Keeper know of any errors.



People Matters

We said goodbye and thank you to our retiring treasurer, Joe McGrane, in our last edition of Outlook. As stated then, Joe is continuing as our Treasurer pro tem. However, Kirk Session has approved the appointment of Peter Grey to succeed Joe, and that handover will occur when face to face meetings are once again allowed – hopefully soon! Kirk Session has approved our accounts for 2020 and it remains to be seen how/whether we will be able to present them at a stated annual meeting later this year.

Wendy Isaac has done an amazing job looking after the church website for both Aberlady and Gullane and both Kirk Sessions have thanked Wendy for her cheery helpfulness over many years. Wendy stepped down at the end of December and Hilary Smyth has kindly stepped into the role. We wish Hilary many years of fulfilment in this increasingly vital aspect of communication for both Aberlady and Gullane churches. Her phone number for general contact appears in the Directory on the back cover but items for inclusion on the website are best sent to agpccomms@outlook.com



Offerings

'A gentle reminder that should you wish to give to the Church when we are unable to do so via the Sunday Offering, there are the following options.

- Online - Gullane Parish Church Sort Code 80-08-22 Account Number 00461473
- Standing Order - if you wish a standing order form, please contact me. If you use online banking, you can set up a regular payment using the Church's bank details.
- Cheque - please post to me at Quillet, Erskine Road, Gullane, EH31 2DQ

Can I please remind you to let me know if you pay in online so I can mark it against your Gift Aid record. THANK YOU!

Thank you for your continued support - it is much appreciated.

Morag Black, Gift Aid Treasurer



Christian Aid Week 10-16 May

This year the theme is the climate crisis with a number of events appearing online. These include a quiz and the performance of a new orchestral work - Song of the Prophets: a requiem for the climate.

More information can be found at www.christianaid.org.uk

Our support is still needed.



JAM Club News

Well, having said in the last edition of this magazine that we were not sure we could do a Nativity this year due to the pandemic restrictions, I take it all back. Thanks to the talents of our own JAM Club leader, Sarah Gibson, and our clever church families we made a nativity film. It premiered in Church on 20 December and was aptly named 'The Knitvity' by Ruth. Starring were the knitted nativity characters as they found themselves alone in church at Christmas, so they resolved to find the children around the village and the Christmas story was reproduced in the children's homes. All the families got totally involved in their own wee scenes adding a personal touch to each part of the story. Following the first showing we shared the film on the Church website, as well as our Facebook page where it has been viewed over 3 thousand times. If you still haven't seen it go to www.aberlady-gullaneparishchurches.org.uk
www.facebook.com/aberladygullaneparishchurches

Just before Christmas we distributed goodie bags to all the families. Included in these bags were some crafts and SU Christmas resources. Thanks to those who helped put these together.

Since Christmas, due to lockdown restrictions the children have been unable to meet in person for JAM Club. Instead, we have been joining the 9.45am Sunday services on Zoom. The families join the beginning of the service then after the 'Time for All' we leave into a breakout room and have JAM club, (a story and activity) before re-joining the congregation for chat time at the end of the service.

Like everyone else we hope JAM Club will resume in the spring. But actually, it has been a positive experience this past year, finding different ways to operate. We may well be fed up with Zoom now or meeting outside but for me the restrictions have brought new ways of working. It's been lovely interacting with all the family on a Sunday morning, as the parents have had to be alongside the children. We have tried new things, learnt new IT skills and thought outside the box. I hope we can hang on to these new ideas and expand with them.

Rachel Wallace

Recently the boys in JAM Club were constructing temples.
Here are some of the splendid results





The Guild

How lucky we were to nearly complete our 2019-20 programme, finishing with a highly successful and very happy coffee morning on 7 March 2020 which raised well over £600.

Our Bank Balance at that time was the great total of £917.39, so it was decided by our committee that we could afford to donate £300 each to two more recommended projects: 'A Chaplain for our ports', Sailors Society and 'Growing the future', Malawi Fruits. We also gave £100 to 'Turn2Us', The Telegraph Coronavirus Appeal.

In November we were asked to collect capitation fees from members, at a reduced rate, to help with the ongoing expenses incurred by Head Office. Many thanks to all our members for the prompt response. We were required to pay capitation fees of £162 to the Church of Scotland (i.e. 18 members @ £9 each). We actually were given over the amount needed and this extra sum has been put in the bank. We then needed to pay Guild Dues to Lothian East – 'Guilds Together', for 2 years, being £12 and £9 for 2020 and 2021. As well as paying out these amounts we also paid into the bank £6, in January this year, collected from the sale of books and another £16 from the later sale of coffee-morning goods.

Our Bank Balance at present is, therefore, £252.39

It is now possible for us, if agreed, to give £100 each to the two remaining projects on our present list, being our contribution to projects for the 2021/22 session.. These are: 'Faith in Young People', The Boys Brigade, and 'Journeying Together', World Mission Council.

Thank you so much to all members and others who have helped to keep the Guild going and enabled us to donate to so many good causes. Hopefully we can now look forward to a time, maybe later this year, when we can meet again.
With warmest good wishes,

Marian Chambers, Treasurer

Greetings from our Twinning Partners

Jai mashi and Good morning and blessed Sunday from Kumargram Pastorate. So started a recent message on my mobile phone, pinging in from Rev Swarup Mushahary, our twinning partner from the Church of North India, in the Diocese of Eastern Himalaya.

I was first introduced to Swarup in November 2019, by the Twinning Coordinator for Lothian Presbytery. The twinning partnership was established in 2000 and there are currently 17 links between congregations in Lothian and Eastern Himalaya. I volunteered to be the correspondent for Gullane Parish Church because the children in JAM Club were following an 'Explorers' theme, and it sounded like a great opportunity to learn about Christians, and worship, in rural India. We began with a plan to exchange monthly emails to share news from our Churches, but unfortunately Swarup became unwell and we had a faltering start. I was aware that he is the Pastor for 4 churches, situated within a very rural area requiring journeys up to 80 km. It was difficult to imagine how he could lead worship across his congregations in usual circumstances, without the additional challenge of COVID-19.

We resumed contact in July 2020, by which time we had not been able to meet for weekly worship or fellowship in Scotland for several months. Swarup shared that the pandemic was also affecting his community and that people were feeling afraid and unable to maintain their usual routines. He was keen to keep the churches open so that some members could visit and pray. In areas where families could not travel to a church, they were encouraged to meet in small fellowship groups so they could support one another. They are not able to deliver online worship as members do not have internet access but, like us, they do depend on phone calls to offer encouragement and care.

Recently, our communication has become more spontaneous and we now exchange regular WhatsApp messages. The churches in the Kumargan district have reopened, and whilst still feeling wary about COVID-19, they haven't had any recent cases and are very thankful that they can once again meet and worship the Lord together in all the churches. Swarup sent prayers and blessings at Christmas and New Year, and his most recent message closed with the words 'All sister churches are praying for you all, and Minister Ruth, with love'.

Carol Murray

COMMUNITY LINKS

Lockdown has been long and challenging for our whole community. As we look back on this experience, I hope we will be able to search for the odd silver lining, and emerge in some ways stronger through this shared experience despite all the hurt and loss. As many of you will be aware, within weeks of lockdown being announced, a committed group of volunteers quickly formed the Gullane Resilience Team and immediately banded together to support individuals as well as the general community through this pandemic.

Over the last few months, members of this team were joined by some new volunteers, and together they been working hard to form the Gullane Village Association, or GVA. The GVA aims to help connect organisations and individuals from across our community, and provide a voice for residents on issues which have an impact on life in Gullane, from the preservation and improvement of our village to the development and retention of communal areas. Some of the initial projects the organisation has turned it's hand to include working towards securing the Scout Hall (which is between the Village Hall and the Tennis Pavilion) as a community asset and the provision of a community noticeboard and a village Newsletter to be circulated as hard copy to residents on a regular basis. It is hoped that these initial plans will help bring our whole community together, ensuring everyone has an equal opportunity to be involved in village life, and reducing the focus on social media.

This group is still in its infancy and is looking forward to launching soon and to an exciting future. If you would like to get involved or would like any more information, please contact Hilary Smyth or Rachel Wallace - we would be delighted to chat to you about this project. You can also find out more through our website: www.GullaneVillageAssoc.com or on Facebook @GullaneVillageAssoc.

Hilary Smyth



East Lothian Foodbank

Gullane Parish Church continues to support East Lothian Foodbank. Each week the congregation are encouraged to donate non-perishable food items, the specific shortages of which are highlighted in the intimations during the Sunday services. Donations can be left at the Gullane Co-op and the newly reopened Book Hub in the Scout Hall which is open Tuesday 11-3pm and Sunday 1-3pm. We hope to reinstate the collection box in the church vestibule once restrictions ease. All donations are taken up to the Foodbank on a weekly basis by me. The local community has been very generous throughout the pandemic giving donations of food, time, and money. Big or small, every gift you give helps transform lives. I was asked to share the details of how to support the Foodbank financially, you can do this in several ways:

- Go to the website www.Eastlothian.foodbank.org.uk to download a standing order form or
- Send a cheque (made out to East Lothian Foodbank)
- or purchase a Tesco gift card and send to
East Lothian Foodbank,
3 Civic Square, Tranent, EH33 1LH
- Donate via bank transfer using the following details –
East Lothian Foodbank business current account
Royal Bank of Scotland
Account number 00687497 sort code 83-27-25

Many thanks

Rachel Wallace



Homestart East Lothian

Many thanks to those of you who contributed to our collection for Homestart this Christmas. In the past we have collected gifts of toys and books but due to restrictions this was not possible. The sum of £150 was collected and handed over to them for which they are very grateful. During the pandemic Homestart have had to suspend their home visiting of young families but have moved to remote support by telephone and virtual support groups.

For more information see www.homestarteastlothian.co.uk

Rachel Wallace

Connecting Together, Tackling Isolation

The North Berwick Coastal Community Connections is a local charity tackling social isolation. Based in North Berwick, the project hopes to reach out to other coastal communities, including Gullane. Do you know anyone over 18 who is affected by isolation, who would like to make new connections or to volunteer?

At the moment, our drop-in Scone Cafe and other face to face gatherings are suspended. However, we are as busy as ever!

Community Connections can currently offer:

- Telephone Befriending (weekly calls from a trained volunteer)
- Coffee Connections - currently virtual, and when cafés are open we have one to one cafe meetings
- Buddy Walks - one to one tailored walks with a trained volunteer, to regain strength and confidence
- 'Scone News', our monthly newsletter, full of members' contributions and other features

North Berwick Coastal Community Connections is funded by the National Lottery, North Berwick Trust, North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership and East Lothian Council.

Please let us know if you'd like to connect us with someone, collaborate with us on a local initiative or volunteer with us. Our volunteers are trained, fully supported and Disclosure checked.

We'd love to hear from you.

The Project Officer is Carol Stobie, who works from home Monday to Thursday from 8.30 to 4pm.

her email address is

nbc-communityconnections@outlook.com

The Befriending Coordinator is Lisa Brownlie (Tuesday and Wednesday mornings 9.15-1.15).

Contact Lisa at

befrienders@nbc-communityconnections.org

*If you are still finding yourselves with time on your hands,
you might like to try making a*

Bible or Scripture Cake

Each ingredient can be found by looking up the relevant Bible reference, in this case from the Authorized Version.

230g (8 oz) Judges 5:25, last clause - butter
230g (8 oz) Jeremiah 6:20 – soft brown sugar
1 tbsp. 1 Samuel 14:25 – set honey
3 Jeremiah 17:11 – size 3 eggs, beaten
230 g (8 oz) 1 Samuel 30:12 – seedless raisins
170 g (6 oz) Nahum 3:12 – no-need-to-soak figs, chopped
85 g (3 oz) Numbers 17:8 – almonds, finely chopped
395 g (14 oz) 1 Kings 4:22 – fine wholemeal plain flour
1 teasp 2 Chronicles 9:9 – ground mixed spice
A pinch of Leviticus 2:13 - salt
1 teasp Amos 4:5 – baking powder
5 tablespoons Judges 4:19 - milk

Line and grease a 20.5 cm (8 in) round cake tin.
Set oven to 170C (Gas Mark 3)

Beat Judges 5:25, last clause, Jeremiah 6:20 and 1 Samuel 14:25 until light, fluffy and creamy. Beat in Jeremiah 17:11, gradually, beating well after each addition, following Solomon's advice in Proverbs 23:14 (beat well). Stir in 1 Samuel 30:12, Nahum 3:12 and Numbers 17:8. Mix 1 Kings 4:22, 2 Chronicles 9:9, Amos 4:5 and Leviticus 2:13 then fold into the mixture with Judges 4:19. When thoroughly blended, spoon the mixture into the prepared tin and bake for 2 and a half hours. Leave to cool in the tin. Turn out and wrap for several days before cutting



... and a reminder, if we need it, of something we are missing

I LIKE HUGS

It's wonderful what a hug can do.
It cheers you up when you're sad and blue.
A hug can say, "I love you so"
Or "I hate to see you go".
A hug is "Welcome back again!"
A hug can soothe a small child's pain
And bring a rainbow after rain.
The Hug! There's no doubt about it,
We scarcely could survive without it.
A hug delights and warms and charms,
It must be why God gave us arms.
So stretch those arms without delay
And give someone a hug today.



CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Gullane

New Members Joining Us

Bill and Lorna Sarson
from Longside PC Aberdeen. January 2021

Muriel Calder
from Cockpen and Carrington. March 2021

Deaths of Members

May Hoffie January 2021

Yvonne Lyall 17 January 2021

Lilian Dishington January 2021

Rose Preston 1 February 2021

Rena Craigs 12 February 2021

We also have noted with sadness the death on 11 December 2020, of Norman Faulds, our Parish minister from 1986 to 2000

Aberlady

Deaths of Members

Ronald Walkingshaw 30 May 2020

Alexander Weatherhead 21 November 2020

Patrick Barty 12 December 2020

William Birnie 1 January 2021

Annette McIntyre 24 January 2021

Request for Transfer

Moira Blackie

Interim Moderator	Rev Ruth Halley	
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	currently closed
Cradle Roll	Elsbeth Walker	
Safeguarding	Win Wright	
The Guild	Church Office	currently closed
Presbytery Elder	Elsbeth Walker	
Christian Aid	Rachel Wallace	
Flower Convener	Anne Dobie	
Life and Work	Tom Walker	
Church Centre Bookings	Bill Scott	
Church Office		currently closed
Church Website	Hilary Smyth	
Newsletter	Anne McCarthy	

**NB: Although the Church Office is currently closed, an answer message provides information on the usual number:
01875 870777**

www.aberlady-gullaneparishchurches.org.uk

Registered Charity No: SC005237