

# *Outlook*

*Gullane Parish Church  
June 2021*



*The Summer Issue*

## Farewell Ruth. Welcome Robin and Fred.

On Sunday 30 May we said farewell to Rev Ruth Halley at morning worship in Gullane Parish Church. Ruth has been our locum minister and Interim Moderator since Brian Hilsley's retirement last year and is now moving on to a new role at Greyfriars Kirk in Edinburgh. Ruth was thanked very much for the work that she has put in with both Kirk Session and members of the congregation and was presented with flowers and a card that was hand made by the children in JAM Club. We wish her all the very best in her new job.

Lothian Presbytery have appointed Rev Robin Allison as our new Interim Moderator. Robin is the minister at Chalmers Memorial Church, Cockenzie and Port Seton. Aberlady and Gullane Kirk Sessions have both approved the appointment of Rev Fred Harrison as our locum minister. Both Robin and Fred have written their own introduction for this magazine and we look forward to working with them both over coming weeks and months.

Worship in Gullane Parish Church will continue on Sunday mornings for the foreseeable future with evening online services on all but the last Sunday of the month, all led by Rev Fred Harrison. We will be monitoring any changes in COVID guidelines and will ease the restrictive church attendance requirements whenever we can safely and legally do so.

Tom Walker, Session Clerk



Dear friends

I've been asked to write a few words to introduce myself to you now that I have taken over as Interim Moderator at Aberlady and Gullane Parish Churches following the departure of your former Interim Moderator and Locum, Rev Ruth Halley who has taken up a post at Greyfriars Kirk in Edinburgh.

So, who am I? My name is Robin Allison, and I am the Minister at Cockenzie and Port Seton: Chalmers Memorial

Church where I have been Minister since February of 2018. I was ordained in 1994 and am married to Julia with whom I have three daughters.

I want to thank those members I've met so far from both Aberlady and Gullane who have been so warm and welcoming. I look forward to working with them, and indeed you all, in the coming months.

By now, you will be aware that the future shape of ministry for Aberlady and Gullane Churches is subject to a wider discussion with the Presbytery of Lothian. You will also no doubt be aware that this discussion has only been brought about due to the diminishing number of full time ministries available to the National Church. Currently there are nearly 300 charges without a Minister. There are still some 600+ Ministers in post but a significant number of them are likely to retire in the next 5 to 10 years meaning that there now has to be some creative thinking and planning. The recent General Assembly also set a target of around 600 ministries nationally, the first time a target like this has ever been set. In time, this will have an impact right across the Church of Scotland.

The challenges, therefore, are clear but then again God's Kingdom is built on his people guided by the Holy Spirit and with your continued enthusiasm and support for your churches we will work together, along with the Presbytery, to find the best way forward here.

In this process I want to re-assure you that I will do everything I can to help you and your office bearers on this journey. I am glad too that Rev Fred Harrison, whom you are already getting to know, will be working alongside me and you as Locum two days a week and two services on a Sunday.

We are here for you. Please do be in touch if we can help in any way.

With every blessing and best wish to you.

Robin Allison (Rev), Interim Moderator

### *...and our second introduction*

By way of an introduction to those members I have as yet not met, my name is Fred Harrison and I am honoured to have been accepted as your new Locum following Rev. Ruth Haley's decision to move on to her new role at Greyfriars Kirk. I was ordained into the ministry in 2013 having spent most of my working life in the Buildings Services industry before my wife and I taking early retirement a couple of years ago.

Whilst I was a part of the generation of children going to Sunday School until fun and games with my mates won me over, I returned to church after my dad died and about the same time became a dad myself some 37 years ago.

I am married to Joyce and we are blessed with two lovely daughters and a total of nine grandchildren or step grandchildren; we don't see any difference. Our eldest is now 18 and our youngest is now about 15 months and we love them all dearly.

Home for us is where God needs us which was Dunbar for a couple of years but is now back in Gorebridge where we both grew up. During our time in Dunbar I had the privilege of serving with Neil Watson at Belhaven with Spott and then was able to serve as locum at Dunbar Parish Church whilst Gordon Stevenson was off during the early part of the Covid pandemic. This flexibility is because I am an Ordained Local Minister. Loosely translated, I am ordained to the ministry of Word and Sacrament as a voluntary part time minister who is normally deployed by Presbytery to assist in parishes as they see a need. During the Pandemic when churches were closed and there was no need for my deployment I was free to fill the role at Dunbar as locum and now to serve you in that capacity too.

As my official start date, the 20<sup>th</sup> of June comes closer, I find myself becoming more excited at the opportunity to serve the communities of Aberlady and Gullane. As locum I will be providing pastoral care and funeral cover as well as covering the services in the two churches whilst the Rev. Robin Allison serves as Interim Moderator to look after the Church Business. I hope to spend a little over a day a week between the two parishes visiting folks but clearly that isn't enough to get round

everyone. For that reason I look forward to seeing you either in person at services in church or at the evening services on Zoom and welcome a call should you need the services of a minister. All my working life I have been used to calls to go into work at strange hours of the night and ministry is no different. Whilst I may not always be able to take your call if I am with someone, I will always call back and will always be available to you God willing.

Meantime, until we meet face to face I pray you feel the presence of God in your life and know his love for you.

Regards Fred



# JAM Club

*And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good (Genesis 1: 31)*

We are pleased to have been able to keep meeting in person and to do 'church outside church'. We have been looking at the creation story and celebrating God's world.

Planting seeds and nurturing plants at the Manse, JAM Club have been thinking about the roles that garden creatures play in keeping the world beautiful. We have made wormeries and planted wild flowers for the bees and butterflies.

Inspired by nature, the children were asked what they did that was "good" for God's world? JAM Club helped with a local beach clean and have been sharing their sunflower plants with people in the community. They are continuing to be "good" as they embark on a school "make a difference" project.

We look forward to seeing lots of cheery sunflowers popping over walls, hedges and fences in the village.

Sarah Gibson



The planting



The workers



The supervisors!

## Guild letter June 2021

It is lovely to be writing this letter on a sunny day. Living in a beautiful place like East Lothian, who could not enjoy this. As you can imagine there is not a great deal of Guild news. But it is good to keep contact in these very unusual times. How fortunate that communication is so much easier and cheaper than it used to be. I am thinking of when I moved from Holland to Cambridge in the early Sixties and making contact with home was usually only by letter. If there was something urgent to discuss, I would have to make my way to the phonebox, where there was already a queue of undergraduates waiting, and when at last it was your turn your money did not last very long.

So in that aspect life has much improved.

I have been amused by the actions of the local bluetits. Their nest box is situated very close to the bird food hanging up next to the garage. Mother and father bluetit have been very busy feeding the young and coming back with a great variety of insects and other creatures.

Sometimes at the end of the day, they are ready for a break and start using the fat balls hanging nearby. You can just imagine them saying "I can't be bothered any more, let's just go to the corner shop!." Luckily the babies flew off the next evening.

We are all hoping for better times, when we can meet up more freely.

In the meantime, I wish you good health and an enjoyable summer.

Angeniet Black





## Eco Congregation and Eco Group

I have recently taken over as Gullane Parish Church's Eco Congregation representative. Eco Congregation is a charity which supports churches and their congregations to become more environmentally friendly and put the climate emergency at the heart of worship. There are lots of resources and support available for our church, and we would also have the option of working towards an Eco Congregation Award in recognition of our care for creation.

A recent Eco Congregation conference I attended provided many inspirational ideas for engagement including, how we could use our church garden to promote COP26 and how we as a congregation can get involved in "Climate Sunday" on Sunday 5 September, where all churches will come together to pray for bold action at COP 26 and beyond.

Eco Congregation has now been introduced as a standing item on the Session agenda and we hope that over the coming months and years, this might be an area where our church can engage fully.

This would also provide an opportunity for our church congregation to link in to the newly formed Gullane Eco Group which has gathered widespread support from across the community. So far, the Gullane Eco Group has formed several sub teams, including organising local Beach Cleans, starting work to improve the biodiversity in our immediate environment and improving the recycling opportunities available for residents and visitors. It is hoped that Gullane Parish Church Eco Congregation committee will feed into the Gullane Eco Group, providing additional links with a large cross section of the community and increasing the reach of the church as an organisation at the heart of the Gullane community.



However, for this to happen, we need to put together a team of people to help make it happen! Please let me know if you, or anyone else in our congregation, are interested in getting involved in our Eco Congregation committee by e-mailing me on **hilarycsmyth@outlook.com**. There would not necessarily be any time commitment involved (unless you wanted to). Even if someone was able to sign up to receive, and read, the numerous fascinating and helpful e-mails. Highlighting interesting items to the rest of the congregation including the simple ways we could make use of this fantastic resource would be a great start!

Further information about Eco Congregation can be found on their website: **[www.ecocongregationscotland.org/](http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/)**

To sign up to the Gullane Eco Group mailing list, please e-mail **subscribe@groups.io">GullaneEcoGroup+subscribe@gro ups.io** or contact the Eco Group on **GullaneEcoGroup@gmail.com**.

Hilary Smith



## Covid thoughts for the day

"Technology now allows people to connect anytime, anywhere, to anyone in the world, from almost any device. This is dramatically changing the way people work, facilitating 24/7 collaboration with colleagues who are dispersed across time zones, countries, and continents." Michael Dell

"The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new." Socrates

"Nothing in life is to be feared,. It is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less." Marie Curie

# COMMUNITY LINKS

## Library Survey

It appears that in Gullane we are in danger of losing our library for which the community lobbied hard 40 years ago and which has become important to many of **all ages** for the various services it provides. .

East Lothian Council is now conducting a Public Library Survey which can be found at :

**Library Survey 2021 - East Lothian Council - Citizen Space ([eastlothianconsultations.co.uk](http://eastlothianconsultations.co.uk))**

It is hoped that all interested in preserving these services might consider completing the survey. The closing date is 11 July 2021.

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Reminder:

A post office counter is now open at the side hall of the village hall twice weekly: Tuesdays 10-12 and Fridays 1-3.

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*...and among the things now re-opened are*

The Coastal Communities Museum  
School Road, North Berwick  
with

### **Wish You Were Here**

: a special show of seaside postcards, some of which have never been on display before, along with historic stories of the coast and its people.

**Admission is by advance booking only.**

Entry to the museum will be in half hour slots from 11.15am – 3.15pm. Last visit ends at 3.45pm.

Bookings can be made by calling **07859 460943**  
or emailing : **[bookings@coastalmuseum.org](mailto:bookings@coastalmuseum.org)**

Saturday 8 May to November

**Thursday – Saturday plus Bank Holidays.**

...and

## Waterston House, Aberlady

With a variety of exhibitions:

3 June-25 July - ***Insectarium: Fascination and Fear***

A response to the conflicting feelings that Insects inspire in us. Insects are above all essential to life on earth, and this exhibition offers a collection of artworks that reflect our complex feelings towards these crucial creatures

3 June-26 September - ***Wonder Wander***

A display of outdoor sculptures by Andrea Geile inspired by the coastal landscape and wildlife

. 29 July - 01 August - ***Song Lines***

An exhibition of artwork created by Val O'Regan and inspired by the SOC sound archive. The artist documents the experience of listening to the sounds of birds through drawing, photography and found objects,

. 05 August - 19 September - ***Painted Wings***

A joint exhibition by Helga Chart, Claire Harkess and Derek Robertson bringing together the work of three established Scottish artists recognised in particular for their mastery of watercolour media

The gallery is open Thursdays - Sundays, 10am - 5pm. Entry is free and open to all.

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## East Lothian Foodbank

The current shortages are coffee, jam, baked beans, custard and tinned tomatoes which can be left as before 11am-3pm on Tues and 1pm-3pm on Friday at the Scout Hut. In addition there is to be an extra push at Tesco's the 15-17 July at which we will be greeting customers at the door and asking them to donate.

Rachel Wallace

## Gullane Village Association

As many of you may recall from the last Outlook Magazine, the Gullane Village Association (GVA) has recently been set up and 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.

Hopefully all residents of Gullane will have received their first edition of the Gullane Village Newsletter. For those not resident in Gullane, please contact me as we have plenty of spare copies.

We look forward to future editions being produced quarterly and would love to hear from any organisations or businesses who would like their info included. The deadline for inclusion in the August edition will be Monday 26 July 2021. Future editions will either be hand delivered to each house, or will be available to pick up from local shops and organisations. However, to ensure that all future editions are delivered directly to you, or someone you know, please contact us and we will be glad to add you to the list for home delivery.

Amongst the other projects the GVA have been involved in are working with the council to secure a lease on the Scout Recreational Hall and securing funding to put up a Village Noticeboard near the Old Smiddy.

Finally, the GVA were delighted to receive funding from East Lothian Council through the Scottish Government's Get into Summer fund to support children to access activities and connect with their friends over the summer holidays. Further information about how to access the funding, as well as details of all the incredible children's activities available in Gullane this summer, are available on the GVA website <https://www.gullanevillageassoc.com/get-into-summer-in-gullane> . Please spread the word to any families you may be in contact with, particularly those who are not yet old enough to be registered with the school, as the communication networks for reaching younger families are not quite as well established.

<https://www.gullanevillageassoc.com>  
[gullanevillageassoc@gmail.com](mailto:gullanevillageassoc@gmail.com)  
or phone Hilary Smyth, Deputy Chair,

***Helen Black, who will be known to many of you, tells us something of the story of **Mary's Meals** and her involvement with the charity.***

I first heard about Mary's Meals during my time at school. In 2013, I had the amazing opportunity to travel to Malawi as part of a school trip to visit our partner school in the north of the country. During the trip, we visited Nancholi Primary School, where North Berwick High School fundraised for a Mary's Meals kitchen to be built. It was during this visit that I truly understood the amazing and life-changing impact of the work of the Mary's Meals for myself. The promise of a mug of porridge at school is empowering children to gain an education that they otherwise might have missed out on because of hunger.

Mary's Meals is a global movement that sets up school feeding programmes in some of the world's poorest communities, where poverty and hunger prevent children from gaining an education. Mary's Meals' idea is a simple one that works. We provide one daily meal in a place of learning in order to attract chronically poor children into the classroom, where they receive an education that can, in the future, be their ladder out of poverty.



In 2002, founder and CEO of Mary's Meals, Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, visited Malawi during a famine and met a mother who was dying. He asked her eldest son Edward, what he hoped for in life, Edward replied: "I want to have enough food to eat and go to school one day."

In response to Edward's modest ambition, Mary's Meals began to provide school meals to around 200 primary school children in Malawi. Since then, thanks to the extraordinary generosity of supporters from around the world, Mary's Meals

is now serving life-changing school meals to 1,838,859 children at 3,415 places of education in 19 countries across Africa, South America, the Caribbean, Asia, the Middle East and Europe.

While the Mary's Meals campaign began in 2002, Magnus first became involved in international humanitarian work during the Bosnian Conflict in the early 1990s, when he and his family decided to do something to help those who were suffering as a result of the war. They relied heavily on the generosity of local people in their village of Dalmally in Argyll, Scotland, who relentlessly donated food, blankets and other items, which were stored in the family shed, before being driven out by Magnus to Bosnia-Herzegovina. That same shed still serves as the global headquarters of Mary's Meals, and Magnus' office, to this day.



When I finished school, I went on to study International Relations at the University of Edinburgh, where I further enhanced my knowledge and passion for international development. Upon graduating from university, I undertook a fundraising role with the Scotland-Zambia Partnership, which provided me with vital experience within the third sector. In October 2020, I started working with Mary's Meals International, where I currently work as a Grants and Development Officer. My role is extremely varied, with my duties largely focussing on grant management and major donor funding. This includes writing funding proposals and reports for major donors, as well as monitoring the progress of grants, by working with in-country teams and various other departments to ensure projects are on track and successful. I thoroughly enjoy my role as it allows me to work with people from around the globe and make a difference in the global movement that is supporting the children in Mary's Meals' school feeding programmes. One of the things I love most about Mary's Meals, is that the local communities in which we work, own and run the programmes. We procure all the food

and supplies used in the school feeding programmes locally, helping to support local producers and farmers. Then a dedicated team of thousands of volunteers in the country, cook and serve the meals to the children in their local schools. So many humanitarian projects follow a 'top-down' approach, where development experts simply tell people what to do. Mary's Meals is different; we listen to the needs and wishes of the communities in which we work and operate through equal partnerships between local communities and our dedicated team of staff.

Every child deserves the chance to go to school and gain an education. Yet today, still 59 million primary school aged children around the world, are out of school. The Covid-19 pandemic has created increased hardships in many of the countries where we work, exacerbating the challenges many people face on a daily basis in order to have enough food to eat. Mary's Meals will continue to strive to reach children growing up in some of the most challenging environments and provide them with a daily school meal, and I am so grateful to be part of the team contributing towards this work. To find out more about the life-changing work of Mary's Meals please visit our website ([www.marysmeals.org](http://www.marysmeals.org)), where you can find more information about our mission, including some of our films and videos on the story of Mary's Meals.



*Anything fresh to share? Any gem you have uncovered in you Lockdown clearing? Contributors have kept the magazine going well. Keep up the good work please. It is appreciated.*  
*Ed*

**~~ Directory ~~**

<b>Locum Minister</b>	<b>Rev Fred Harrison</b>	
<b>Session Clerk</b>	<b>Tom Walker</b>	
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Joe McGrane</b>	
<b>Gift Aid</b>	<b>Morag Black</b>	
<b>Free Will Offering</b>	<b>Carol Murray</b>	
<b>Beadle</b>	<b>Bill Scott</b>	
<b>Roll Keeper</b>	<b>Ken Wright</b>	
<b>Sunday Club</b>	<b>Rachel Wallace</b>	
<b>MAC group</b>	<b>Church Office</b>	<b>currently closed</b>
<b>Cradle Roll</b>	<b>Elsbeth Walker</b>	
<b>Safeguarding</b>	<b>Win Wright</b>	
<b>The Guild</b>	<b>Church Office</b>	<b>currently closed</b>
<b>Presbytery Elder</b>	<b>Elsbeth Walker</b>	
<b>Christian Aid</b>	<b>Rachel Wallace</b>	
<b>Flower Convener</b>	<b>Anne Dobie</b>	
<b>Life and Work</b>	<b>Tom Walker</b>	
<b>Church Centre Bookings</b>	<b>Bill Scott</b>	
<b>Church Office</b>		<b>currently closed</b>
<b>Church Website</b>	<b>Hilary Smyth</b>	
<b>Newsletter</b>	<b>Anne McCarthy</b>	

[www.aberlady-gullaneparishchurches.org.uk](http://www.aberlady-gullaneparishchurches.org.uk)

Registered Charity No: SC005237