

Outlook

*Gullane Parish Church
September 2021*



The Autumn Edition

PASTORAL LETTER

How did you cope with the lockdown imposed on all of us way back in March 2020?

It came so suddenly and changed our lives forever. I say forever because for most folks, lockdown has been easing over the last six months or so and yet for so many other people there is still a lingering anxiety about what they can do safely. Perhaps for you, things haven't changed because you are still shielding.

It has been so difficult for everyone, not least our churches. First, we were not allowed to be open! Who would have thought, one lady told me, that we wouldn't be able to go to church! Then once we were allowed to open, we had restricted numbers and pre-booking with masks needed at all times. I have lost count of the number of times I have heard someone ask why we can sit in a café or restaurant without a mask about a metre away from family or friends and yet we can't do the same at home where we would be farther apart. All I can think is that the Government, never having experienced a Pandemic before, are learning on the job as it were and opening up slowly. Do I agree with the way they are doing so? That I shall keep to myself.

How have you been managing? Whilst some of our district Elders may still need to be shielding, I would hope and pray that you have been getting some contact with folks at the church.

By way of an informal introduction to you all, my wife, Joyce, and I now live in Gorebridge. We had retired to Dunbar three years ago where we were well placed to support our elder daughter with her young family as she and her husband were out working. It turns out going back to Gorebridge was well timed as we have been closer to our younger daughter during lockdown and able to provide support to her and her family as lockdown has eased. We have been blessed with these two daughters who between them have nine children. Family get togethers are super fun in our house and the youngsters keep us young, and tired out too.

I was recently given a mug as a present with the following printed on it – I'm not retired. I am a professional Grandad. How true it is too, as we have had grandchildren needing the benefit of sleepovers most weeks particularly during the school holidays.

I serve the Church of Scotland as a volunteer part time minister. I was ordained in 2013 and would normally be deployed by Presbytery to provide support in parishes where the minister has a heavy workload. However, with Covid restrictions and church activities being restricted there hasn't been the need to deploy me and as a result I was free to be appointed here when Brian retired and the then locum Rev Ruth Halley moved on to take up a fulltime position at Greyfriars Kirk in Edinburgh.

During the coming months I will be working through a series of services looking at things like the "I AM" sayings of Jesus, then the "Gifts of the Spirit" and we then find ourselves at Advent as we draw near to celebrating the birth of the baby Jesus. Interspersed, there is Remembrance on the 14 November too.

I do hope to have a chance to meet with you at church but meantime I pray you are well and have good support in place and can get out and about as restrictions allow.

God bless and keep you all safe

Fred

Rev Fred Harrison, Locum Minister



DATES TO NOTE

3 October Harvest Festival

14 November Remembrance Sunday

28 November Celebration of Holy Communion

Dear Friends

Let me begin by expressing the hope that you've had a good summer. I know that for many the easing of the lockdown restrictions came at just the right moment allowing them to take a few days break somewhere else apart from home! Most importantly, we've also been afforded a chance to see our loved ones more frequently and make the sometimes long journeys to see relatives that we haven't been able to see for a while.

The easing of lockdown restrictions has also had implications for Churches, allowing us to open our doors again for worship and now, as we head into the Autumn, to start seeing our premises being used again by local groups. It's not been an easy process to allow that to happen and so I would pay tribute to the office bearers in your own congregation who have kept themselves aware of the latest guidelines and who are working so effectively to allow these different groups, as well as the worshipping community, to meet again.

I am looking forward to conducting worship personally on Sunday 10 October in both Gullane and Aberlady. Your locum, Fred Harrison, will be leading worship in my own congregation here in Port Seton that day. I continue to be delighted that Fred has settled so well into his work as locum. We are working very well together and keep in regular contact.

Of course, as we head into the Autumn the question on the minds of many is about what progress, if any, there has been regarding ongoing discussions with the Presbytery of Lothian over the future shape of Ministry for Aberlady and Gullane. There is, however, not much to add to what I already stated in the last magazine, that we are expecting further discussions to take place soon, though I cannot at this stage put a precise date on when that will be.

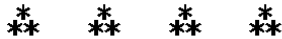
What is important, however, is that the work of Christ's Church still continues. There are some who tell us, in these days, that the Church has little place of worth in society and that even the Church has lost its sense of vision and passion for being. I do not, however, recognise the picture of the Church that they portray – not when I see the commitment of church members and office bearers going that extra mile, not when I witness the good work being done in pastoral care amongst the local

communities and certainly not when I see the people of God worshipping as they are called to do.

Such a Church always has a purpose and something to work for. Such a Church is also the Church that Christ blesses and dwells within.

Once again, if you need to be in touch with me do not hesitate to phone or email. I'll do what I can to help.

With kindest regards
Robin Allison (Rev), Interim Moderator.



Church Buildings

Members will have heard that the Manse on Hummel Road is being sold. However, our church is well and truly open and the Church Centre is in the process of ticking all the COVID boxes to be fully open again.

The Manse has been empty since Brian and Dorothy Hilsley retired last November. Having been informed by Lothian Presbytery, that we are not to be allowed to call a new Parish Minister due to the national shortage of ministers, Gullane Kirk Session resolved to sell the Manse. Lothian Presbytery subsequently approved the sale and, at time of writing, the Manse is 'under offer'. The proceeds of this sale are reserved for our use should we wish and need to buy another, more appropriate, Manse.

COVID is still with us but we have moved to 1 metre social distancing in church which increases capacity. Face masks do need to be worn in church, however. Things may continue to free up in the rest of the year; time will tell. Meantime, please do join us for worship on Sunday mornings if you feel comfortable to do so. The Church Centre is being used by the JAM club on Sundays and we are working to open it and the kitchen for wider use in the coming weeks.

Tom Walker, Session Clerk

JAM Club for our Church Families

In June the children of our JAM (Jesus and Me) Club met in the Manse Garden every Sunday morning; it proved to be a perfect outdoor setting, safe during COVID restrictions. We were also able to mark the end of term with mini sports and games for all the family, ending with the now traditional 'jelly baby and spaghetti tower challenge'. We were delighted to welcome our then new Locum Minister Fred that day, though had no idea he would be so good at building towers! He wowed us with his church construction: there were even jelly babies in his congregation. That morning we presented to the children end of term certificates and bibles, as a reward for their attendance over the past difficult year. We hope some of them will bring their bibles to the new Evening JAM sessions, starting this month, for the older children in our congregation.** Over the summer holidays JAM Club didn't meet but there was ongoing communication by WhatsApp. It's lovely to have so many families who are keen to stay in touch.

JAM Club restarted at the end of August and due to easing of restrictions we were able to join the congregation at the beginning of the morning service then head through to the Church Centre as before. We were excited to be back in church and welcome a number of new families from both Gullane and Aberlady. We plan to offer a crèche facility for the youngest children, also in the Church Centre for the time being.

Rachel Wallace



A result of the planting



Current JAM Club theme

**EJAM is a new children's group for older primary aged children aged P4 – P7. We haven't exactly confirmed what it stands for... initially we'd thought Evening JAM or Exploring Jesus and Me... but the general consensus at our first meeting was that it should stand for Eating JAM!

We were delighted to hold our first EJAM meeting on Sunday 5 September in the Gullane Church Centre. Fourteen children came together, including some new young people, for a great first evening filled with pizza, popcorn and... an "Introduction to the Bible Quiz"! EJAM is an opportunity for our older JAM Club children to start to think about their faith and how they can start to engage with their new Bibles which were given out at the end of last year. It's also a safe place for friends to share a meal and catch up. We hope to run movie nights, baking and trips in the future.

We are hoping to grow our numbers over the coming months and are desperately looking for at least one more leader to ensure we do not need to limit numbers – apparently the pizzas have proven very popular amongst the children! Please email Hilary or Peter Smyth if you can help.



If God answers your prayer,
He is increasing your FAITH.
If He delays, He is increasing you PATIENCE.
If He doesn't answer,
He has something BETTER for you.

-Unknown



The Guild

The first geese have been heard overhead, Autumn crocus discovered in the garden and swallows on the wires. All the signs of Autumn are here. This is also the time when we are thinking of restarting our Guild meetings. However, as we all know, this is not going to be as straightforward as usual.

The Guild committee met on 2 September to discuss the way forward.

- We know, that our church hall would not be allowed to have more than 20 people.
- We would all have to sit round the tables and serving refreshments is also a problem.
- Our kitchen is very narrow and keeping sufficient distance is going to be almost impossible.

Taking all this into account, the committee have decided to put off starting the new Guild session till the New Year.

However, we may be able to have a Guild lunch in Craigiellaw Golf Club before Christmas.

We are delighted to hear that our two church elders Fran Goodman and Elspeth Walker have agreed to be part of the Guild and will liaise between the church session and the Guild. So, we have to be patient a little longer and hope that it will not be too long before we can meet again.

Meanwhile I hope we will all keep well!

Angeniet Black



The Flower People



I am in need of some assistance with the supply of flowers, donated and arranged for display in Church for Sunday services. It would involve only one Sunday in the year. If you are interested and would like to help, do please call me

Anne Dobie

CHURCH COFFEE

Church Sunday Coffee has been going for quite a long time and Una Kerr has been at the helm for at least 25 years! She is now retiring and we would like to thank Una very much for all she has done. The time, effort and money raised from Sunday Coffee is most appreciated by all at Gullane Parish Church. Thank you Una and your team .

A kind thank you too from all at GPC to Anne McCallum and Anne Routledge who are stepping down from Sunday Coffee rota.

As we are slowly trying to resume some normality it's still not possible at the moment to have coffee in the Church Centre after the Sunday Service. Instead we are holding after-church coffee in the Old Clubhouse until further notice! It will be straight after the service which should finish about 10.30am. Please come along for a cuppa and a chat even if you can't make church ... we would love to see you A donation towards coffee would be greatly appreciated

Any questions please get in touch with Allison

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

TUESDAY COFFEE

We would like to thank Eppie Dobson who is stepping down from running Tuesday Coffee. She has done a great job and all her efforts are very much appreciated by all at GPC.

We would also like to thank Anne McCallum, Isobel Bryce, Janet Trainer and June Campbell who are also retiring from the rota .

Claire Walker has agreed to take over the helm . We are all delighted and look forward to getting Tuesday coffee back . We will keep you posted with the new start date!

If anybody would like to help with Sunday Coffee or Tuesday Coffee please get in touch with myself Allison Frostwick (Sunday) or Claire Walker (Tuesday)
We would love to hear from you .



Life and Work is the magazine of the Church of Scotland and 29 August was designated Life and Work Sunday to celebrate the fact that it has been “informing, uplifting, moving, connecting and occasionally enraging the Church of Scotland for over 140 years”

Every month the 52-page full colour magazine is packed with features, news and opinion on Christian life within Scotland and further afield, functioning as an editorially independent publication.

The history

Life and Work was established in 1879 by Archibald Hamilton Charteris (1835 to 1908), who was professor of biblical criticism at Edinburgh University. The magazine was inspired by his work on the Church of Scotland's Committee of Christian Life & Work, which he initiated and led.

Hugely committed to Church causes, he later founded the Woman's Guild and the diaconate in order to harness the energies of women in the Church. He formed the diaconate from his experience of similar orders in protestant churches in Europe, where he travelled widely.

In its early years, Life and Work ran various supplements, including the Guild supplement and the Young Men's Supplement. The only one still running is the Gaelic Supplement, which was begun in 1880 and is read by Gaels all over the world

In 1929 when the United Free Church of Scotland reunited with the Church of Scotland, Life and Work was subtitled The Record of the Church of Scotland in recognition of the United Free Church publication, The Record, but this reference was dropped in 1996 when the magazine was relaunched in full colour.

Life and Work was voted best Member Magazine of the Year in 2004 at the PPA Scottish magazine awards and has been shortlisted many times since. It was also awarded a prestigious Andrew Cross award in 2005 by the UK wide Churches Media Council.

The magazine's own website was launched in the spring of 2013, as part of a digital development project approved by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Subscriptions

The subscription service offers the convenience of having Life and Work magazine delivered direct to your door or any digital device; you can also arrange a gift subscription.

To encourage new subscribers, there are currently promotional offers of Life and Work; these are **valid until 30 September 2021** and can be organised online.

Annual PRINT Subscription

Buy 12 issues for the price of 10 and pay **ONLY £30**
Purchase and save at www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe using promotion code LWS2021

Annual DIGITAL Subscription

Receive **34% OFF** when you buy 12 issues and pay **ONLY £13.99**
Purchase and save at <https://pktmags.com/lwspromo>

It is still possible to check any further queries with Tom Walker



Once again it has been very heartening to have so many people contribute to this edition of Outlook, perhaps when we thought there might be less than usual to say. Please do keep up the good work. We are planning to publish another issue before Christmas. Ed

National Giving Day

We have all heard of the terrible crisis in Afghanistan and of the plight of the refugees arriving in this country. There is a real need for humanitarian help in Afghanistan, due to decades of conflict, years of extreme drought, and weeks of heavy fighting. The refugees arriving in this country need food, somewhere to stay, clothes, medical care and often help with our language. For National Giving Day we would like to support the work of The Red Cross and Red Crescent. These charities have been helping in Afghanistan for several decades and are now helping with the refugees here.

If you would like to donate some money to The Red Cross and Red Crescent please send a cheque made payable to Gullane Parish Church and mark the envelope National Giving Day. Online donations can be made to Gullane Parish Church, sort code 80-08-22 account number 00461473. Please use reference National Giving Day.

The Church can claim gift aid if donors are taxpayers and they have signed a gift aid declaration form allowing the Church to do so. If anyone wishes a form, if they have not already completed one, please contact Morag Black at Quillet, Erskine Road, Gullane. We are extending the time for giving up to the end of October.

Ruth Hunter

A bit of background

Congregations across the Church of Scotland were invited to take part in a National Giving Day initiative this autumn. The 2021 General Assembly agreed to encourage congregations to take part in the one-off initiative on a day of their choice between 5 September and 31 October. Congregations can use the money they raise to boost their own funds and support a renewed sense of mission or they can direct it towards projects at home or overseas



Plant and Produce Sale

Two and three years ago we had well-supported sales in **Christian Aid** week in May. Unfortunately due to covid that wasn't to be this May or in May 2020. Instead we planned for a sale on the Saturday afternoon of Gullane Games Week, the first Saturday of August. Rather than having lots of plants we had much more garden produce and also quite a few preserves. It was all quite last minute because of changing rules re covid but we were thrilled to raise £270. We might even have two sales another year as they are both very good times for gardeners to be able to support them.

Thank-you to everyone who contributed and supported the effort.

Claire Walker

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

NORTH BERWICK'S MONTHLY CHRISTIAN AID QUIZ

September's theme is **CARTOON CHARACTERS**. Each answer is the name of a character. All have appeared both in print and in film or TV. The characters are in pairs, so if you found **JERRY** as an answer, it's worth searching for **TOM** (or would be if we'd used them). The answers are in alphabetical order, so most of the pairs are not adjacent to each other.

To download a quiz, please visit:

www.standrewblackadder.org.uk, hover on "Groups & Activities", click on "Christian Aid Quizzes", and find "SEPTEMBER" at the foot of the left-hand column.

If you have enjoyed the quiz and would like to support Christian Aid with a small donation (just £1 would be fine), please go to: **www.christianaid.org.uk** and click on the red **DONATE** button in the top right corner of the screen.

If you would like to send your entry in, you can print the quiz, fill it in and photograph it on your phone. Email the picture to: **NBCAquizzes@gmail.com** with "SEPTEMBER QUIZ" in the subject line. Or just type the answers into an email. You could win a £5 prize!

The closing date is 31 October 2021

Look out for Jake on BBC's Songs of Praise

Covid-19 has impacted on everyone's life in one way or another. For Jake, the pandemic brought a sudden halt to singing and performing, music exams and recitals were cancelled and chorister duties, daily practice and Evensong all stopped. It was almost as soon as singing was allowed in church again and the choristers were returning to some semblance of normal that the summer holidays arrived and brought what felt like a hasty end to it all once more.

On a positive note, the down time gave Jake thinking space. Looking for opportunities to share his love of music and connect with others through his singing he came up with the idea to audition for BBC's Young Chorister of the Year!

St Mary's gave their blessing and so the fun began! First hurdle - the deadline for entries was much sooner than anticipated. Jake teamed up with Janet, his wonderful lifelong music teacher, and they both worked together on two songs until these were polished and refined. The audition videos were filmed and submitted just in the nick of time! It is better to try and fail than not to try at all, we thought! And if nothing else comes of it we shall still have a lovely recording of Jake's treble voice as a keepsake and memory of these days.

Lo and behold, some weeks later, I received a call to inform us that the judges loved Jake's audition and that he had been successful in making it through to the boys' semi-final along with four others. Surprised and thrilled with the news it eventually dawned on Jake the size of the audience he will be reaching with his voice! The next challenge arose - Jake was asked to quickly learn a new song from scratch, and with the gracious giving of Janet's time and talents he is now extremely excited and looking forward to singing this in the wonderful setting that is Salisbury Cathedral in the Boys' Semi-Final of The Young Chorister of the Year 2021.

While our little lad, nurtured by the congregation of Gullane Parish Church, is sharing his song with you, (to be aired in Songs of Praise on **Sunday 28 November**), I will be standing in the wings with a thankful heart, a grateful prayer and undoubtedly a few nerves! If you tune in you might even catch a glimpse of Gullane!

Tracey Thomson

COMMUNITY LINKS

WELCOME BACK TO THE LIBRARY



Various calls to complete the ELC Library Survey produced a really good response and it is a pleasure to see our library now re-opened. Currently the opening hours are Tuesday and Friday only, 10am-1pm and 2-5pm) but with the intention of increasing these when staffing allows and the gradual return of other activities – and hopefully good demand for its services.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~



East Lothian Foodbank

The Foodbank continues to operate in East Lothian with demand increasing year on year. Referrals come in from many partner organisations, the EL Council Social Services, Citizens Advice Bureau, and NHS services accounting for most referrals recently. In July 2021, 254 3-day emergency food parcels were given out, feeding 606 people. In August 255 parcels were distributed, feeding 586 people.

Thankfully donations keep rolling in. 5,952kgs of food arrived at the warehouse in Tranent in July, of which 3,453kg came from the 3-day Tesco collections, but in August donations were down to 4,359kgs. In July we gave out 5,794kgs of food, and in August we gave out 5,524kgs, so we need more donations to fulfil demand. Thankfully libraries and churches are reopening now restrictions have eased so we hope people will return to their generous pre-pandemic habits. I have reinstated the collection box in the church foyer on a Sunday and Gullane continues to have collection points at the Co-op, the Scout Hall and the Library. This Harvest, 3 October, there will be a collection in Church. All non-perishable items, toiletries and household cleaning products are gratefully received.

Go to the website www.Eastlothian.foodbank.org.uk for more information, or like us on Facebook.

Many thanks

Rachel Wallace

THE GREAT SCOTTISH TAPESTRY

Initiated by best selling author Alexander McCall Smith, historian Alistair Moffat, and artist Andrew Crummy, The Great Scottish Tapestry of Scotland is an outstanding celebration of Scottish history and achievement from the end of the last Ice Age to the 21st century.

More than 1,000 volunteer stitchers, led by stitch co-ordination Dorie Wilkie, worked for 55,000 hours using 300 miles of wool to create the 160 panels of this extraordinary work of art. Using a range of embroidery skills and working on Scottish linen. Men, women and youngsters from every corner of the country translated Andrew Crummy's artwork into a colourful, skilful and textured depiction of the history of Scotland and in doing so recorded a remarkable people's story, a story retold here through the panels themselves and the words of Alistair Moffat.

Three ladies from Gullane Church (Angeniet Black, Margaret Holm and Lyn Vaughan) worked together with their North Berwick embroidery group to create two of the panels and are planning a trip down to Galashiels to view their work in the new purpose-built building displaying the Tapestry in the centre of Galashiels. The gallery is open Thursday-Monday 9.30am-5pm, with online booking required.



- This panel, called "The Formation of Scotland", one of those stitched by members of North Berwick Creative Embroidery Group, is one in which Angeniet, Margaret and Lyn contributed to the stitching, along with others, from Dunbar, Gullane, East Linton and North Berwick,

GULLANE AND DIRLETON HISTORY SOCIETY
Lecture Syllabus until the end of 2021

Wednesday meetings are normally held in Gullane Village Hall, Thursday meetings in Dirleton Church Hall but the meetings in September and October will be held on Zoom and then a decision made concerning the remainder of the season.

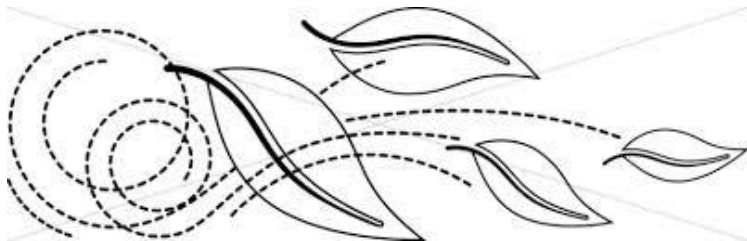
All are at **7.30**

Wednesday 22 September Jon Cooper
Whitecoats and Rascals; the siege of Haddington, 1548/1549

Thursday 21 October Chris Holme
East Lothian and the conquest of TB

Wednesday 3 November Carol Tweedie
Living close to the edge – Fair Isle in the 19th century

Thursday 2 December. Sarah Goodswen
Inns and their Signs



Where have YOU walked recently?

March 23, 2020 - The date our lives changed and we all took up walking as an escape, as a form of exercise, as a social activity, as a new hobby - if we were lucky enough to be able to go outdoors and walk comfortably.

Has the short 'exercise outdoors' period stretched into longer walks perhaps with friends, or with newly made friends meeting up on regular walks for a welcome chat? I've noticed young mums meeting together with buggies and dogs to make good use of fresh air, exercise and some much-needed company of other young women in similar circumstances.

Have you made some 'doggie' friends on your wanders along the beach and around the village? There are lots and lots of happy pooches running around now and most welcome a few friendly words and a wee clap - and the humans are generally delighted to show off their wonderful pet.

Have you noticed careful consideration of others on your walks? Many tracks around the beach and dunes are narrow but have been widened by increased footfall however with a few words of greeting and a smile there's never a problem around right of way.

Have you noticed the changing seasons and the wonderful wild life on our doorstep? We've wandered over golf courses, around fields, along cliff paths and beaches through all the seasons and hopefully have benefited from the many changes throughout the months which we may not have taken the time to appreciate before. Did the skylarks on the golf courses sing more sweetly this year? Have there been more daffodils and spring bulbs blooming in gardens this year? Are the fields of ripening grain around the village more golden this year?

Have you been extending your walks into the Lammermuirs, the Pentlands, the Borders or further north now that we can travel freely? If walking has become a big part of your life with the possibilities of more adventurous excursions into beautiful areas of our country, then join up with others (quick Google search will help) and enjoy the happiness that comes from putting one foot in front of another on a walking adventure. Starting a new hobby - what a wonderful outcome from a global pandemic!

Alison Smith

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

New Members Joining Us

Alan and Marjorie Waddell
from New Kilpatrick Parish Church August 2021

Sandy Dudgeon
from Kirkliston Parish Church

Deaths of members

12 April 2021 Molly Alderson

22 June 2021 George Wark

23 June 2021 David Doughty

25 June 2021 John Holm

22 August 2021. Tom Burns



~~ Directory ~~

Locum Minister	Rev Fred Harrison	
Session Clerk	Tom Walker	
Treasurer	Peter Grey	
Gift Aid	Morag Black	
Free Will Offering	Carol Murray	
Beadle	Bill Scott	
Roll Keeper	Ken Wright	
Sunday Club	Rachel Wallace	
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	

www.aberlady-gullaneparishchurches.org.uk

Registered Charity No: SC005237