

*Outlook*  
*Gullane Parish Church*  
*March 2022*



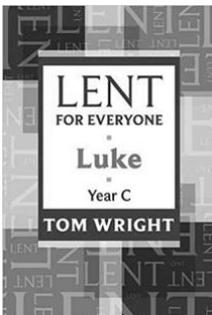
*You are warmly invited to join us in the*  
***SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION***  
*Sunday 3 April 2022 at 9.45am*  
*All welcome*



## Message from our locum minister

I find it mind blowing that it is now seven months since I was appointed as your Locum. The busy Christmas period is well behind us now and the next major event in the Christian year is the Season of Lent and Easter.

With this being my first Easter with you, I am unsure whether you engage with Lent or not. Some Christians give up something for Lent whilst others take the opportunity to do a Bible Study, either on their own or in groups. Given the relaxation of Covid regulations, getting together for a Bible Study is more do-able than previously but there are issues around the access to the Church Centre because of the need for wiping down contact points etc. Whilst meeting up in small groups that we are comfortable having in our homes or Zoom are options. These may be things, Zoom in particular, that one either loves or hates and not everyone has access to Zoom anyway.



My plan, is to read my way through a book by Tom Wright called Lent For Everyone. The Author works gently through the Gospel of Luke with only a couple of pages each day. If you don't have plans but would like to join me, the book is available on Amazon and obviously other sites too. If there is an appetite for a group Bible Study I am happy to see what can be done. Not necessarily led by myself but I hope that I can at least offer support.

As to plans for the rest of 2022, Perhaps you are planning to get away or are you like many folks and not looking to disappear to warmer climes! For my wife and I, the motorhome season is slowly opening up and we are already planning some trips. We will be spending a fair bit of time at the Caravan Site in Aberlady over the season as it is nice and handy for Church services and pastoral work. What with me only working 2 days plus Sunday Services as Locum, it should be easily worked around long weekends and it gets us closer to our Dunbar family too.

If I can leave you with the following thought: - *For God so loved YOU that he sent his one and only Son so that if YOU accept him as your Lord and Saviour then the Kingdom of Heaven will be yours.* Yes, I paraphrase verses and themes from the Bible but it is nevertheless true!

May the light of the World, our Lord Jesus Christ, bring warmth to your heart and a lovely glow about your person.

With every blessing

Fred

Rev Fred Harrison  
Locum Minister



Worship Plan.

**Sunday 27 March**, the Gullane morning service will be led by our interim moderator, Rev Robin Allison. Robin has guided us through the last 10 months of our vacancy and is stepping down from the role on 31 March so this will be a chance to say our farewell and thank you.

**Sunday 3 April** we will celebrate Communion in Gullane Parish church and then revert to the former pattern of the last Sundays of May, August, November and February.

**Holy Week.** We are planning to hold a service on **Good Friday (15 April)** in Gullane Church at 7.30pm, following on from the **Maundy Thursday** service in Aberlady Church, also at 7.30pm.

**Easter Day** services will be at the usual times in Gullane (9.45am) and Aberlady (11.15am). We will also aim to meet at Aberlady Sea Green at 8am on Easter Sunday. Keep an eye on the website and the (new) church noticeboard for updates to this schedule.

## Kirk Session News

Gullane Kirk Session had a very positive meeting on 21 February with Aberlady Kirk Session and Rev Graham Duffin, who is leading the Presbytery Plan process in Lothian Presbytery. Graham Duffin informed us that Presbytery's tentative offer of a 0.5 Minister that was made in December is now firm. He made the point that if we cannot find a 0.5 Minister, we can revert to the 0.25 Minister. However, the 0.5 Minister option was only for now and would not be possible later (the additional 0.25 allocation would undoubtedly be snapped up elsewhere).

He also made the point that a church grouping with North Berwick applied whatever the Minister allocation, albeit the linkage might of necessity be closer if we had only a 0.25 Minister. The mood of the meeting from both Aberlady and Gullane Kirk Sessions was in favour of a 0.5 Minister. Presbytery would also want Aberlady and Gullane to explore a Union, and again, the meeting was favourably disposed to this, it having been discussed previously. A 0.5 Minister allows us to purchase a Manse for that Minister, whereas a 0.25 Minister does not get a Manse. We were assured that there is no suggestion of Presbytery closing Gullane's or Aberlady's church buildings.

Lothian Presbytery will deliver their finalised plan on 28 April and Graham suggested that discussions about a Union could start now and that Presbytery could approve the Union in June or September while giving permission to call a 0.5 Minister by end September.

These changes would be subject to votes by both Kirk Sessions and both congregations.

JAM Club. Rachel Wallace has written elsewhere in this issue about JAM Club and their plans. I wanted to take the opportunity to say how fortunate we are to have our leaders in JAM club. I think we all enjoy the participation of the young people in our church life. At our last Kirk Session meeting, we formally thanked the JAM club team for all their hard work. As ever, if you feel you may like to help with JAM club, Rachel would love to hear from you.

Tom Walker, Session Clerk

The COVID committee has decided to remove the tape barriers to alternate pews in the church which means people can now sit where they wish and we will enter and leave church by the west door. We are waiting to hear, possibly on 21 March, what other restrictions will be removed by the Scottish Government. Many of us will look forward to singing without face masks, to make better use of the Church Centre and the requirement to record attendees at every service may be dropped also. We intend to revert to celebrating Communion in the more traditional manner, using individual glasses of wine though not yet the common cup. Whatever happens, we will continue to respect individual's preferences as much as possible so that everyone can enjoy our fellowship and feel safe.



### **MIDWEEK COFFEE IS BACK**

Firstly, thank you to Eppie Dobson for her years of hard work running the rota up until Covid struck two years ago. We hope that from now on she will enjoy coming to coffee without having duties to perform.

We are planning to restart in the church centre next month but to change the day to a **Wednesday morning**, not Tuesday as it has been previously. With the Scottish Government relaxation of Covid restrictions from 21 March we hope that we can resume serving the coffees and teas just as we used to. **We plan to start on Wednesday, 6 April, 10.30am-12noon.**

We have several new helpers for which I am very grateful. If you have any questions or concerns and if there is anyone else who would like to join the rota please just let me know,

Claire Walker

## COMMUNICATION TEAM REPORT

After a 5 year period of hibernation, the Communication team was reconstituted and had its first meeting in March 2021 and we have met 2 monthly since. The team consists of Anne McCarthy, Rachel Wallace, Hilary Smyth, Iain Blakebell and is chaired by Douglas Donaldson. The infectious enthusiasm within the team make it one of the most enjoyable committees on which to sit. Our remit was, as previously, to improve communication within the congregation and with the wider community. This we have tried to do despite the many constraints imposed by the COVID pandemic.

Anne has continued as editor of the Outlook magazine. Her high standards and experience result in a top-quality magazine and she has an eye for a good story. Tom Walker, Session Clerk, now outlines, in each issue, the bullet points from each Session meeting allowing non-Session members to be up-to-date about Church affairs. As there is no service sheet each Sunday, the "Notifications" has been a means of disseminating important information. It is likely that the Elders, each with their own District, will be a further vehicle for communicating important information to the congregation.

Hilary and Rachel have taken on, in the continued absence of a Church secretary, keeping the Church website up-to-date. There are now more sections including safe-guarding etc. They wish to make the website more dynamic and colourful and we feel sure they will succeed! Both are on the Gullane Village Association Committee and have ensured Church news and forthcoming events are included in the Village newsletter circulated to every household in Gullane. This is in addition to regular "posts" on the Village Facebook. Hilary has agreed to take on the role of Data Protection Officer and will receive training from Presbytery. She is also creating an emailing list for all Church members and attendees which will further facilitate the spreading of news about our Church.

Douglas has led the way in technical communications. The Church Sanctuary and Church Centre both now have wifi with 4G reception in every area of these buildings. This is through Sky Connect as BT could not guarantee fibre connection. The Church has a new Noticeboard which is now visible from the Main Street. It has been professionally sanded then painted

and soon Church details, timing of service, website etc, will be stencilled onto the central section.

Iain suggested and then organised and master-minded "Carols on the Green" which was due to be held under the lights on the trees on the Green on the Sunday before Christmas. Unfortunately the Omicron variant was at its most contagious stage then and so the Carols were cancelled. We were very enthusiastic about this event and fully hope it can take place next Christmas and annually thereafter.

We hope to upgrade our Audio-visual equipment in the Church and Church Centre. Several quotes have been obtained and with the help of John Turner, who advises Presbytery on A/V matters, Session will make a decision as to which system to choose. This upgrade should allow folk, who cannot attend Church, to watch the Sunday service via Zoom. Also we should be able to "stream" a service from another Church and vice versa. The additional Projector, Screen and speakers in the Church Centre will allow this building to attract other societies to hire it for the evening.

These are some of the issues we have dealt with during the last 12 months. There is still a lot to do especially when the future of our Church is formally determined and with the formation of a closer "Union" with our Sister Church in Aberlady.. Our "grouping" with the Blackadder Church in North Berwick is an exciting prospect and already the Childrens' Section there is meeting with our JAM club to share ideas.

Communication Team



**Your Help is Needed!**

We continue to look for someone to play the organ or piano on the third Sunday of each month.

Please help spread the word and ask around! It makes such a difference to our worship when we are fortunate enough to have the services of an organist or pianist.

Please contact Joy Grey for further details and remuneration.

## Matters Financial

**Gullane Church's** annual report for the year ended 31 December 2021 is at the final stages of preparation. A surplus of £2,680 was enhanced by the uplift in the value of our investments by £9,800. The Balance Sheet is liquid with cash and investments totalling around £121,000. This positive outcome is in large part thanks to the generosity of many of our members and the switch to online giving. This leaves us in a reasonably good financial position given the straitened circumstances of the last two years. However income is down over 10% in the year and falling income combined with a higher Ministries and Mission contribution in 2022 mean that a surplus will be much harder to achieve this year. Your continued generosity towards the work of the church will be much appreciated.

[Members will remember that the proceeds of the sale of the Manse can only be used for buildings (a new manse and/or repair or refurbishment of existing buildings)].

Peter Grey  
Treasurer



Just a gentle reminder that donations for the Church can be made online or by cheque. Please transfer to Gullane Parish Church Sort Code 80 08 22 Account Number 00461473.

Please do let me know if you make an online payment so I can add it to your Gift Aid record. Alternatively post a cheque payable to Gullane Parish Church. Any queries please do get in touch. Thank you for your continued support.

Morag Black,  
Gift Aid Treasurer.



## JAM Club

The run up to Christmas for JAM Club was typically busy with plans for Christmas crafts, a trip to the pantomime for the children and our Nativity, as well as the usual Sunday morning gatherings. We had been enjoying a return to near normality regarding COVID restrictions. But then numbers of COVID cases started rising again and by the beginning of December we realised all the above needed to be cancelled apart from our Sunday morning JAM sessions, though we did manage a lovely winter walk on 12 December. We did a major rethink of the nativity and thanks to all the families and Hilary's skill we put together at the last minute a Nativity film, that was shown in both Aberlady and Gullane Churches and is still available on our website. Over 40 children took part, they all had great fun telling the Christmas story in the form of a rap.

Since Christmas in JAM Club we have been following the story of Moses, and more recently the Easter story, using new SU resources to give us some new ideas. The number of children at JAM Club has been varied as COVID cases have affected attendance, also a lot of them are very busy with the new sporting season. We are delighted to have welcomed Effie Mason, 11, as a Creche young leader. Effie has been invaluable on Sunday mornings over the past few months entertaining our youngest JAM Club members and we are so pleased to have her on our team. In the run up to Easter we plan to have a spring walk on 13 March and I'm sure there will be an Easter Egg hunt on Easter Sunday.

**EJAM** (Eating or Evening JAM) continues to meet with 19 children regularly attending between P4 and P7. All children have now been gifted their own Bibles to aid in the Bible study in the first hour of each monthly session, before enjoying a takeaway pizza/fish and chips for the final half hour. The children have spent time searching for words of comfort in the

Bible, and most recently, thinking about what it would have been like to be a disciple on the boat when Jesus fell asleep in rough water, and then calmed the storm. We have been very grateful to the volunteers who have helped make this possible – with increasing numbers we now rely on at least three adults per session. Plans are afoot for summer sessions with a twist and we'd love to welcome new young people to join us from across our congregations in Gullane and Aberlady.

Finally, the Gullane Children's Church team met with our counterparts in Aberlady and St Andrew Blackadder. We had an uplifting and exciting meeting filled with enthusiasm, ideas for the future and mutual admiration at how we are working with children across our communities. We really look forward to developing these relationships with discussions around St Andrew Blackadder's Messy church and incorporating the many Scripture Union resources on offer into our activities ranging from Holiday camps to supporting children transition to secondary school and investigating the option of regular SU clubs. We also looked at new ideas for children's activities at the Aberlady Kirk Stables and encouraging fellowship between the children in our three congregations. Exciting times ahead!

Rachel Wallace and Hilary Smyth



You may have heard about Messy Church recently; JAM Club are keen to support this venture which is open to all on the first Sunday of every month at St Andrew Blackadder in North Berwick. In the past we at Gullane have thought about running our own Messy Church but are limited by space in our Church Centre. Maybe something for the future? To find out more go to their website; [www.messychurch.org.uk](http://www.messychurch.org.uk)

## What is Messy Church?

Messy Church is a form of church for children and adults that involves creativity, celebration and hospitality.

It's primarily for people who don't already belong to another form of church.

It meets at a time (and sometimes in a place) that suits people who don't already belong to church.

It typically includes a welcome, a long creative time to explore the biblical theme through getting messy; a short celebration time involving story, prayer, song, games and similar; and a sit-down meal together at tables. All elements are for, and should include, *people of all ages*, adults and children.

It's fun.

It's a church for people at all stages of their faith journey and of any age - a congregation that is as valuable and worthy of investment as any of your other congregations.

It models and promotes good ways of growing as a family: a nuclear family, an extended family, and a global and local church family.

Its aim is to introduce Jesus, to give an opportunity to encounter him and to grow closer to him.

Messy Church is part of \*\*BRF which believes, with the historic churches, in one God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Messy Church is resourced, supported and enabled by BRF.

Most Messy Churches meet once a month, although a few meet more frequently or more occasionally.

Messy Church is an all-age fresh expression of church that offers counter-cultural transformation of family life through families coming together to be, to make, to eat and to celebrate God.

JAM Club have also found inspiration from one of Messy Church's sister organisations [www.parentingforfaith.brf.org.uk](http://www.parentingforfaith.brf.org.uk) who have lots of information for families on their journeys in faith.

I hope you enjoy finding out more

Rachel Wallace

\*\*BRF (Bible Reading Fellowship) is a Christian charity which celebrates its centenary in 2022



## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2022 14-21 May

Christian Aid is doing wonderful work Worldwide. We are all horrified to witness the war in Ukraine and may have sent support to charities focused on that crisis. Christian Aid is part of Action of Churches Together (ACT) and, through ACT, is able to send help to wherever it is needed, which will undoubtedly include Ukraine.

Throughout the last year, Christian Aid Scotland has been especially involved in South Sudan, Zimbabwe and Afghanistan.

Some of their achievements are:

- Supporting more than four thousand households in South Sudan affected by last year's flooding
- Reaching twenty-two thousand Sudanese with critical messages on health and safety preventive measures and hygiene awareness. This is helped by the fact that four out of five people in South Sudan go to a weekly church service.
- Helping relieve famine and poverty in Afghanistan where the situation has been so bad that some families have been driven to selling children in order to try to find the children a better life.
- Instructing folk in Zimbabwe on how to survive periods of drought by advising on drought-resistant crops.

As well as all this they are continuing to support the policies adopted at COP26.

What **we** have planned are

## **PLANT, PRODUCE AND CRAFT SALE**

**Saturday 21 May, 2-4pm.**

- Please get planting seeds, splitting plants or making pots of jam/chutney etc
- All donations welcome, 10-12 that morning at the church
- In previous years people have kindly donated some homemade crafts so if you have any spare homemade crafts eg. Cards, paintings, knitted items) please bring them too.
- Anyone who can help on the day would be most welcome. Please phone me, Claire Walker. If we have enough helpers and if Covid rules allow we would hope to offer teas and home-baking.
- If anyone has contributions but needs help to get them to the church please let me know and we can arrange collection.
- At the sale and in the church during Christian Aid week there will be envelopes for those who would like to donate cash or cheques.

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## **SIXTY WALKS FOR SIXTY DAYS FOR MY SIXTY YEARS**

Sponsored in aid of Christian Aid

In the sixty days up to the end of Christian Aid Week I am going to walk sixty walks, to mark my recent big birthday. Look out for my red T-shirt!

The walks will vary in length. Many of them will be in our local joint parish but some will be further afield in East Lothian and the Borders. I am going to open it up to welcome anyone who would like to join me on two days in the week. This will be on Tuesdays and one day Friday, Saturday or Sunday each week. Some will be appropriate for buggies, scooters and the like. Pick up a flyer at church or soon there will be details on our church website, [www.aberladygullaneparishchurches.org.uk](http://www.aberladygullaneparishchurches.org.uk).

Any questions, contact me at church or on the phone numbers above. If you feel inclined to sponsor me either do it in person or visit my Justgiving page,

[www.justgiving.com/CA60walks60days60years](http://www.justgiving.com/CA60walks60days60years) Claire Walker

*The unhappy news of the disbanding of the Guild has prompted a look back at the story of the Guild in Gullane.*

## The Guild



The first reference to the Guild in Gullane is in Session minutes of 5 October 1911, with a further note in minutes of 1913. There follows a great hole in the records because of the 1914-1918 War and the Depression of 1926. The Guild was re-formed in 1930 and at this time meetings were held every Tuesday evening at 7.30. From 1938 these became fortnightly with an occasional speaker being invited. Funds were raised by 'Trading': members knitted or sewed items for sale to each other and proceeds went into group funds (7/6 was recorded for one meeting). After the merging of St Andrews and St Peters Churches in 1937, the two Guilds became one. At this time membership was 59 with attendance in the 40s.

With the coming of World War II, attendances dropped and it was agreed to hold alternate meetings at 3pm to save fuel. Members donated tea for these gatherings but those who wanted sugar had to bring their own.

In the following decades meetings continued to vary between afternoon and evening and various recruiting drives were held. In 1988 there was an average attendance of 35. In 1997 a change was made when the Guild was opened up to include men. Up until that point it had been known as The Woman's Guild.

One visible reminder of The Guild is the banner produced for the Millennium and now hanging in the church. Gullane Parish Church banner had been chosen to represent the local Presbyterian Council in the Millennium Banners exhibition

This century the Guild has had talks and discussions on a wide range of topics from *Aids in Africa* and *Young offenders* in 2006 to the story of Susannah Wesley, *the Mother of Methodism*, and the work of *Crossreach*, the Church of Scotland Social Care Council, in 2020. The Christmas party has long been a highlight of the year, as has the annual coffee

morning which regularly raised substantial amounts (£607.50 in 2017) for various chosen projects.

In her letter in the last *Outlook* reporting the disbanding of Gullane Church Guild, Angeniet Black sums it up saying:  
*Over the years our Guild has been a great meeting place for people, raising funds for diverse causes, providing interesting speakers and being a place to meet friends and neighbours.*

*... and two reflections from Guild members*

I am sure it was with much Heart Searching that the Guild Committee took the difficult decision to disband the Guild in Gullane. Grateful thanks and much appreciation should go to them and their predecessors over the years who worked so hard to maintain the aims of Service and Fellowship in Gullane. It was perhaps an inevitable decision given the changing times we live in.

I became a Guild member aged 29 when I was told it was my duty as an Elder's wife to join! That Guild hasn't had a presence in that village for many years

My previous Guild, having instituted an Afternoon meeting for those who did not want to venture out in an evening, found that growing age and frailty meant that people were reluctant to come in an afternoon either and certainly had no desire to participate in any way.

Without an influx of younger people willing to take office and do all the preparation that running a successful meeting involves (perhaps not realistic in the different lives that today's generation live)

I feel that this hard decision would have come sooner or later. I am sure that all those who enjoyed the Fellowship of the Guild in the past will take with them into the future the remembrance of WHOSE WE ARE AND WHOM WE SERVE.

June Campbell

I moved to Gullane about 25 years ago and mentioned to my friend Marion that I was looking forward to meeting new people. The next week she took me along to the Guild and I had a lovely time - interesting speaker, lovely tea with home baking and a hall full with over 40 ladies - but the most important thing was how friendly everyone was. I have been a Guild member ever since and this friendship has never waned - in fact at one of the meetings I took a craft session and everyone made a little 'friendship Daisy' to pin of their coat or jacket. I was thrilled to see ladies wearing them now and again and they were a reminder of how fortunate we were to have such a lovely group. However COVID came along and this coupled with the fact that we are all much older now has led to the demise of this lovely organisation! I will miss it but still have the friendship - a very special gift we can give to each other.

Agnes Bell



# COMMUNITY LINKS

## Gullane Library

After a short break Gullane Library has re-opened and is welcoming everyone back. Now that we're up and running again our main aim is to have as many people visiting us as possible and we are always planning new groups and events to achieve this.

The library is a great space and the Gullane community are more than welcome to use it for lots of creative activities – as well as borrowing books, of course! We are looking for suggestions for groups people would like to see here so please contact us if you have any ideas. At the moment we have several groups for adults:

**Knit and Natter:** Mondays 10.30am-12pm, where people can meet with their knitting, crocheting, sewing, et cetera, and enjoy lovely conversation while they do so.

**Games Club:** Fridays 2.30pm-3.30pm, this is a great time for people to meet and play some board games, dominoes or cards. We are asking for donations for this group, if you have any old games lying around we'd be happy to have them.

**Friendship Hour:** Fridays 11am-12pm, this is an opportunity to make new friends or catch up with old ones. We have games, crossword puzzles, local history books and colouring in for adults for everyone to enjoy.

**Book Groups:** We have two groups who meet here once a month on Monday and Tuesday afternoons. If you would like to join or start your own group we're always happy to facilitate these. Our headquarters have a huge collection of books for book groups and we also take requests for titles too.

In the next few weeks we will also be introducing a hobby club where anyone who partakes in creative hobbies such as knitting, drawing, jewellery making or cross stitching can bring their projects with them and work alongside others.

For our junior visitors, we will be starting groups in the coming weeks and will be making announcements about those soon. This will include the return of Chatterbooks and Lego club.

It's also worth mentioning that if you or anyone you know would like to borrow books but are no longer able to get to us we offer a home delivery service. You can fill in a form which tells us the kind of books you like and our lovely volunteer will deliver those to you once a month.

Recently we have been focusing on making fun and new displays in our junior section including one for World Book Day. We had a range of activities for children to do in the library or at home which were sourced from the organisation's official website. We currently have a display for Dr. Seuss whose birthday was the 2 March. We have a huge collection of Dr. Seuss books as well as quotes from our favourite stories on the walls and a large Cat in the Hat!

With Easter coming up we're planning events for families which will take place over the school Easter holidays. We will advertise these events closer to the time so look out for more information in our branch and online.

All of the staff at the library are working hard to come up with new and interesting activities for visitors, but we are always happy to hear what you think. If you would like to speak to us you can pop along, phone or email us:;

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### ***Spring into Song***

an event in support of Muirfield Riding Therapy

A delightful celebration of classical and lighthearted music from members of the Chorus of the Royal Northern Sinfonia & local friends, including young chorister Jake Thomson

Dirleton Kirk  
Sat, 26 March 2022  
7-9pm

With an invitation to a reception afterwards, in the Kirk Hall, for refreshments.

#### **General Admission**

£10.00+£1.37 Fee

To purchase tickets go to

[www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/268369990867](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/268369990867)

## Gullane Scone Cafe

The Scone Cafe, under the umbrella of the North Berwick Coastal Community Connectors, is being held every two weeks in the Gullane Day Centre from 10.30 to 12 noon. Tea and coffee and soft drinks are available as well as home-made scones with jam. General chatter is encouraged and we like to have fun quizzes if people are in the mood. This is a good and safe way to meet new people in an informal atmosphere. There is no charge but our donation box likes to be fed occasionally. The dates for the next few months are **26th March**, the **9th and the 23rd April** and the **7th and 21st May**. All welcome.

Ring Margaret McSorley for further details.

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I feel I always report that the Foodbank is busy but sadly this trend continues and with the cost of living rising it is not going to change. Comparing figures from previous years the number of parcels given out has doubled. The volume of food we receive through donations recently has dropped considerably too as Church and community activities are still restrained by COVID. I can only encourage you to donate, either at Church on a Sunday, at our COOP, TESCO or library, alternatively, I am happy to collect or receive donations. Here are the latest Facebook posts from the Foodbank.

***'WE NEED YOUR HELP!***

*We are desperately short of the following items for our emergency food parcels:*

*long life fruit juice*

*jam*

*tinned spaghetti in tomato sauce*

*toothpaste*

*baby wipes*

*hand soap*

*toothbrushes*

*deodorant*

*We know times are hard at the moment but if you can donate even one item it will help us ensure we can help those in need. Thank you for your continued support!*

*'As demand sadly continues to grow for our services we are so fortunate to have the continued support from our community both in food and monetary donations.*

*This has meant this week when we've been short of specific items we've been able to buy them to ensure our parcels go out with all the essentials in them.*

*Thank you everyone for all your kindness, generosity and continued support*

*'Last week we sent out 98 food parcels feeding 235 people and that means a LOT of carrier bags!*

*If you have a secret stash lurking in the back of a cupboard you don't use please think about donating them to us. You can hand them in at the foodbank or any of our donation points!*

*Thank you*

*Rachel Wallace*

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### **Gullane Flower Club**

The latest on The Flower Club meetings ! We are hoping to re-start on **Thursday 5 May** at 7.30 in our new venue, The Recreation Hall

Our next meetings after that will be depending on COVID; we hope to start on Thursday 1st September. Watch this space



*Once again there has been a great response to the call for items for Outlook. All I can say is thank you and please keep up the good work. Communication matters. Ed*

*There follow two interesting family stories from very different eras. It would be great if they prompted you to share a story from your family; it could even be quite short. We try to be really accommodating! Ed*

## **Rev. Thomas Mathewson**

My sister has been doing research on the family tree and it turns out that our great, great, great grandfather, one Thomas Mathewson, was a minister. He moved from Kelso and was ordained as the minister in one of the several churches in Galston, Ayrshire in 1843. Initially, he was the minister of the Secession Church in Galston, that having seceded from the Church of Scotland in 1733. In 1847, a merger of two church bodies resulted in the formation of the United Presbyterian Church. Writings by a local man who wrote under the pseudonym, Galstonian, give some interesting colour on our ancestor and his times:

Funded by local contributions, a new church was built and opened in 1860, "the Rev Professor Eadie of Glasgow preached morning and evening, in the evening delivering his famous sermon on 'How much then is a man better than a sheep'".

A small cross was erected on top of the church which caused a lot of upset among members, though only one member left the church because of it!

Rev Mathewson committed all his sermons to memory - "we never saw a scrap of paper before him in the pulpit, yet he never once lost the thread of his discourse." It was totally frowned upon for a minister to read from his manuscript in those days. Galstonian tells of the day when Rev Mathewson was absent and the service was led by a well known unordained preacher from the neighbourhood. "For a time, all went well. But alas! just at the finest part of the oration, when he was soaring away up, all at once he stopped short and there was an awkward pause. Eventually, he found his manuscript and resumed the thread of his discourse. He was to have taken tea in the Manse that afternoon but, instead of

that, he flung off his ministerial gown in the vestry, seized his hat and made off home as fast as possible".

Periodical visitations of the Minister were eagerly anticipated as 'interesting' occasions. Such visits, times and houses, were announced in the pulpit ahead of time so that preparations could be made. "Mr Mathewson, by his kindly manner, genial bearing and prepossessing appearance soon set us all at our ease. The strictly ministerial part of the visit having been brought to a close, conversation was freely indulged in. Even the minister could laugh and joke as heartily as anybody. Truth to tell, he was thought none the less for that."

Our ancestor died in 1886 aged 76, in the 44th year of his ministry.

He sounds quite a character and we were fascinated to read of the times in which he lived and preached.

Tom Walker



### **“The best is yet to be”, or: “It’s never too late...”**

Sir Winston Churchill was, apparently, of the opinion that the earlier part of his life was but a preparation for his role as Prime Minister, in his late sixties, during World War 2.

Lesser mortals may have a similar opinion of their life events, feeling that some of their best times come long after the joys of university graduation, wedding, and work promotion etc. are past.

Not long before her death, my mother said to me, then in my forties: “Oh, but, Janice, the best is yet to come...” How prophetic she was, and what stories I could now tell her: ordination as an Elder in my fifties, then, in our sixties, Alastair and I found ourselves in Arizona, USA, tracing the steps of my father, and many others, who had been sent there by the RAF to learn to fly during World War 2 at No 4 British Flying Training School, Falcon Field, Mesa, near Phoenix. A

highlight was a flight in a Stearman aircraft – same aircraft, same airfield, same runway as my father had experienced in 1943. At the time, I thought it was the most emotionally exhilarating experience of my life.

But Falcon Field was not done with us. During lockdown, we discovered another pilot descendant, who, like us, had wondered if there were any other descendants interested in this little-known piece of war history. She had been able to contact some others, and we had our first meeting in October 2021 at Bentley Priory Museum, Stanmore, Middlesex, the World War 2 HQ of Fighter Command during the Battle of Britain. Four original pilots, now aged 97/98 also attended and it was amazing to hear their stories, witness their good spirits, and to exchange details of our own fathers' experiences. None of them had talked very much about it, and we were able to piece together details by exchanging snippets of information we remembered, and the many pieces of memorabilia our fathers had left behind.

Falcon Field itself, now a busy airport for light aircraft, was preparing to celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, in November 2021, of its opening. It had been originally funded by Hollywood film stars and their associates. There is now a museum there. A Gala Dinner and other activities were planned, and the US organisers were desperate for some UK descendants to attend. My brother, Gerald, husband Alastair and myself were among relatives interviewed and filmed in the UK for a documentary to be shown at the event. We were desperate to get there too, but the big problem was Covid, which made planning a nightmare. Thankfully, the USA opened up to UK visitors five days before the Gala Dinner, and five descendants, plus partners, managed to make it out there from the UK. Other descendants, resident, or working, in the USA also managed to be present.

A dinner for 240 people, descendants, supporters of Falcon Field and local dignitaries, held in one of the restored WW2 hangars, was very noisy, especially when eight Stearman training aircraft started up outside, took off, circled and landed. We found it very moving to see our fathers' photos displayed on the wall of the hangar they would have known so well during training.

Next day was Remembrance Sunday, and the people of the city of Mesa have, for the past 75 years, held a Remembrance ceremony in Mesa Cemetery, where 23 cadets and 2 instructors, killed in training, are buried together. Alastair and myself, along with the other UK descendants, were honoured to be invited to lay one of the wreaths. Ours was on behalf of "Relatives of the Fallen". Though my Dad survived, he knew two of the young men buried there. One occupied the bed next to his in their accommodation.

It was a great privilege for us, now in our seventies, to be involved in the formal ceremony in brilliant Arizona sunshine, and to be listed in the order of service. It was a very emotional ending to the whole weekend for all of us, as descendants. We reflected that our fathers had gained their "wings", returned to the UK, seen active service (my father flew Spitfires with 124 squadron, coincidentally, long before his day, stationed for a short time at Drem), and had then gone on to have a full life with careers, children, grandchildren, etc. But they never forgot the young comrades they had left behind in that corner of Arizona. Later, in old age, at reunions, they always remembered them, and my parents are recorded as visiting the cemetery on their own, after formal ceremonies were over. We are indebted to the people of the City of Mesa for continuing this tradition of remembrance.

On the day, I was very much reminded of the following words, originally associated with the Far East, but just as appropriate for the American West:

*"When you go home, tell them of us, and say: For your Tomorrow, we gave our Today"*

Janice White



# ***PARISH REGISTER***

## New members joining us

Ronnie and Rosie Lamb. Ivy Cottage Goose Green Gullane.

## Deaths of members

13 Jan 2022 Elma Crawford Hamilton Crescent,  
Gullane

16 Jan 2022 May Hart Garleton Court, Gullane





**~~ Directory ~~**

<b>Locum Minister</b>	<b>Rev Fred Harrison</b>
<b>Session Clerk</b>	<b>Tom Walker</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Peter Grey</b>
<b>Gift Aid</b>	<b>Morag Black</b>
<b>Free Will Offering</b>	<b>Carol Murray</b>
<b>Beadle</b>	<b>currently vacant</b>
<b>Roll Keeper</b>	<b>Ken Wright</b>
<b>Sunday Club</b>	<b>Rachel Wallace</b>
<b>Cradle Roll</b>	<b>Elsbeth Walker</b>
<b>Safeguarding</b>	<b>Win Wright</b>
<b>Presbytery Elder</b>	<b>Elsbeth Walker</b>
<b>Christian Aid</b>	<b>Claire Walker</b>
<b>Flower Convener</b>	<b>Anne Dobie</b>
<b>Life and Work</b>	<b>Tom Walker</b>
<b>Church Centre Bookings</b>	<b>Stuart Munro</b>
<b>Church Office</b>	<b>currently closed</b>
<b>Church Website</b>	<b>Hilary Smyth</b>
<b>Magazine</b>	<b>Anne McCarthy</b>

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

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