
OUTREACH



ABERLADY BAY - A WINTER'S DAY

**You are warmly invited to join us in
Aberlady Parish Church**

All will be welcome



SC004580

Church of Scotland

INTERIM MODERATOR

Message from the Interim Moderator

Dear friends

As we enter the season of Advent we start to think about journeys because Advent is, first and foremost a journeying time of the Christian year with its destination being Christmas Day itself.

The thing about journeys, though, is that when we get to our destination, we often tend to forget about how we actually got there.

When we get off that plane or train at our holiday destination, we often lay to one side the fact of the journey that we've been through. My wife and I did that recently when we took the train for a short break in York. To be sure the journey was only two and a half hours. It was smooth, remarkably unremarkable. But leaving the station to begin the short walk to the hotel we were staying in, it was easy to see the journey we'd just been on as little more than a means to an end. It becomes something we just go through to get to where we want. The eye is always on where we want to go.

Advent is, of course, not like that at all. And, even if we treat them as such, I am not even sure that the journeys we go on to get to places are actually so easy to set to one side. After all, the journey is part of the experience and Advent, to get back to the festive season, is the time of journeying that takes us to the birth of our Saviour which, itself, only came about after a journey to a little place called Bethlehem.

So, there is our own journey. And then there is the journey of our Saviour's family to where he was to be born. And now, as we approach Christmas, there comes the recognition that there has also been the divine journey too... the journey of God towards us.

INTERIM MODERATOR contd

With my own best wishes for a happy and Holy festive season, I simply offer the prayer below which I found the other day - a prayer for our own personal journeys at Advent...

God of hope
be with us in our Advent journey
to the stable and beyond,
be with us in our meeting
and in our travelling together,
be with us in our worship
and our praying together,
be with us in our Advent journey
to the stable and beyond,
our God of hope.

Robin Allison (Rev), Interim Moderator

LOCUM MINISTER'S REPORT

As a minister, Christmas begins in earnest right after Remembrance Day. It seems surreal when I think about it but that is how the Christian year goes for ministers. This year it means we, here in Aberlady and Gullane churches will be looking at our first Advent service on the 21st with "Jesus calling the 12". May other churches might be planning to look at the pregnancies of Elizabeth and Mary and following the traditional Advent Journey to the birth of the baby. Whilst I get the reasons for doing that, I have chosen to come at Christmas from the other end. From Today!

When we begin with the traditional biblical sequence I sometimes wonder if we simply revisit the historical Jesus story. I am hoping this year that we can journey to Christmas as Disciples and recognise that it was because of the baby that we each can have Jesus with us in the here and now. That our gift is eternal life, eventually yes, but also the power of Heaven for the here and now, both with us and in us!

I do hope you will make that journey with us this year, as we look at the 12 and how Jesus was with them. How he wants to be with us!

May I leave you with this final thought? When we look for the little blessings we have in life I believe we can find a lot to be thankful for. I PRAY with all my heart you can find enough blessings in your life to build a happy Christmas for you and yours this year.

Blessing

Fred

SESSION CLERK'S REPORT

I include the service details below and hope to see you there.

Our service times are 9.45 in Gullane and 11.15 in Aberlady except where listed.

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 21 st Nov | Jesus calls the 12 |
| 28 th Nov | Jesus teaches the 12 |
| 5 th Dec | Jesus commissions the 12 |
| 12 th Dec | Jesus calls us. |
| 19 th Dec | We plan a Nativity Service with Carol Singing |
| 24 th Dec | Christmas eve service 6.30pm in Aberlady |
| 24 th Dec | Watch night Service 11.30pm in Gullane |
| 25 th Dec | We plan a joint 30 minute service in Gullane at 10.30. Please bring the children with one of their presents if you can as we celebrate Jesus' birthday together. We plan to have an informal Communion to which everyone is welcome. |
| 26 th Dec | The Wise Men and what we might learn from them |
| 2 nd Jan | Will be a joint service in Aberlady at 11.15am as we celebrate the start of a new year together. A bit later than normal for those who were celebrating into the wee small hours. |

Gullane and Aberlady churches are able to have Holy Communion again and invite you to join us. We use individual disposable cups that have a sealed in wafer as well as the wine in them. This means we can offer elements untouched by human hands. Nothing like being super safe with Covid still hanging around.

SESSION CLERK'S MESSAGE

Future Ministry of Aberlady and Gullane Parish Churches**Lothian Presbytery Plan**

Following the retiral of Rev Brian Hilsley we were advised that we would not be allowed to call a new full time Minister. There are ongoing discussions about the future of the ministry. The following statement has recently been issued regarding Aberlady and Gullane Parish Churches.

At separate meetings of Aberlady and Gullane Kirk Sessions in October the following proposal was presented by Lothian Presbytery's Strategic Planning & Mission Committee.

Aberlady and Gullane would be under Guardianship with a 0.25 ministerial allowance (a locum for 10 hours per week) for which Church of Scotland HQ at 121 George Street, Edinburgh would pay. This would cover the two Sunday services as well as some pastoral care (as in our current situation with Rev Fred Harrison).

We would form a 'parish grouping' with St. Andrew Blackadder, North Berwick. Their minister would be our Interim Moderator; both Aberlady and Gullane will continue as separate Kirk Sessions and congregations; and we will share resources as agreed with St Andrew Blackadder.

A new structure for Ministry and Mission would mean that Aberlady's and Gullane's contributions to Ministry and Mission would be reduced by around £10,000 for Aberlady and £17,000 for Gullane. These savings could be used for other purposes such as employing a youth worker or a pastoral carer. We could spend more or less than that as we decide.

Lothian Presbytery's Plan could be ready by early 2022. Lothian Presbytery are meeting with St Andrew Blackadder Kirk Session in November and if they are supportive of this then potentially, we could start to arrange our parish grouping with St Andrew Blackadder in early 2022. Everything needs to be approved by Lothian Presbytery, all Kirk Sessions and congregations.

Both Aberlady and Gullane Kirk Sessions have given their approval for Lothian Presbytery to pursue this plan and there was considerable enthusiasm for certain of the benefits that may flow from a new parish grouping.

*Hazel Phisatory
Session Clerk
Aberlady Parish Church
SC004580*

Worship at Aberlady Parish Church

Weekly Services continue at 11.15am unless otherwise stated.

24 December	6.30pm Family Service. See details below. ***
25 December	10.30am – Gullane Parish Church
26 December	Informal Communion
2 nd January 2022	United Service with Gullane Parish Church at Aberlady Parish Church 11.15am

*** Pre-booking is required for the service on Christmas Eve at 6.30pm. Please refer to the website www.aberlady-gullaneparishchurches.org.uk or phone 01875 853137 to book.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Church Finances-Treasurer's update

2021 has been a difficult year with church services curtailed for large parts of the year, but I am very grateful to everyone for their generosity in donating despite the closures. I am pleased to report that Giving Day in October improved our reserves by over £2000 once Gift Aid has been recovered on your generous donations. The weekly services are also helping improve income.

I am grateful for your continued support in your giving through your offerings. Please continue to do so. You can do so by cheque or by Standing Order via the bank. Now you are able to put your donations in the plate as you enter/leave the church, preferably in your offering envelope or as cash. For further information, please speak to me by phone.

I am hopeful that we shall end the year with a reasonable sum in surplus although our overall income will be down on 2020. Please continue to stay safe and keep well. Onward and upward!

Kaye Macaskill (Treasurer)

Fellowship and Outreach

Fortunately the Stables are now open and groups can meet at the Stables and events can take place there. The committee were sorry to cancel the Afternoon Teas but it was just not viable. We hope that early in 2022 we shall be able to return to fundraising and social activities which will help our financial position.

We would welcome suggestions for fresh fundraising activities to help boost funds for day to day running which might be possible in the near future. If you have any bright ideas, please let us know by phoning me on 01875 870371.

Kaye Macaskill (Convener)

Kirk Stables

We have now reopened the Stables and some of our groups have their regular meetings again. There is some availability during the week for groups to meet there, both during the day and in the evening, and it is also possible to hire the Stables for family events e.g children's parties. Please spread the word, Further information or booking is available from me either by email: kayemac23@aol.com or by phoning me on 01875 870371. Kaye Macaskill (Church Treasurer)



Aberlady Babies and Toddlers - at the KIRK STABLES

We are delighted that Aberlady Babies and Toddlers restarted, indoors at The Kirk Stables. We get together every Wednesday morning from 9:30am until 11:30am. The cost is £2.00 per family per session which covers the cost of the rent, teas and coffee and a snack for all of the children. The sessions are informal and relaxed, allowing the little ones to play while their adults have a hot drink and chat.

When, in March 2020, we had to temporarily cease our indoor sessions the Babies and Toddlers group continued to meet up outdoors when restrictions allowed. These weekly meet-ups provided a great sense of togetherness, comfort and support to many parents, carers and families and proved Aberlady to be the friendly and caring community we all knew it to be.

In August we were grateful to receive a grant from the 'Get Into Summer' fund which meant we were able to hold a weekend event in Aberlady Village Hall with a bouncy castle and fun for everyone. We would very much like to repeat this type of activity so keep an eye open for further news! For those who are unable to attend the Wednesday sessions, we have a busy and Facebook group @Aberlady Babies and Toddlers.

Our sessions are informal and 'drop in' you don't have to arrive for the start or stay until the end. We would be very grateful if you could let us know if you are coming by clicking 'going' on the event each week on Facebook. This helps us manage numbers during this time while we are still restricted to a maximum of 25 adults each session.

We extend our welcome to all new families in the local area and look forward to meeting you soon.

Lauren Tough

These words are like the ten commandments to follow in life, all the time.

1. Prayer is not a "spare wheel" that you pull out when in trouble,
But it is a "steering wheel" that directs the right path throughout.
2. So why is a car's windshield so large and the rear view mirror so small?
Because our past is not as important as our future.
So, look ahead and move on.
3. Friendship is like a book. It takes few seconds to burn, but it takes years to write.
4. All things in life are temporary. If it's going well, enjoy it. That won't last long. If it's going badly, don't worry. That won't last long either.
5. Old friends are gold! New friends are diamond! If you get a diamond, don't forget the gold! Because to hold a diamond, you always need a base of gold!
6. Often when we lose hope and think this is the end, God smiles from above and says, "Relax, sweetheart, it's just a bend, not the end!"
7. When God solves your problems, you have faith in His abilities;
when God doesn't solve your problems, He has faith in your abilities.
8. A blind person asked St. Anthony, "Can there be anything worse than losing eye sight?" He replied, "Yes, losing your vision!"
9. When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them;
Sometimes, when you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you.
10. Worrying does not take away tomorrow's troubles, it takes away today's peace .

DEFENCE FIRE TRAP IN THE VILLAGE OF ABERLADY
DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR by CHARLES CHAPPIE

Building contractors raised two brick piers, about eight feet high, in the space between a dwelling house and the gable wall of an old maltings building which lined one side of the road, running down a gentle slope towards the village green and the seashore. (This still stands on the east side of Sea Wynd opposite the Village Hall). The stone built maltings had small openings to the side, fronting the road, allowing air to circulate among rows of boxes of potatoes to assist growth of tubers on the potatoes. At various later times when farmers had taken the boxes of potatoes to the fields, soldiers were billeted in the maltings and slept on the draughty floor. A company of Polish soldiers dwelt there for a time on their arrival in Britain, escaping German forces occupying their country.

The builders, using a steam crane, placed a large cylindrical steel tank on top of the brick piers which had been finished at the top with curved open brickwork to receive the tank. Three inch diameter steel pipes were connected to the underside of the tank. A pipe was laid in a groove cut in the roadway and covered with "tarmacadam", then the pipes were laid by the sides of the road on the edge of the pavement at the side of the maltings and on the other side, which had a narrow strip of grass and a stone garden wall. The piping extended about thirty feet along the roadsides. Small holes had been drilled in the pipes at regular intervals in a line at the middle of the side facing the road. Later, a large boarding concealed the tank structure from passers-by. The tank was filled with highly flammable liquid, possibly paraffin.

Notices were posted in shop windows by the military announcing a date and time for testing the anti-invasion 'Fire Defence Trap'. Soldiers were on duty and in position when the test was to take place. They were armed and those positioned high up in the maltings building were carrying hand grenades. The soldiers in the street kept onlookers at a safe distance from the installation.

A sergeant blew a whistle and we all fell silent, then spurts of liquid came from the pipes at the roadsides. The spurts which were only twelve to eighteen inches high, jumped to about the height of a man and splashed to the width of the road.

Then a 'Molotov Cocktail' (petrol bomb) was thrown into the middle of the road. Huge masses of orange flames filled the entire road. It was a raging inferno about twenty-five feet high, topped with black smoke. The test lasted ten minutes until the flames subsided. There was no rifle firing or lobbing of hand grenades as it was only an exercise.

D-DAY PREPARATIONS by Charles Chappie

Small grey painted naval craft were spotted close to the coast one early evening. This was an unusual happening because we boys had never seen any boats so near to the shore, and grounding was a distinct possibility there. However, the tide was high due to the inflow of the local burn and the naval men must have been guided by the local fishermen in using this entry to the bay.

Next morning, the bay was empty of boats, but far out near the horizon of the bay there were unmistakable signs of military activity, soldiers and vehicles strung out along the bright yellow sand bar. It was Saturday so we were able, my chum and I, to set off on the long walk across the moors and by the shoreline to the dune hills about two miles away. We struck in to the back of the dunes to avoid being seen by the sentries. We struggled up the slope of the highest dune and hid in the tough wiry grass clumps at the top.

We were rewarded for our efforts by a birds' eye view of the activities on the beach from the headland rocks, along the beach to the sandbar. Troops were marching down from the dunes to board landing craft, American DUKW amphibious vehicles and other flat-bottomed boats. Troop carrying lorries were arriving at various points to await naval craft. Jeeps were going from place to place carrying army officers. Steel plate roadways were being laid down by engineers to enable lorries to get to the ramps of ships near to the shore. Tanks and bren gun carriers were driven on to ships as well as the troop carrying vehicles.

The morning mist was now dispersing to reveal naval ships, large and small, anchored half a mile from the coast. It was a fine sight. The small boats were making steady progress towards these ships to offload their men and materials. Eventually, the fleet sailed away.

Some troops were left behind and they set about making defensive preparations on the higher ground on the sides of the dunes. Field guns and mortars were set up behind sandbagged enclosures, bren gun carriers and tanks took up positions facing the shore.

After an absence of about two hours, the fleet of ships returned to the place they had been before and dropped anchor. The invasion craft emerged and came towards us. The shore defences started firing at the 'invaders' and naval craft returned fire. A battle took place on the beach, to our delight, with mock casualties falling on the sand. The sounds of rifle and machine gun fire, field gun fire and tank ordnance, mortar and hand grenade explosions were deafening.

Michael Streffery September 2, 2020

- and still of value right now

It occurred to Pooh and Piglet that they hadn't heard from Eeyore for several days, so they put on their hats and coats and trotted across the Hundred Acre Wood to Eeyore's stick house. Inside the house was Eeyore.

"Hello Eeyore," said Pooh.

"Hello Pooh. Hello Piglet," said Eeyore, in a Glum Sounding Voice.

"We just thought we'd check in on you," said Piglet, "because we hadn't heard from you, and so we wanted to know if you were okay."

Eeyore was silent for a moment. "Am I okay?" he asked, eventually. "Well, I don't know, to be honest. Are any of us really okay? That's what I ask myself. All I can tell you, Pooh and Piglet, is that right now I feel really rather Sad, and Alone, and Not Much Fun To Be Around At All. Which is why I haven't bothered you. Because you wouldn't want to waste your time hanging out with someone who is Sad, and Alone, and Not Much Fun To Be Around At All, would you now?"

Pooh looked at Piglet, and Piglet looked at Pooh, and they both sat down, one on either side of Eeyore in his stick house.

Eeyore looked at them in surprise. "What are you doing?"

"We're sitting here with you," said Pooh, "because we are your friends. And true friends don't care if someone is feeling Sad, or Alone, or Not Much Fun To Be Around At All. True friends are there for you anyway. And so here we are."

"Oh," said Eeyore. "Oh."

And the three of them sat there in silence, and while Pooh and Piglet said nothing at all; somehow, almost imperceptibly, Eeyore started to feel a very tiny little bit better.

Because Pooh and Piglet were There. No more; no less.

(A.A. Milne, E.H. Shepard)
National Suicide Prevention

OUTREACH - Thank you so very much

Editor: Our continued thanks and gratitude go to the following people and companies who are continuing to support the Outreach magazine by putting in an advert. The money raised paying for the printing of our issues each year.

Many, many thanks. Do stay safe and well during 'Covid' days.

Val Barrie



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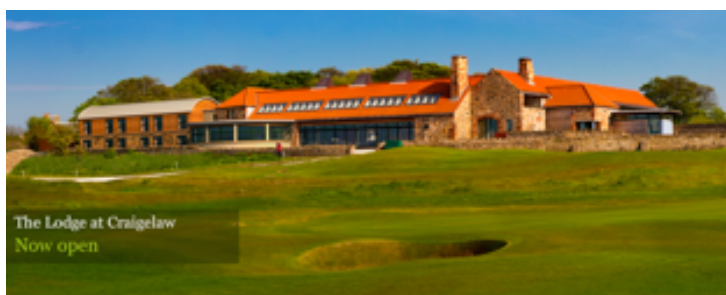
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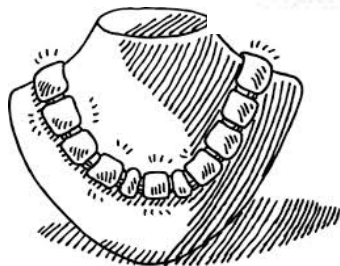
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Safeguarding Coordinator	Mrs Val Morrison
Flower convener	Mrs Liz Forsyth
Magazine Editor	Mrs Val Barrie

And finally...

"Christmas is built upon a beautiful and intentional paradox; that the birth of the homeless should be celebrated in every home."

G.K Chesterton

"Some Christmas tree ornaments do more than glitter and glow, they represent a gift of love given a long time ago." Tom Baker

The New Year stands before us, like a chapter in a book, waiting to be written. Melody Beattie

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our readers

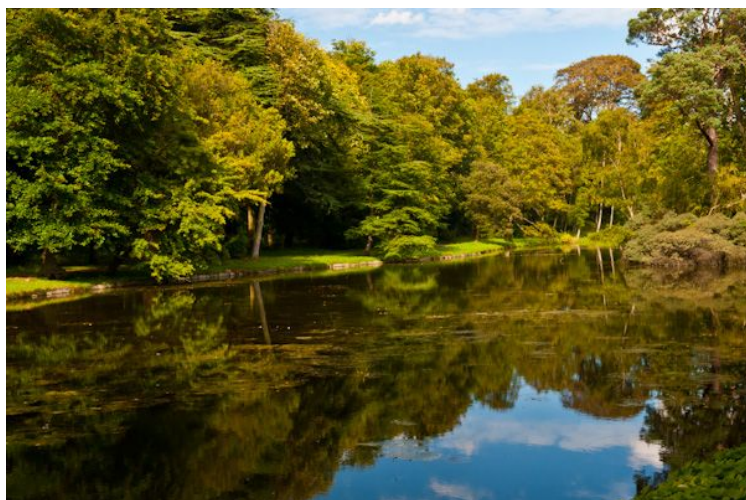
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Gosford House in the spring.
Something to look forward to.

