

Outlook
Gullane Parish Church
May 2022



Summer issue

You are warmly invited to join us in the
SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION
Sunday 29 May 2022 9.45am
All welcome

A message from our locum minister:

As I type this, I am aware that it is now the month of May and will soon be into June obviously, but less obvious might be that it was in June that I was appointed as the Locum Minister here in Aberlady and Gullane.

Much has happened in that time, many changes for people to adapt to. Thankfully whilst Covid case numbers remain high the restrictions continue to become more relaxed. I pray you have been able to avoid Covid but if not have recovered well. There have been changes in the management of the Church affairs here too. The Interim Moderator, Rev Robin Allison, has stood down due to other commitments and Rev Jock Stein has been appointed in his place. Thankfully the week-by-week services are still covered by myself which I am enjoying. I also enjoy the opportunity to meet with people when I can and look forward to being able to once more come to Aberlady with our motorhome as that makes visiting a lot more convenient as there is very little travel involved.

We welcome you and yours to join us in our services as I equally welcome the opportunity to visit folks as my time limits dictate (I am only appointed for 2 days per week). In particular I look forward to meeting with family and friends of the couples getting married over the summer and pray the weather is good for us all.

There was an intimation in church just last week about the food bank and I was suggesting people might take a few seconds to look at their food, laid out before them, as they sit down to eat and that might lead them to consider providing an equivalent to their meat to the food bank. A simple act that in itself may be a change from your normal practice but change is not necessarily a bad thing. Even if we feel led to do this once per week or once per day the food bank which is presently struggling might better supply the needs of the many who rely on it to be able heat the house and feed the family. It is after all a sad incitement on one of the richest nations in the world that we have men women and children going to bed hungry, particularly if like many households some food ends up in the bin as it has gone out of date.

I also recognise that as holiday options are also opening up again there is an increased risk of infections as we travel. My prayer for one and all is that the summer is a good one and that you will all remain safe.

May God bless you and keep you

Regards Fred
Rev Fred Harrison. Locum Minister



. . and one from our new Interim Moderator

The Church of Scotland is very busy at the moment. On April 28th Presbytery discussed their 'Mission Plan', an attempt to do more with less. You will know that Aberlady and Gullane have already started negotiations towards a union, which is likely to be one of the easier outcomes of the plan. It will also mean that we are allocated 'half a minister'; it is never easy finding a minister, but in an age of portfolio working it may be easier to find a half-time minister than it once was.

One of the signs of any society out of kilter, is that some are grossly overworked (as currently in the NHS) and others lack meaningful work to do. And of course there may be personal issues of 'overdrive' and laziness. We heard of someone recently visiting Pluscarden Abbey, which is an old Benedictine monastery near Elgin dating from 1230. The Abbot greeted him warmly, and asked him how he was.

"I'm busy," he replied.

"Oh, I'm so sorry!" said the Abbot.

It's worth reflecting on the difference between business and busyness. Not always simple, as Jesus found when he tried to take his friends away for a wee retreat, and they got interrupted. Sometimes our only refuge is a place of stillness in our hearts, where the Lord quietens the storm – but if you have other opportunities this summer, may they bless and renew you.

Your Interim Moderator,
Jock Stein

. . . and also from the Session Clerk

With the enthusiastic support of both Kirk Sessions, a small committee from Aberlady and Gullane churches has been formed to discuss the possibility of, and logistics around, uniting our churches - moving to a Union from the current 'linked' status. This would mean one Kirk Session, one charitable entity (balance sheet and income and expenditure account) and one set of church officers. The committee members are:

Aberlady - Hazel Phisatory, Barry White, Kaye Macaskill, Paul Casely

Gullane - Tom Walker, Jim Donaldson, Carol Murray, Rachel Wallace.

There is much to discuss and the timetable is largely governed by Lothian Presbytery and 121 George Street. We have had great support from Rev Graham Duffin, who is leading Lothian Presbytery's restructuring efforts and we will be moderated by our new Interim Moderator, Rev Jock Stein, going forward. Importantly, both Gullane and Aberlady churches will remain open to worship on Sundays. We have scheduled a full meeting of joint Kirk Sessions in June to take this further.

Tom Walker
Session Clerk



And an update on Covid restrictions and how it affects Church

There is no longer any requirement to wear face masks in church. All pews can now be used and we no longer retain contact details for 'track and trace' purposes. All that said, some people continue to wear face masks while moving about the church and there is normally room for people to be well spread out around the church. If anyone has particular concerns, please speak to a duty elder who will do their best to help.

Coffee

Coffee after Sunday morning worship

We would like to move back to the Church Centre for coffee after morning worship each Sunday.

In order to make this possible we need a number of volunteers to help with collecting milk, making coffee, washing up etc

If you are able to help, and would like to be part of a team of volunteers, we would be most grateful.

Please would you contact Joy Grey at

Thank you



Wednesday Coffee Mornings

Everybody is welcome to come along

10.30-12 noon

In church centre



And Tea

There will be a Strawberry Tea for past Guild Members on Thursday 23rd June at 2.30. It is being hosted by Fran Goodman and Elspeth Walker and is being held in Elspeth's house and garden. Invitations will be sent out shortly and we hope for a sunny day. Anyone who was not a Guild Member but would like to come would be very welcome and can let Elspeth know.

CHRISTIAN AID 15-21 MAY



PLANT, PRODUCE AND CRAFT SALE

2-4pm Saturday 21st May

Outside church

Teas served in church centre.

Please bring contributions 10-12
that day



In **JAM Club** the kids were busy planting sunflowers thinking of Ukraine and Christian Aid.



And finally

Claire continues to do her 60walks in 60days for her 60years. She will complete the exercise on Friday 20 May. If you would like to join her, please be in touch. If you would like to sponsor her, please give money to her direct or go onto www.justgiving.com/CA60walks60days60years

70 years ago the following poem was recited in a speech to the UN General Assembly by Dr Gerrit Jan van Heuven Goedhart, the first UN High Commissioner for Refugees:

A person needs a
Little place
Small as it may be.
Of which he can say,
"This is mine, here
I live, here I love, here I find rest.
This is my land, this is my home".



Since it has been a shorter-than-normal interval since our last Outlook, we have made this more of a newsletter than a magazine without the usual call-out for articles. The main aim is to provide a flow of useful information and reflect what is currently going on in church. In addition it should give everyone that extra time to consider what they might have to contribute to the August issue! I look forward to hearing from you. Ed

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... but not I'm afraid from the **Flower Club** which has been in touch to say that very regrettably it has closed its doors after 30 years, with rising costs making it impossible to carry on. Many will remember the magnificent Flower Festival held in the church in September 2012, to celebrate its 20 years. That event raised around £2,500 which was donated to various charitable causes.

Earlier in the year a poem was passed on by Allison Frostwick with the following introduction:

A few years ago I was given this poem. As we are continuing to build our future with Aberlady Church and congregation, I thought I would share it with you. I am not sure who wrote it but it was given to me by John Holm. His and Maureen Forrest's grandfather was mentioned and Margaret gave me kind permission to share it ..

I wonder how many places you know? And how much it's changed in recent years?

HISTORICAL GUIDE TO ABERLADY

If any stranger here there be ,
Would like to hear some history,
A job that I would really cherish,
I'll conduct them round the Parish.

First, let's dander soon the wynd,
To see what treasures there to find,
The Auld malt barns in decay-
Relics of a bygone day.

Where Willie Waggott once made clubs,
They sell ice cream in paper tubs,
Ah time, it changes every place,
Likewise the so called human race.

Near by one sees the ship inn sign,
Where seamen came for women and wine,
The scene of many a tragic deed,
Most ably told by J P Reid.

The drill hall that I near forgot,
For countless functions used a lot,
Where the troops once did their drillin,
It's where the bingo cairds some fill in.

Further soon there's Cockle Square,
The Sea Green, Nairn's use nae mair,

The Free Kirk aince, the Lane beside-
Wheest now, folk within do bide .
The auld Smiddy is still standin yit,
Where the ploomen brought their horse,
Only if the Smith was sober of course!

Up the brae now, nae hesitation,
The hoose at the top was once the police station ,
Now it's gone, mair is the pity,
Will it be bought by some Gent frae the city?

At the roadside stands the Gf Hotel bright,
Used oft by travellers to stay overnight,
Further up rises the Mercat Cross pillar,
Wi, a strong Iron band round its neck like a collar.

The trees at The Wagon that gave us a laugh,
Once there were Twa now there's one and a half,
I think we've heard the story before,
So press on a bit now there's more to explore.

The Red Row aince pride O' the Earl O' Wemyss ,
Inhabited now, only by Bessie it seems,
To be a' replanned, it's a terrible shame,
But wi modern methods wha can you blame.

Our piece de resistance our Auld Parish Kirk,
Standing quite stately out there in the mirk,
Its Bonnie stained Windows one sees at a glance,
And the two weeping Elms, its gate does enhance.

Outside on the pavement standing alone,
Another attraction The Loupin'On Stane,
Where the gentry of a very high level,
Would mount there ponies to ride like the devil.

That's the end O' the line now I fear,
But if you come back maybe next year,
Drop me the word as soon as your ready ,
I'll show you the rest of old Aberlady

How Gullane was celebrating **Coronation Week 1953**

CORONATION DAY

- 9.30 am United Open-Air Service on the Goose Green
Conducted by Rev. W. Paton Henderson and Rev.
Hugh McIntosh, *respectively Parish Minister and
Rector of St Adrian's*
*(it is noted that the two hymns included – besides the
National Anthem – are ones which didn't make it into
the 4th edition of the Church Hymnary: Praise to our God,
whose bounteous hand Prepared of old our glorious
land and God, bless our native land)*
- .15pm "Family Sports" on the Links at the Smithy
*Programme looks very familiar with the possible
exceptions of the Caddy Cart Race for women; Family
Relay for man, wife and child; Tricycle Race for under 5s;
Backward Race for boys and girls over 13; Organisations
Relay for teams of 4 from any village organisation*
- 5.30 pm Official Opening of Gullane War Memorial Playing
Field
- 8 pm OLD FOLKS' ENTERTAINMENT in the Public Hall
Presented by the Coronation Concert Party
This is mainly for Old Folk, but as many others as possible
(except children) will be admitted
- 11 pm BONFIRE ON GULLANE HILL
Torchlight Procession will form at the Smithy at 10.45 pm

WEDNESDAY, 3RD JUNE

Grand Free-to-All Coronation Celebration Dance

In the Public Hall, 9 pm till 1 am Continuous Dancing to Two Bands
Free tickets will be issued to local people (over 16)

THURSDAY, 4TH JUNE

Special 'Coronation' Mixed Foursomes on No. 2 Course

Entry Fee 2/6 per person, including Refreshments after the Evening
round at the Carlton Café

FRIDAY, 5TH JUNE

Late-Night and All-Night Coronation Revels

In the Queen's Hotel, 10 pm till 4 am

MASKS! MIRTH! MUSIC! Tickets – Single 10/6, Double 21/-

*[Information extracted from the Official Programme and Order of
Service held by Gullane and Dirleton History Society archive]*

PARISH REGISTER

Deaths of members

12 March 2022 William Mason Muirfield Crescent, Gullane

18 March 2022 Marion Wark Middleshot Rd, Gullane

31 March 2022 Jennifer Anderson Whim Rd, Gullane

3 May 2022 Linda MacDougall St Andrews Court Gullane



~~ Directory ~~

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

www.aberlady-gullaneparishchurches.org.uk

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