

CONNECT



You are warmly invited to join us in the
SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday 28th May 2023

Sunday 27th August 2023

All church services held weekly at:

Gullane Parish Church **9.45a.m.**

Aberlady Parish Church **11.15a.m**

**Joint services are held at 10.30a.m. on the first Sunday of each
month - alternately at Aberlady and Gullane churches -**

AT: Gullane on 4th June, Aberlady on 2nd July, Gullane on 6th August

All are welcome

INTERIM MODERATOR

From the Interim Moderator

Last night (as I write) I was in Leith at an arts café called Sketchy Beats. As you might expect from that kind of name, the venue was packed with 20 and 30 year olds, an audience missing from most churches. A friend of mine was the featured poet for the evening, and I was intrigued to hear him correct himself, referring to “my wife, or perhaps I should say nowadays, my partner”. I haven’t yet had the chance to discuss it with him, but this is an example of the daft excesses of ‘woke speech’, vetoing any difference between the sexes, or between marriage and shacking up together, in order to appear inclusive.

Christian faith is inclusive, but it achieves that not by fudging difference but by bridging it, most wonderfully in God becoming one of us, and including daft and sinful people like us among his friends. That is the gospel, and it is good news. I have heard Christian faith described as ‘sheer poetry’, with the best of intentions, but it is more than just ‘poetry’.

I say that as someone who has a lot of time for poetry. When you get to my age, you become a master of short cuts. One that serves me well, is that when I am asked to give a talk, I write a poem, and speak about it, or sometimes just leave the poem to speak for itself, as I do with a poem I wrote last summer, and hope you enjoy now:

There is a Heaven

There is a heaven in the blue cascade of clematis in sunlight,
in the golden rasp of horns with Mozart in their mouths,
in the white hot liquid amber of two lovers in embrace.

There is a heaven in the wisdom of the open ancient books,
in the joy of justice done and marked by all as true,
in some uncalled for caring for a comrade or a corpse.

There is a heaven in the scattered jewels of honesty and kindness,
gleaming in the twilight of unsung dishonoured places,
earthy soul food shared, without a Twitter feed.

There is a heaven which will open up beyond my mind in meltdown,
juggle beauty, truth and goodness, keep the balls in play
above my guttering grasp, but beating with my heart.

The Lord bless you and keep you,

Jock Stein

LOCUM MINISTER

My Easter message this year takes the form of a short story. I have given it the title of “A Donkey’s Tale”

My Grandad once told me a truly incredible tale,
Of how all life would die in a mighty flood –
well perhaps not the whale!

But God gave a word to the best of men, Noah was his name.
Go build an arc and make a space for those I want to save!
God called out to our family and two of them came forth.
And into the arc they made their way, with Noah as their host.

Once the flood was over and the land began to dry,
Out they came into the sun and the grace of God gave all they needed.
So there, with Noah, they chose to stay, as they remembered the
Grace that God has shown them each and every day.

Generations later, when memories of floods had faded.
Along came a preacher who spoke of God our saviour.
God sent first an arc and now this man so we might all remember,
The Grace of God shown to all things, to us and to our neighbour.

Then one day, this special man, came passing by our town
And when one colt was called upon to carry him to Jerusalem,
he walked so nice and gentle as the crowd treated him like a King.

Yes the man was treated like a king but the colt received no thanks.
But enough was his honour, to carry such a man.
Yet by God’s grace he was blessed with a mark, the mark we carry to
this day!

LOCUM MINISTER continued

A cross was placed upon our backs to show the world the way!
'Twas on a humble Donkey, that God had chosen He,
His son was sent as a second Arc,
He came for you and me!

Now to this day and from now on all Donkeys bear that mark,
It reminds us of God's saving grace. At first, he sent an ark.
And then his son, he sent him too!
An amazing tale I know!

Then when he died!
When many were sad!
God had an answer for that too!
The man sprung back up from the grave and now he lives forever!

And our cross cries out to one and all,
the graft and toil and pain we bear
will never last forever.

For that man is our second arc, he will take us to his Heaven.
So, think about your cross, when life is hard or the road is tough.
That man, our Arc, bore his cross to pay our trip to God's own Heaven.

Where sun will shine and life is bliss,
when we choose to focus on our call, as he remembered his!

Dedicated to everyone who find themselves carrying a burden this
Easter.



Congregational Roll

Death

Janette Creelman of 12 The Pines died on 21st February 2023

Albert Dunleavey, 3 Kilspindie Court, Aberlady EH32 0RS .
Died 28 April 2023.

Mae Cox of Hilton Lodge Nursing Home and formerly Muirfield House
died on Wednesday 3rd May,

For your information:

www.aberlady-gullaneparishchurches.org.uk

Click on "CONNECT" to read the magazine online.

www.facebook.com/AberladyGullaneParishChurches

www.facebook.com/AberladyAndGullaneChurchForChildren

Session News

Members of the congregation will be pleased to hear that the Presbytery Plan Appeal Process is now with the Principal Clerk's office at 121 George Street and we hope to be given permission to call a minister very soon. No one will need reminding that Aberlady and Gullane Church has now been waiting for eight months, with a Nominating Committee in place, a manse purchased and a congregation totally underwhelmed at the lack of progress being made by the Kirk. We were promised a resolution in January, then by March, because of the requirement that the appeal take only three months. Notwithstanding the above, we have been assured that the Review Panel has almost finished its review and, once their decision has been circulated, the Presbytery will move swiftly to implementation of the Plan. Vacancies will be opened and the Nominating Committee will get down to its work and advertise for a new minister.

Hazel Phisatory, Elspeth Walker and Jim Donaldson have all agreed to continue as Interim Session Clerks in the mean time.

John Graham-Brown is retiring as an Elder after twenty-five years. We would like to thank him for all his years of service to the church and especially his years as Treasurer. We wish him and Siona best wishes in his retirement.

The new, enlarged Kirk Session is working well. Accounts for the Church are being finalised, and these will be submitted to the next Session meeting on 12th June, and thereafter to the congregation at an AGM to be held immediately after the joint-service in Aberlady on 2nd July 2023.

Session will consider a proposal for work to be undertaken on the church garden in Gullane at its meeting in June. The aim of the garden improvement project is to cut down on the need for regular maintenance work.

A Plant Sale will be held on 13th May in Aberlady Kirk Stables. The event is a major fund raiser each year for Aberlady and Gullane Church and it is hoped that members of the congregation, family and friends will all attend in good numbers. Session agreed that 10% of the funds raised will be donated to Christian Aid.

Dates for meetings of Kirk Session in 2023 are:

12th June at 7pm in Aberlady Kirk Stables.

4th September at 7pm in Gullane Church Centre.

6th November at 7pm in Aberlady Kirk Stables.

Interim Session Clerks: Jim Donaldson, Elspeth Walker and Hazel Phisatory

TREASURER'S REPORT**Church Finances-Treasurer's update May 2023**

The last three months have been busy with lots of activity for me, the Annual Accounts which are delayed for a variety of reasons but hopefully they will be done soon. These will be audited and will be submitted to a meeting of Session and, shortly thereafter, to the congregation at an AGM. This will allow us to have an Annual Stated meeting at a joint service to provide you with information. I have also recovered the costs of all the roof work at Gullane from our funds at 121 and also paid for all the flooring and laying of turf at our new Manse down West Fenton Road. The painting of the gutters and downpipes at Aberlady Church was done in April and funded by the maintenance money from the grants received when the renovations were done.

I am happy to say that our Financial position is very healthy both in our General account and in our Investments. We received a rebate of £5280 from HMRC for Gift Aid at the beginning of April which helps give our General Account a healthy balance I continue to be grateful for your support in your giving through your offerings. Please maintain this. You can do so by cheque or by Standing Order via the bank. For further information, please speak to Morag Black at Gullane or to me at church or by phone.

I am pleased that we are now taking donations in the plate at the rear of both churches, either Free Will or Open Plate. This is helping our regular income. The heating costs have been very high during the winter months but hopefully we will have reduced charges from our suppliers soon, and a warm summer will redress the balance.

The Plant Sale on 13 May is a joint fundraising activity for the first time. The committee hope you will support this event. to boost our income and to make a good donation to Christian Aid. It is likely that there will be some events later in the year.

There is some availability for the Kirk Stables and Gullane Church centre for regular or occasional lets. These lets help defray the cost of running these buildings. Please contact the Secretary, Tracey Thomson for information or availability.

Kaye Macaskill (Treasurer)

Safeguarding Update

Harm or abuse of children and adults at risk can happen anywhere – even in church communities. We have a duty to Ensure a Safe Church for All. This means protecting children and "adults at risk". (churchofscotland.org.uk)

Following the uniting of our congregations, the two Safeguarding Coordinators have changed roles slightly. Win Wright will take responsibility for ensuring that everyone who works with children or vulnerable adults has become a member of the PVG Scheme, or received a Basic Disclosure check, as appropriate. I will arrange for all workers and volunteers to be fully trained in Safeguarding, as appropriate to their role. I will also arrange for all Elders to undertake Trustee Training, something which is now mandatory and which the Church of Scotland recommends is updated every 3 years. All training sessions are currently held on Zoom.

Safeguarding is required to be a standing item on Kirk Session Meeting agendas, so I will continue to update Elders on all Safeguarding matters at every Kirk Session meeting. This includes sharing information from the Church of Scotland issued through their regular newsletters. We are also required to undertake an annual audit of our Policies and Procedures; this has just been done and submitted to Presbytery as part of the Annual Attestation of Records.

Our Safeguarding Panel consists of Win, myself and Rachel Wallace. The Panel would convene should there be any incident and would have the right to co-opt the Session Clerks if this was deemed appropriate. In any such incident, we would be fully supported by the professionals in the Church of Scotland Safeguarding Service.

Please do not hesitate to contact either Win (01620 – 842250) or myself if you have any concerns or if you would like any further information.

Val Morrison

01875 – 870633 val@littleclose.com



Children's Church in Aberlady and Gullane Parish Church

The children in JAM Club have enjoyed meeting regularly this spring, joining the service in Gullane at 9.45am then heading through to the Church Centre for their activities. This term we have been looking at some of the better known stories in the bible like Jonah, David and Goliath, Samson and Noah. Moses comes next, there's lots to learn about him!

EJAM continues to meet on the first Sunday of each month at 5.30pm in Gullane Church Centre. The children (P4-P7) love their evening of eating! With a bit of bible study thrown in first.

Easter brings two events that have become regulars in the JAM Club diary. Our **Easter Craft Afternoon** was held in Aberlady Kirk Stables and we saw lots of families, new and old, come to enjoy the crafts, stories and refreshments provided. We were also delighted to be invited, on Easter Sunday, to a local garden for an **Easter scavenger hunt** during the church service in Gullane. The children enjoyed finding various signs of spring, the easter story as well as chocolate.

Children’s Church in Aberlady and Gullane Parish Church: continued

With the introduction of monthly joint services, alternating between Aberlady and Gullane, JAM Club will move with the service, so will be in Aberlady on May 6th at 10.30am and Gullane on June 4th and so on.

JAM Club and EJAM will break for the summer holidays in July and into August. Keep in touch for further details.

For more information on Aberlady and Gullane’s Children’s activities please email Rachel or Hilary at agpcchildren@gmail.com

Please keep in touch with the children by checking our website for updates www.aberlady-gullaneparishchurches.org,

as well as Facebook@Aberladyandgullaneparishchurch.

Rachel Wallace



CRAFT AFTERNOON
Aberlady Stables





The Big Coronation Community Lunch

On Sunday afternoon Aberlady Community Association hosted the Big Coronation Community Lunch funded by The National Lottery.

It was estimated that around 100 joined in the “Indoor Street Party” in the Village Hall.

The guests started the celebration with soup for Christian Aid then brought and shared a delicious cold buffet style lunch with a Prosecco bar.

Entertainment was provided by a children’s pop up choir and coronation dressing up for some. We had a royal residences quiz, a coronation bingo game and a coronation colouring table, finishing off with Lucas ice cream from their mobile ice cream cart.

The toast was given for “Aberlady and the King!”

Thank you to the team of helpers and all those who took part in the celebration.



Big Community Lunch to celebrate King Charles' Coronation
Ice creams courtesy of the National Lottery



Strawberry Tea. Wednesday June 21st at 2.30pm.

Following on from the success of last year's event there will be a Strawberry Tea for all ex Guild Members at Elspeth Walker's house in Gullane at 2.30 pm on Wednesday June 21st. We look forward to welcoming some Aberlady ladies and hope that the sun will shine for us again. Invitations will be sent out nearer the time and all offers of baking and help on the day would be much appreciated.

Elspeth Walker

The Big Help Out Day

On Monday 8th May Aberlady residents were invited to take part in The Big Help Out Day by coming along to the Village Hall to find out about opportunities to help out with the clubs, groups and various jobs and tasks that need to be carried out in the village to make it such a great place in which to live.

A number of people turned up to volunteer with: litter picking, Aberlady in Bloom, Aberlady Community Association, adopt a bench to clean and, to find out all the other ways that they could help.

John Harrison, the Aberlady Bay Ranger, attended and would love more Aberlady folk to volunteer to manage Aberlady Bay.

Volunteers are needed to weed the sides of Coffin Lane to rid the area of intrusive weeds to give space to the variety of native wild flowers trying hard to establish themselves.

Both articles sent from Liz Forsyth



CHURCH FLOWERS

The ladies from both Aberlady and Gullane, have been preparing flower arrangements for both churches. Many thanks to all concerned.



Aberlady Church Easter Flowers



Gullane Church Easter Flowers

Aberlady Church has a number of volunteers to arrange a flower display for Sunday worship but as you can see from the following we still rely on silk flower displays for the months without volunteers.

January - Elaine Carnie

February - Sheena Caseley

March - Isobel Weatherhead

April - Gillian Brydon

May - Val Barrie

June - Silk Flowers

July - Diana Campbell

August - Silk Flowers

September - Ros Richardson

October - Silk Flowers

November - Jackie Thomas

December - Liz Forsyth



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EAST LOTHIAN FOODBANK

77% of households needed your help once in March but nearly 23% needed more support

1324 people fed and more than 1 in 3 (34%) emergency food supplies were for children.

Each person receives a 3-day supply for breakfast, lunch, and dinner as well as fruit juice, tea or coffee and snacks.

WHERE DID THE ESSENTIALS WE GAVE OUT COME FROM?

6,444kg of essential food and toiletries donated

1,551kg of stock purchased with public donations

"We don't think anyone in our community should have to face going hungry. That's why we provide three days' nutritionally balanced emergency food and support to local people who are referred to us in crisis. We are part of a nationwide network of foodbanks, supported by **The Trussell Trust**, working to combat poverty and hunger across the UK."

Drop off points for Foodbank donations are -
 Gullane - Library, Coop and Church vestibule when open.
 Aberlady – The Community Hall during Post Office Hours
 (Tuesdays 1-3pm and Fridays 9.45-11.45am) and the Church on Sundays.

Many things you need to know about life you could learn from Noah's Ark

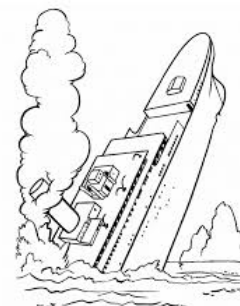


- 1 Don't miss the boat
- 2 Remember we are all in the same boat.
- 3 Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
- 4 Stay fit. When you are 600 years old you might be asked to do something really big.
- 5 Don't listen to Critics.

Just get on with the job that needs to be done.

- 6 Build your future on High Ground.
- 7 For safety's sake travel in pairs.
- 8 Speed is not always an advantage.

The snails were on board with the cheetahs.



- 9 When you're stressed, float for a while.
10. Remember: the Ark was built by Amateurs,
 the Titanic by Professionals

FRESH AIR, FRIENDS AND FITNESS

'Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May....And Summer's lease hath all too short a date' - but we don't let that deter us! The Aberlady Walking Group is happy to meet year round in all kinds of weather. Only the most determined 'beast from the east' would put us off.

An initiative of East Lothian Council's 'Ageing Well' programme, the group meets every Tuesday at 10.30 on Sea Green, Aberlady, and at the same time, on the last Tuesday of each month outside the Library in Gullane. Walking shoes or boots are best but any thick soled sturdy footwear that's comfortable is good. Clothing should fit the weather and is your choice!

The routes we take are all relatively flat around the lanes, fields and woods of Aberlady and last around one hour. Walks in Gullane may sometimes include the 'big hill', but only if there's agreement by the group. Each walk is guided by a leader who has undergone health and safety training by East Lothian Council. All you have to do is turn up, and follow the person in front!

With no subscription, no charge, walks get us all out in the fresh air and lovely landscape of these parts of the county. The pace is quite leisurely and allows time to talk and make friends, finishing up of course with coffee and a scone in a local cafe!

Come and join us to try it out for yourselves!

10.30 EVERY TUESDAY,
SEA GREEN, ABERLADY.
LAST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH,
10.30 OUTSIDE LIBRARY, GULLANE.

**Summer Exhibitions at the SOC:
Scottish Ornithologists' Club
Waterston House, Aberlady EH32 0PY
01875 871 330**

"Mostly Air" by Chris Wallbank

7 June - 30 July 2023

This exhibition presents new drawings and paintings by Chris Wallbank in the main gallery. Chris's work is inspired by the wildlife of Scotland and in particular East Lothian where he has lived since 2020. He works from life, creating sometimes huge drawings of entire bird colonies, and capturing the joy of watching birds in the wild.

John Busby Retrospective

7 June - 30 July 2023

Taking place concurrently in the corridor, is a small retrospective of drawings and watercolours by the late John Busby (1928-2015). John Busby was a founding member of the Society of Wildlife Artists and a huge inspiration for many artists working in the field today. He travelled the world with a sketchbook in hand and the exhibition reflects the breadth of his travels.

Between Earth and Sky

2 August - 24 September 2023

This joint exhibition presents drawings, paintings and sculptures by Simon Griffiths, Emily Ingrey-Counter and Nye Hughes. Emily and Nye are both based in Edinburgh and draw much inspiration from their local environment in the Lothians. Simon, a sculptor based in County Durham, captures in ceramics, the wildlife of the north Pennines.



**Date for your diary
HADLEY COURT SINGERS
NEXT CONCERT 10TH JUNE AT 7.30PM
ABBEY CHURCH, NORTH BERWICK**

This concert will be different from our usual Baroque/Religious themed concerts. The music is light and includes pieces such as "These Foolish Things", "Moon River", "Westering Home", "Red Roses for a Blue Lady" to name but a few. Something for everyone.

HEAVEN'S GROCERY STORE

I was walking down life's highway a long time ago. One day I saw a sign that read 'Heaven's Grocery Store'.

As I got closer, the door came wide open, and when I came to myself, I was standing inside. I saw a host of angels. They were standing everywhere. One handed me a basket and said. "My child, shop with care."

Everything a Christian needed was in the Grocery store and if you couldn't carry them, you could come back for more.

First I got some PATIENCE. LOVE was in the same row. Further down was UNDERSTANDING, you needed that wherever you go. I got a box of WISDOM, and a bag or two of FAITH. I couldn't miss the Holy Ghost, for he was all over the place. I stopped to get some STRENGTH and COURAGE to help me win the race and though my basket was getting full, I remembered to get some GRACE.

I didn't forget SALVATION, for salvation, that was free. So, I tried to get enough of that, to save both you and me. Then I started up to the counter to pay the grocery bill, for I thought I had everything to do my Master's will.

As I went up the aisle, I saw PRAYER and I just had to put that in, for I knew when I stepped outside, I would run in to Sin. PEACE and JOY were plentiful, they were on the last shelf. SONG and PRAISES were hanging near so I just helped myself.

Then I said to the Angel, "Now, how much do I owe?"

He just smiled and said, "Just take them wherever you go!"

Again I smiled at him and said, "How much do I really owe?"

The Angel smiled again and said, "My child, Jesus paid your bill, a long time ago."

Editor: Many thanks to all the companies who support our new joint magazine, 'CONNECT', helping to pay towards the printing costs. Val Barrie - Editor

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Directory

Interim Moderator	Rev Dr Jock Stein	
Locum Minister	Rev Fred Harrison	07703527240
Joint Interim Session Clerks	Elspeth Walker Jim Donaldson Hazel Phisatory	
Treasurer	Kaye Macaskill	
Christian Aid	Ruth Hunter	
Communications	Douglas Donaldson	
Church Office	Tracey Thomson	(agpcsecretary@outlook.com)
Church Website	Hilary Smyth	
Flower Convenors	Anne Dobie Liz Forsyth	
Gift Aid	Morag Black	
Magazine Editor	Val Barrie	
Presbytery Elder	Elspeth Walker	
Roll Keeper	Barry White	
Safeguarding Coordinators	Val Morrison Win Wright	
Sunday Club.	Rachel Wallace	

THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SCOTTISH COMMITTEE
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THE GATHERING

17th JUNE 2023

St Matthew's Church, Perth

10.30 – 15.30 approx

THEME

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