
CONNECT



Summer sunset on Aberlady Bay



Berwick Law from Gullane Golf Course

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

Sunday 27th August 2023

All church services held weekly at:

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

Aberlady Parish Church **11.15a.m.**

Joint services held at 10.30a.m. on the first Sunday of each month -

Aberlady-September 3rd, Gullane-October 1st, Aberlady-November 5th

All are welcome



INTERIM MODERATOR**From the Interim Moderator**

Last time round, I said that when I'm not sure what to say, I write a poem and speak about that. Here is a poem based on Proverbs 8 verse 30, where wisdom reflects on its creation time with God, the two of them working and chatting as a couple of workers might do today, and (it says) 'delighting in the human race'.

Godly Play

God did a risk assessment,
wrote the quantum book,
threw in evolution,
brewed a cosmic soup;
God took his time, and left
the human race a lot
of space to grow their nous;
it isn't finished yet.

It might sound the height of arrogance to compare the whole human project, which isn't finished yet, with our little domestic scene looking for a minister in a small coastal area in Scotland, but that is exactly what the Bible does and keeps doing, and why people should use the Bible to understand past and present and future. The big picture is there, not to satisfy our curiosity but to show us who we are. When Jesus speaks to one person, and says, 'I love you', he speaks to every person; when God says wisdom makes sense for everyone, he says to you and to me, 'Get wise!'

And while I hope it will not be long now before we find a minister, do remember that we already have a Minister, the Lord Jesus Christ. By the Spirit he is beside us in our joys and sorrows, he is at our back to defend us, he is our guide for the future, he carries our prayers to the Father, he leads our worship in heaven. He is the friend who sticks close with us, closer than a brother or sister.

The Lord bless you and keep you,

Jock Stein

LOCUM MINISTER

As I sit and type this letter I am finding out what it is to be one handed. I had a small operation on my left index finger on Monday 24th July. I have the biggest of bandages on it to stop me moving it lest I pull out my stitches.

The thing is this, even being right handed, it is incredible how many things need two hands.

I am also reminded of the passage from Romans 12. “We have many parts in the one body, and all these parts have different functions. In the same way, though we are many, we are one body in union with Christ, and we are all joined to each other as different parts of one body. So we are to use our different gifts in accordance with the grace that God has given us”.

As I plan for the Safeguarding Training that I do for Presbytery, I am reminded of just how fortunate we in Aberlady and Gullane Parish are. So many churches are being closed across Scotland yet ours are not. So many of our brothers and sisters in Christ won't have a local church anymore, but we do. I believe we are being shown our father's grace but we must not allow ourselves simply to be thankful to our Heavenly Father. The Grace we have been given would be wasted if we simply look to ourselves and think we are OK. I hope we can prayerfully realise that in our graceful provision, another part of the body of Christ is less fortunate than us, and ask God what we can do to help care for other parts of the church.

LOCUM MINISTER continued

You see, this is what I am needing to do with my finger being out of action, albeit temporarily. From trying to hold a fork, doing up my shoes, even fastening buttons, the fingers I can use don't have the skills to do what my index finger can do. But as I was saying in church recently, it isn't that they can't, but rather that they don't know how to - yet!

Each and every part of the body of the church of Jesus Christ is needed and as Paul said to the church in Rome - So we are to use our different gifts in accordance with the grace that God has given us. I also believe that includes learning new skills as God calls us! For, in doing so, we as a church won't face the almost crippling loss my bandage has caused me to experience.

I pray God will never allow me to forget the lessons my minor loss of ability has caused me; everyone is an integral part of God's family! Of our family, and each has something to teach us!

May we always be grateful for what we have been given and be equally keen to use it to bless others.

May God's Grace be yours this summer.

Blessings

Fred

SESSION CLERK

Session News

It's the time of year when we gather in fruits from gardens and hedgerows, to store or preserve them in jars or in the freezer to eat during the winter that lies ahead. The romantic poet John Keats in his poem 'Ode to Autumn' described this time of year as the 'season of mists and mellow fruitfulness'. There really is so much to appreciate and enjoy at this time of year whether you are in the garden or walking in the East Lothian countryside.

Keats' poem envisages autumn as a season of transition, straddling the divide between the abundance of summer and the decay of winter. Aberlady and Gullane Church is also in a period of transition: we no longer have a full-time minister, and we are about to complete the first year of the union of our churches. Just as the seasons of the year symbolise the seasons of human life, so it is that we are now in the "spring" of youth, facing new challenges and opportunities.

Since our last Session News we can update congregation on a number of developments:

Resignation

Tom Walker, our Session Clerk since 24th April 2019, has decided to resign after giving diligent service to our church, for which we thank him very sincerely. At present we have Interim Session Clerks in post, and we intend to continue with that arrangement meantime. The Steering Committee will bring a report to a meeting of Session on 4th September. Tom will continue to serve as clerk to the Nominating Committee and will also continue to serve as an elder.

Vacancy

Members of the congregation will be pleased to hear that our Nominating Committee has been greatly encouraged by the number of applications for our half time post as the next minister. At the time of writing, the Nominating Committee has reached the stage of arranging to interview potential candidates.

SESSION CLERK

The Manse

Since the last edition of Connect was published, Aberlady and Gullane Church is now the owner of a new manse in Fenton Road, Gullane.

Joint Services

Joint services are now firmly established in the calendar. These are held on the first Sunday of each month as follows:

- 3 September Aberlady
- 1 October Gullane
- 5 November Aberlady
- 3 December Gullane

All Joint services start at 10.30am and alternate between the two churches each month. Joint services have proved very popular with the congregation and enable us to better support a part-time minister by offering relief and assistance with pastoral and worship duties. To avoid turning up early/late at the wrong location on the first Sunday of each month, keep a copy of 'Connect' within reach for easy reference.

Property

Preparatory work is now underway obtaining estimates for work in Gullane to replace the pews and church heating system, upgrade the kitchen and toilet facilities in the Church Centre, and install secondary glazing of south facing windows.

SESSION CLERK

Inspection of Records

Now that we have an enlarged Presbytery the annual inspection of our church records has been brought forward to August. The annual inspection requires us to present information for inspection on each of the following: minutes of meetings; the baptismal record; safeguarding arrangements; the communion roll; congregational accounts; data protection and the Minister's logbook. Preparatory work for the inspection is now well underway and we will report on the outcome in the next edition of 'Connect'.

Gullane Garden

Work is now complete in the Gullane Church garden. The aim of the work was to cut down the need for regular maintenance work. Joy Grey has taken forward this project with contractors on our behalf, and we are grateful to her for the considerable amount of time she has spent drawing up plans and supervising the contractor. Joy has also taken an active part in our dealings with CALA ensuring the new lawns at the manse meet our requirements.

Communion

Communion dates remain as at present and take place in each church on the last Sunday in February, May, August and November of each year.

The date of the next Communion is 27th August 2023.

Jim Donaldson

Elsbeth Walker

Hazel Phisatory

Interim Session Clerks

TREASURER'S REPORT

Church Finances-Treasurer's update

I am happy to report a healthy balance in our finances. There has been high expenditure on our new manse which is ready for occupation when a new minister arrives.

I am very grateful to everyone for their generosity in continued donations. I am grateful for your continued support in your giving through your offerings. The current balance in our account is very good. The Stonework account has now been used up and will be closed very shortly. We are enjoying a break from the high utility bills we have all endured during the winter and spring and this is helping to keep the bank balance healthy.

Please continue to support our church. You can do so by cheque or by Standing Order via the bank. You are also able to put your donations in the plate as you enter the church, preferably in your offering envelope, in cash. Should you wish to donate using Gift Aid you should contact me for Aberlady or Morag Black for Gullane and we can supply the appropriate form.

For further information, please speak to me by phone.

It is nearly a year since we became one united congregation and all the finances are now joined and held in accounts in our joint name with one treasurer.

I hope you are enjoying the good weather this summer and feel refreshed from a holiday

Kaye Macaskill (Treasurer)

TREASURER'S REPORT continued

Event

During Archaeology Fortnight and Open Doors Days in September and at the time of the Lammermuir Music Festival, we hope to have an Open Day at Aberlady with music provided by local musicians. This will probably take place on the 9th or 10th September. Please look at the Intimations for further details in the near future. **Kirk**

Stables / Gullane Church Centre

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 for family events e.g children's parties. Please spread the word. Further information and booking forms are available from Tracey, our secretary at acpcsecretary@outlook.com, or by phoning her on 01875 870777 (Thursdays only). The hire charges are reasonable.

Kaye Macaskill (Church Treasurer)

Forthcoming Aberlady Village Events:

10th September 5.30pm Village Hall - Baked Potato Supper

30th September. 2 - 4pm. Village Hall - Autumn Fair

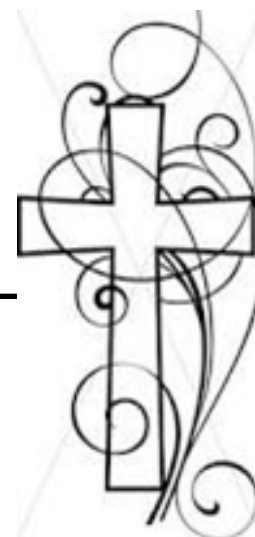
5th November - Bonfire Night with Fireworks (TBC)

25th November - Village Hall - Christmas Swap Shop (TBC)
Liz Forsyth

Forthcoming Gullane Village date

7th October There will be a Ceilidh held in Gullane Village Hall in aid of Christian Aid. This will be a fun evening so please put it in your diary.

Elsbeth Walker



Congregational Roll

Gullane Church

Deaths

Nancy Mitchell, 6 The Finches, Gullane. Died 17th May 2023
 Ronnie Lamb, Ivy Cottage, Goose Green, Gullane. Died 10th June 2023.

Baptism

Quentin and Timothy Nublet were baptised on 25th June 2023

Aberlady Church

Deaths

19.5.23 Agnes Cunningham, Joiner's Cottage, Back Lane, Aberlady EH32 0RV
 21.5.23 John Mercer, 15 Kilspindie Court, Aberlady EH32 0RS
 27.6.23 John Rodger, 3 Kilspindie Cottages, Aberlady EH32 0GD
 15.7.23 Winifred Wilson, Merrileas Cottqge, High Street, Aberlady EH32 0RE

Baptisms

Mimi Lugton was baptised on 9th July 2023
 Molly Munro was baptised on 16th July 2023

Transfer

19.7.23 Mr Alan and Mrs Moira Howat, 5 Marine House, Muirfield Drive, Gullane, EH31 2ER

For your information:

www.aberlady-gullaneparishchurches.org.uk

Click on "CONNECT" to read the magazine online.

www.facebook.com/AberladyGullaneParishChurches

www.facebook.com/AberladyAndGullaneChurchForChildren

Aberlady in Bloom

Please notice the new planters beside the benches at the repainted Pavilion at the foot of the football field.

The apple trees at the top of the football field are producing their first fruits. Work continues at this time of year, particularly to maintain the grasses and roses in our beautiful Memorial Garden. Plans are in place to top up the gravel and hopefully install a compost bin.

The group is growing but more volunteers are always welcome.

The Community Council awarded the Community Garden with the funding to purchase a smart new toolshed to house our garden implements.

Aberlady Village Update

The rubbish bins on the High Street, Sea Green and Sea Wynd are currently being repainted and should look very smart painted shiny black with their gold trim. We hope they will be used more often by passers-by.

The new defibrillator outside the Village Hall is up and working. It will be maintained as are the others in our village by our team of volunteers. Look out for the signage round the village which identifies the locations of our defibrillators.

Church Flower Rota.

We are very grateful to those who contribute each month by arranging a flower display on the font at the front of the Church for our Sunday services. Some of the volunteers are not regular Church members.

We have no volunteers for October this year nor for June and July in 2024. Please contact Liz Forsyth if you would like to find out more about what is required

Liz Forsyth



Children's Church in Aberlady and Gullane Parish Church

Heading into the summer in JAM Club we enjoyed learning about the parables in the bible, with lots of interest in the 'Feeding the 5000' and the 'Parable of the Mustard Seed'. It's amazing how a story can lead to an eating activity. We also explored baptism, preparing the children to welcome Quentin and Timothy into our church family.

On the 25th of June, as well as the baptism, we had our traditional End of Session Presentations to the children and the JAM Club Picnic. All the JAM Club and EJAM children received gifts, and those now old enough to start coming to EJAM received bibles too. We had planned the picnic for the Kirk Stables gardens, an ideal spot with both indoor and outdoor space. Sadly, just as forecast, the heavens opened and heavy rain fell as folks arrived, but our party continued with games and refreshments enjoyed by all. Thanks to Jock for his tennis ball/cardboard box game, which is one to remember for future years, in addition to the Jelly baby/spaghetti game of course.

The children have been enjoying their holidays over the summer. On August 7th EJAM are having a Community Event in the marquee as part of Gullane Games. All welcome. Regular Jam Club starts back on August 27th, EJAM on September 3rd 2023.

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 for updates on our website www.aberlady-gullaneparishchurches.org, as well as:

Facebook@Aberladyandgullaneparishchurch.

Rachel Wallace



The Jelly baby/spaghetti game

Jock with his tennis ball/
cardboard box game



Refreshment time



Written by a 12yr old during a poetry class at school.
The teacher is the daughter of a Foodbank volunteer.

I am alone and helpless
Everyone around seems so careless
I wish I was like them
Whilst I'm sat with my paper and pen

The grumbles in my tummy
Tea and biscuits sound so yummy
I worry and I stress
But I can't even go home and clean my mess

My heart is empty
And I feel so sad
I really wish I was like them
With everything I could've had

I eat the mould of my bread
All of the tears I shed
I use the same tearbag twice
And only half a spoon of rice

But then I found Trussell Trust
I didn't want to help but the lady said "I must"
"I understand your situation"
I cry I can't even get an education

I wish I had a family
To help me through these times
But she sat there with me
Listening as I cried



Local collection points for the **Foodbank**, are still Gullane Co-op and library during opening hours, Gullane and Aberlady Churches on Sunday mornings and also Aberlady Community Hall when open.

Strawberry Tea Party. June 21st

We were lucky with the weather again this year. Twenty seven ladies who had been members or friends of the Gullane Guild gathered together in Gullane for a happy afternoon of chat and home baking. We even had a birthday celebration! We were delighted to welcome Hazel, Martha, Molly and Joan from Aberlady. The afternoon started inside but as the wind died down we were able to move outside to enjoy the garden and the wonderful dancing display by Anne Dobie's granddaughter.

Many thanks to all the helpers.

Elsbeth Walker





Wednesday Coffee (and of course tea)

Wednesday mornings in the Gullane church centre are full of chat, laughs and fun. Everyone gets a warm welcome. Nicky Black and I have recently “joined up” to work together on the Sunday and Wednesday coffee (not forgetting tea). We have a fantastic team of volunteers, without whom this would not happen. We have our regulars but are open to the public. It’s great when people pop in because they’ve seen the sign outside. We are also blessed with visits from residents of the Muirfield Care Home. It is lovely sitting with them and hearing their stories. One gentleman and I had a walk along Gorgie Road in Edinburgh, talking about the shops, churches and of course the big attraction, Tynecastle.

It would be lovely to see you if you have the time on a Wednesday when we are open from 10.30 to 12. Your cup will be topped up, there are lots of biscuits and if you’re lucky Alice or Angeniet will have baked something delicious. It costs £1.50, and after covering our costs the extra money goes to fund our work in the parish of Aberlady and Gullane.

Volunteers are very welcome.

Muriel Calder



Scone Cafe

Another successful Aberlady Scone Café was held at Ducks Inn on Thursday 27th of July. There was a very good turnout of thirteen guests and volunteers taking advantage of Ducks Inn’s fine hospitality with tea or coffee and warm, freshly baked scones, including wonderful cheese scones!

Beth Thomas said : “When I moved here, I didn’t know anyone and this has been marvellous for me.”

The Aberlady Scone Cafe meets twice a month - second Tuesdays at Old Aberlady Inn (10a.m. - 11:30a.m.) and fourth Thursdays at Ducks Inn (2p.m. - 3:30p.m.).

If you are interested in coming along, please contact Val Barrie (see contact details on page 23.)

Keir Mitchelmore



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 and try it out for yours

Where and when to meet?

10.30 EVERY TUESDAY,
SEA GREEN, ABERLADY.

LAST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH,
10.30 OUTSIDE LIBRARY, GULLANE.



COASTAL VILLAGE THEATRE GROUP

Have you heard of the Coastal Villages Theatre Group? This is a well organised opportunity for those who would like to go to concerts and/or theatre activities which are taking place in and around Edinburgh from 4th October to 23rd April next year. It is always such a trial to drive in to town and to find a parking space. The Theatre Group organises a coach which collects from appointed bus stops at North Berwick, Dirleton, Gullane, Aberlady and Longniddry, returning again to the same bus stops after the concert, which takes away all the stress. It is also time to meet up with like minded and happy passengers.

If you wish more information, please contact Val Barrie for further details.

Look out for an Australian flag appearing in the old St Andrews kirkyard in Gullane in Remembrance Week in November. The Friends of the Brighton Cemetery in Melbourne plan to place it by the memorial stone to the Whitecross family. Richard Whitecross, a successful golfer and member of Dirleton Castle Golf Club, emigrated to Australia where he served with the Australian army. He died in 1918 and is buried in the Brighton cemetery but his name has been added to the family gravestone and local war memorials in Gullane.

Many thanks to Anne McCarthy



CALLING ALL KNITTERS and crocheters

There is a need for crafters to take up their knitting needles and crochet hooks to make baby items for the Simpson's Special Care babies. All patterns and full instructions are available on the website sscb.org. Click on 'get involved' followed by 'knitting' to access the newly created patterns for: Simpson the Snowman, car seat blanket, baby hat, baby dolls, baby jacket, and/or baby hat. To standardise the articles, all patterns, which are particularly straight forward, are to be made from Double knitting acrylic yarn, a good source of which can be found at 'Hobbycraft' at Fort Kinnaird.

This Edinburgh based charity is fully run by volunteers assisting the staff and families. Everything made for the babies is offered to the families when discharged, as no knitted garments are used in the unit, owing to stringent infection control measures. Only items made from our new patterns will be accepted for the unit.

Please contact Val Barrie for collection and/or any further information

A FEW 'THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY'

The two most important days in your life are the day you were born and the day you find out why. Mark Twain

God specialises in the impossible. Have faith.

He said, "Love... as I have loved you." We cannot love too much.

Amy Carmichael

Mistakes to bring a smile

The concert held in Fellowship Hall was a great success. Special thanks are due to the minister's daughter, who laboured the whole evening at the piano, which as usual, fell upon her.

Applications are now being accepted for two year-old nursery workers.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery down stairs.

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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