
CONNECT



Autumn sunshine on the road from Gullane to Aberlady

You are warmly invited to join us in the
SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION
Joint family communion service at Aberlady Church
Sunday 24th November 2024 @ 10.30a.m.

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 -

Gullane December 1st, Aberlady - January 5th

Gullane February 2nd, Aberlady - March 2nd

All are welcome

MINISTER

Dear Friends,

As I sit here writing to you on 31st October, I am very aware that at this time last year I was very busy making arrangements to move house to Gullane after accepting the call to be your Minister. Everybody wanted me to be inducted before December and I moved house on 15th November whilst on annual leave from my previous charge of Cleish, linked with Fossoway St Serf's and Devonside Church. I worked from the manse here and travelled back to conduct my final service with them on 26th November and I was inducted as the Minister of Aberlady and Gullane Parish Church on Monday 27th November. It all seemed to happen very quickly with everything just clicking into place without too much effort. However, the unpacking took a lot longer and I was still unpacking boxes in June. December 2023 was a very busy time as I started getting to know you all as I tried to catch up with all the Christmas celebrations and services. I remember planning to get a Christmas tree up, but I never actually managed to do so.

Another year on and I've been working with your Kirk Session and our new Session Clerk, Michael Black, to make all the arrangements for our Christmas celebrations this year...and I think I am going to be quite busy once again this year, as you may see in the diary dates section later in this magazine.

It has been a busy and exciting year as we have been looking at property matters for all our church buildings and we are now revising our plans for the renovation of Gullane Church. It has been a great joy to join in with our young people at EJAM and to see the creative talents of our young people at the family craft afternoons, plus the acting skills of them all in the Nativity service. Such a special way to tell one of the most important stories of our faith, that of the birth of our loving Saviour so long ago. I have enjoyed the services at Gullane Day Centre and Muirfield Care Home and getting to know some of our church members, other residents and the staff there and, it has also been a great joy to see some of them in church with us on Sundays. I particularly enjoyed the very successful events arranged to support Christian Aid and learning about the butterflies, bees and birds of this area. I'm also looking forward to a visit to the Honey Farm soon. The team organising these events are all very dedicated and hard working. My thanks to Ruth who steps back from organising this group now.

Some other highlights of the year have been the Strawberry Tea, the JAM Club picnic and the very moving Easter early morning service on the Sea Green at Aberlady. I've also had some time to explore this beautiful part of the world and enjoy walks on the beach and the gorgeous coastal views. What a wonderful world God has created for us all to enjoy.

As I approach my first anniversary, I am aware that I still have some 'firsts' ahead as I plan the Remembrance Sunday service at Aberlady and the new communicants classes that start on Sunday. Such a blessing for us that four people want to join our church.

As I look back over my first year with you I want to thank you all for the warmth, the Christian love and acceptance that you have offered me and to thank all our Session Clerks and our Treasurer and all our elders for all the support and encouragement that they have given me. They are all very loyal and committed to our church and all work very hard to keep everything going smoothly.

I have felt richly blessed in coming here to be your minister.

As we look further back and celebrate the best 'first' we were ever given – the birth of our loving Saviour Jesus Christ - I wish you all love, peace and joy this Christmastide.

God bless from Rev Lis

A Christmas Prayer

Loving Father,
help us remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate
and open the door of love
all over the world.

Let kindness come with every gift
and good desires with every greeting.
Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings,
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning
make us happy to be thy children,
and Christmas evening
bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

–Robert Louis Stevenson

Coffee, Cake and Christianity Update

This is a new group that will be based in Aberlady and hopefully, starting soon in the New Year. This will be an opportunity to meet together and learn and share our thoughts about our faith. If you are interested: please contact Lis 0131 324 3134 or Heather Barcroft 07513031965



On **Monday 9th December** we will be having a special **Service of Remembering at 6.30pm at Gullane Church.**
with refreshments afterwards.

It seems that Christmas is just around the corner: a time that children look forward to, with eager anticipation, a time when families and loved ones make plans to be together, a time to show our love for one another in the gifts and cards that we exchange and the good wishes that we give to one another.

Yet, for some of us, Christmas is a time that we are not looking forward to. For some of us this season, of short days and long dark winter nights, is a sad and lonely time because somebody whom we loved, and love, has died and we are missing them.

This special service is a time to remember our loved ones, to remember how special they were and are to us, and to reaffirm that they will never be forgotten. It offers a space and some ‘time out’ from all the busy Christmas preparations: time to remember, time to meditate and reflect and, time to share with others and to support one another. Whether you have been recently bereaved, or you are remembering somebody who died a while ago, all are welcome and we hope may find some comfort and peace through this service at Christmastime.

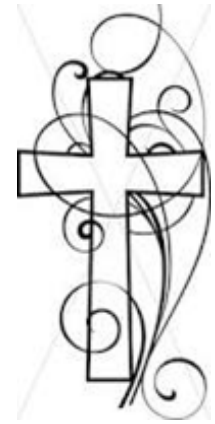
Blessings
Lis

Wise Words indeed.

Life is very complicated just now as we try to negotiate our way through pressing the correct button, which will enable us to speak to a human being, who will solve the current problem. My first instinct is to fire off an irate email to whoever.

Discussing this with a friend from my former Congregation, she commented that her Father, speaking in the era when we put pen to paper, said, “Write it all down. Sleep on it, and review it in the morning before you post it.”

June Campbell



Congregational Roll

Gullane and Aberlady Parish Church

Funerals and deaths

Hugh Reid		Funeral Service 23.5.24
James Seaton		Funeral Service 19.6.24
Balfour Blair	died 14.6.24	Funeral Service 28.6.24
Harry Richmond	died 1.9.24	
Careen Patrick	died 15.9.24	

Baptisms

At Gullane Church on 14.4.24

Cooper Watson
Rose McCashin
Ollie McCashin
Freddie McCashin

At Aberlady Church on 11.8.24

Ava Octavia Fulton-Peebles

Weddings

Aberlady Church 26.5.24	Margaret Johnstone and Jamie Edward
Gullane Church 26.7.24	Lara Frostwick and Nick Galloway

SESSION CLERK**Session Clerk's Report**

The last Kirk Session was held on 7th October. Our meetings are open to all and it was lovely to welcome two members of the congregation who are not elders. We continued to look at how we can develop our three properties, Aberlady Church, the Kirk Stables and Gullane Church to make them fit for purpose to meet the General Trustees five marks of Mission which are:

- to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom,
- to teach, baptise and nurture new believers,
- to respond to human need by loving service,
- to seek to transform unjust structures of society,
- to challenge violence of every kind and, to pursue peace and reconciliation.

With this in mind a new group, Property and Mission Planning Priority, was formed.

The Worship and Communications group continue to work hard on our behalf. More services that will include children are proposed as well as bespoke services such as to remember loved ones no longer with us.

We had visits to both Churches following the distribution of flyers to the houses in Aberlady and Gullane.

Following the unification of the two Churches please note we are now known as Aberlady and Gullane Parish Church, our buildings are called Aberlady Church and Gullane Church and the website has been changed to:
aberladygullaneparishchurch.co.uk.

Autumn is here, and before we know it, it will be Christmas.

Michael Black, Session Clerk.

PRESBYTERY LETTER

The following letter was written by Norman Smith, Presbytery Clerk, after the Presbytery meeting on 28th October.

Hello everyone,

Yesterday I spent the entire day in 121 so apologies for missing Monday for sending out our weekly email.

It was a very interesting day, considering what happens next in terms of the national church. We all know our congregational attendance is not what it was and we would be foolish to think with a snap of our fingers we could recapture the past. Some of the consequences of where we are now include less people involved as congregational leaders, whether minister, elder or a.n.other. Less finance available because fewer people give less so fewer people carry a greater financial burden for most congregations. A reduced impact in the public square, at one point the church was the center of village/town life but that is much less the case. All in all the place of the church is very different today to what we mostly knew growing up.

The people gathered there recognised our calling was not actually to recapture the church as it was but to discover the church as it is going to be. What does it mean to live for God in today and tomorrow's world?

There was a lot of discussion, a lot of contemplation but not a lot of clarity as people grappled with the many issues. No doubt there will be more meetings in the future and no doubt some of the thoughts will come to future General Assemblies for consideration. One of the most interesting things about the day was the variety of people who came from different theological and ecclesiological perspectives. Yet all there wanted to see the Kingdom of God grow in Scotland in the 21st century.

Look around your own church and see the variety of people who gather each week. We are not the same, we are united in Christ. As a Presbytery we reflect this in Standing Order number 1, the rules that govern our Presbytery meetings.

1. Presbyters are reminded we are first and foremost a gathering of brothers and sisters under the headship of Jesus Christ and though at times we may disagree, that which holds us together is stronger than anything which may divide us.

Please join me in giving thanks this week that our God appeals to all people, is relevant to all people and all people can find faith in him.

God Bless

Norman Smith

TREASURER'S REPORT

Church Finances-Treasurer's update

I am happy to report our healthy finances at Aberlady and Gullane Parish Church.

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 General Account is quite healthy. We also have considerable investments. Please continue to support the church. You can do so by cheque or by Standing Order via the bank. All cheques should be payable to **Aberlady and Gullane Church General Account** to make it easy to pay them in. You may also wish to donate by Gift Aid and forms are available from Morag Black(Gullane) or from me (Aberlady). You are still able to put your donations in the plate as you enter the church, preferably in your offering envelope, gift aid envelope or anonymously in cash.

The arrival of our new minister, Lis has increased our expenditure from previous years but we are able to cope with this. We are heading towards the end of our financial year and I am hopeful we shall achieve a reasonable surplus.

There will be a retiring collection on **Remembrance Sunday**(10th Nov) for **Poppyscotland in both churches**. There will also be a retiring collection at the joint Communion Service on 24 November for **Christian Aid/DEC Middle East Appeal**. This is a very worthwhile cause!

Collections at the Christmas Services will probably be for **East Lothian Food Bank** but **this will be confirmed in the Intimations nearer the time**.

Please be generous for all these causes.

If you have any questions/issues, please feel free to contact me.

Kaye Macaskill

01875-870371

28 October 2024



Children's Church in Aberlady and Gullane Parish Church

Jam Club continue to enjoy meeting each Sunday morning at Gullane, or in Aberlady when the joint service is there. We have been talking about Jacob, not Jacob who comes to Jam Club, but Jacob in the bible! We have heard about his family and how God was always with him, when he was alone or in new places.

We are looking forward to celebrating communion with the congregation at Aberlady Church on 24th November and to our Christmas Craft Afternoon that same day.

Our Harvest Craft Afternoon was great fun. We were in the Kirk Stables and welcomed new families, and old, to our autumnal themed event. The children used fallen leaves to make hedgehogs, they did leaf rubbings and printing with potatoes. Autumn pictures and leaf shaped biscuits were created. And that's just the crafts. Lis gathered the children for a story while we laid out refreshments, delicious sweet and savoury treats again with a few leaf shapes included.

Our raised bed in the community garden grew some weeds this summer! We did have marigolds and nasturtiums, but the carrots and beetroot got a bit overwhelmed. We seem to be quite good at growing conker trees! We made a bug hotel for the garden too and are looking forward to seeing what it attracts.

We have started planning for our nativity service, and have enough children to cast Mary and Joseph and the other necessary parts, but we may be lacking in numbers of shepherds and wise people so if anyone is interested in taking part, please get in touch. We would also welcome help looking over costumes and perhaps props.

All help gratefully received.

For more information on Aberlady and Gullane's children's activities please email Rachel at agpcchildren@gmail.com

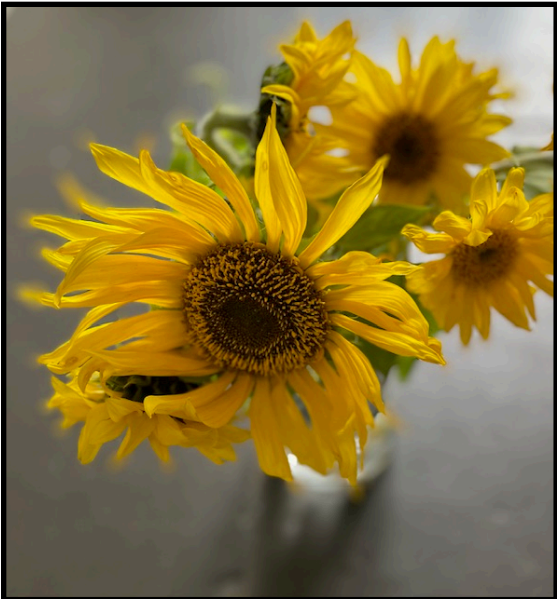
Please keep in touch by checking our website for updates:

www.aberladygullaneparishchurch.co.uk or

Facebook @Aberladyandgullaneparishchurch.

Rachel Wallace

Harvest Thanksgiving photographs sent by Rachel Wallace





East Lothian Foodbank

Having recently attended East Lothian Foodbank’s AGM I thought I would share with you some of the information they presented. To me, the Foodbank always seems so busy, sorting food coming in, packing parcels and distributing them. It was good to hear of all the hard work going on in the background too. The information here covers the period April 2023 – March 2024.

What isn’t mentioned is that the foodbank benefits from the help of 114 volunteers. Those volunteers have put in 7,100 hours in the warehouse, have driven 99,400 hours, and have shifted 126 tonnes of food and essentials.

Aberlady and Gullane Parish Church collected 116kg of provisions for the Foodbank at our Harvest Thanksgiving services. This amount equates to 10x one/two person parcels or 5x family parcels. We also received some cash donations.

Please continue to donate to your local foodbank. Food, toiletries and household cleaning products can be left at either church on Sunday mornings, at Gullane library or COOP, also Aberlady Community Hall when open. Donations can also be left at Tesco in North Berwick and/or Tranent and will be taken to the warehouse in Tranent.

For more information see the website www.eastlothianfoodbank.org.uk

Thank you. Rachel Wallace

Food suggestions

- 01 Longlife Fruit Juice**
- 02 Longlife milk**
- 03 Custard/Rice Pudding**
- 04 Teabags/Coffee**
- 05 Tinned meat/fish**

Our Impact 2023/4

3

5,722 requests for support

816 first time users

5,079 children supported

8,798 adults supported

 We provided **124,893** meals in 2023/4. That's an average of over **2,400** every week.

In total we gave out **126,251** kg of food and essentials - almost half a tonne every day !



We also continued to provide targeted help throughout school holidays and the winter months

250 summer essentials packs provided

252 winter blankets provided

271 referrals to Fuelbank Foundation

5 crisis fuel payments made

132 people used our money advice service

76 had direct financial gains

2 Clients rehoused successfully



Our money advice service in partnership with Musselburgh CAB helped people to claim a total of **£139,024**



And we maintained focus on the "Guarantee our Essentials" campaign in support of our community's needs

92% of service users were in receipt of benefits or pension

58% of service users needed help with the rising cost of essentials

9% of households included someone of state pension age

“It’s about being remembered...”

I have to admit that, for a variety of reasons, my church attendance has slipped somewhat this year. Life can take some strange twists sometimes. However, there is always some light amidst darkness, and, amongst many unbelievably simultaneous tragic and distressing episodes for our families recently, one activity has brightened my life this year.

Some years ago, a group of daughters and sons of RAF pilots, like my father, who trained at Falcon Field, Mesa Arizona, USA, during World War 2 got together, determined to preserve the memory of these brave young men. Not many people realise that thousands of WW2 pilots had to train abroad, because conditions in the UK – poor weather and enemy action – did not allow them to fulfil the necessary flying hours quickly enough here, where they were desperately needed. Six British Flying Training Schools were established in the USA, Falcon Field, Arizona, being No4BFTS.

For the past 4 years, we have arranged get-togethers, at Bentley Priory (wartime HQ of Fighter Command), the RAF Museum at Hendon, and the Imperial War Museum, Duxford.

This year, we arranged our gathering at the National Memorial Arboretum, (NMA) Alrewas, near Birmingham, Staffordshire, where we achieved a cherished objective: to place a plaque in the RAF grove there, to serve as a permanent memorial to those ordinary, mostly 18 and 19 year old young men, who braved crossings of the Atlantic, avoiding UBoats, to train as pilots and return to fight for their country.

The day dawned grey and dull, and, as we avoided puddles in the car park, we were very doubtful about the success of our event, some of which was to take place in the open air. However, mid-morning, clouds began to clear, as we made our way to the daily service of remembrance in the chapel, and, by midday, we had blue skies and brilliant sunshine, as we took our seats in the RAF grove. We had arranged a flyover by a Stearman biplane, the type in which our fathers did their primary training in the Arizona desert. There was barely a dry eye in the company as the aircraft completed several passes and a wing wiggle above us, as a start to our ceremony. The plaque was unveiled by an original pilot, now 99 years old, an Air Commodore in full RAF regalia, and a member of Mesa City Council. A priest, whose father had also been a pilot, gave a blessing. There followed a prayer, and some poems. I was privileged to read the passage from Isaiah, chapter 40, which contains the words: “They shall rise on wings, like eagles”, which are printed on memorial plaques in Arizona and on our plaque at the NMA.

It's about being remembered..." continued...

"We then retired for a lovely buffet lunch, followed by a tour of the extensive grounds and marvellous memorials in their land train, and then plenty of tea, cake and chat! Our event made top billing on BBC Midlands evening news that night!

Next year will mark the 80th Anniversary of the closure of the British Flying Training Schools in the USA at the end of the war, and a group of us plan to fly out to Arizona. Our visit will include attendance at the annual Memorial Service in Mesa Cemetery, which the Americans still hold, to honour the 23 cadets and 2 instructors who died during training, and are buried out there. Our 10 hour flight will be in marked contrast to the five days at sea, and the five days by rail that our fathers took to get there!

It is a great relief to know that there will be a permanent memorial in this country to these young men. Our fathers would never have expected this, but we hope they are pleased.

As a former World War 2 pilot has said: "It's not about medals. It's not about who shot down what. It's not about the thank-yous, but it's nice to be remembered because being remembered covers everybody who fought, flew and served in the war".

Janice White, Gullane



We have been alerted to the fact that the Prentice circle bus which goes from Aberlady to Haddington and back again is mostly underused by Aberlady folk.

Again, if we don't use it **we might lose it.**

The bus goes on a **circular route** from Gullane, to Aberlady, Ballencrieff, Haddington, Drem, Dirleton and on to Gullane.

Timetable is:

Buses run four times a day between Haddington and Aberlady. The earliest departure from Haddington is at 07:10 in the morning, and the last departure from Haddington is at 15:53 which arrives into Aberlady at 16:22. All services run directly with no transfers required, and take on average 30 minutes.

The schedules shown below are for the usual available departures.

From Haddington: 07.10, 09.57, 10.57, 12.57, (13.57 not every day - please check)

From Aberlady: Monday to Friday -

Bus Stop Opposite the old Post Office: 0740, 0857, 10.28, 11.28, 13.28, 14.28



About the SOC in Aberlady, Waterston House, EH32 OPY, 01875 871 330: The Scottish Ornithologists' Club is a charity promoting the study, protection and enjoyment of wild birds and their habitats in Scotland.

Open: Wed-Sun (10am-4pm) - "Looking for the Seasons"

Jonathan Sainsbury RSW, SAA, AAS paintings: 13 November 2024 – 12 January 2025

For this exhibition, Jonathan Sainsbury took inspiration from the classic illustrations of the Ladybird Books "What to Look for in Winter/Spring/Summer/Autumn". Published in 1959/60, the books highlighted the seasonal changes in the landscape and wildlife, and were illustrated by CF Tunnicliffe.

TURTLES AT MIDNIGHT

In the 1980's Ken and I and son Colin, aged 7, lived in Sri Lanka for almost three years. Ken was Project Director on the building of a brand new 5 Star Ramada hotel right in the middle of Colombo. There were many hotels being built at that time, but building was interrupted by the Tamil Riots.

After some time, the rioting subsided and work then could get underway. We were given an invitation to spend a weekend at the German owned Robinson's Club on the south west coast. The idea was to compare building projects as this hotel was on a "soft opening".

After a long drive down the west coast from Colombo we reached Robinson's Club and were welcomed very warmly. Colin was straight in the pool and we very quickly made ourselves at home. After dinner that night, one of the waiters asked if we would like to be woken up if turtles appeared on the beach to lay their eggs. Naturally we said 'yes'. Sure enough, just after midnight there was a knock on our bedroom door and we were told that a Loggerhead turtle was coming out of the sea. We gathered up a very sleepy Colin and made our way to the beach. There, to our complete amazement, was a turtle laboriously making a very large hole in the sand. When the hole was big enough she about turned and laid her eggs into the hole. I believe they lay over a hundred eggs at one time. Then the turtle covered the eggs with sand and filled the hole, later making a return to the sea. The Loggerhead was massive, about a metre in length. Such a graceful creature in the sea but such a slow and ungainly creature on land. We were absolutely thrilled to witness this truly wonderful sight.

The following morning, a bit tired with interrupted sleep, we went for breakfast and the "order of the day" was Scrambled Eggs on toast. We both told the waiter that this was the best scrambled eggs we had ever eaten. "Ah! turtle eggs, Madam!"

The tragedy is that many of the locals were aware of this and stole many of the eggs. However, there is much more control of this now.

Win Wright
Gullane


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

<p>THE OLD ABERLADY INN</p>	<p>Food served Mon - Sat 12.30 - 20.30, Sun 12.30 - 19.30 Contact Tel: 01875 870503 Email: info@oldaberladyinn.com Facebook Instagram W. Main St, Aberlady, Longniddry EH32 0RF</p>
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<p>Mark McGlone FCCA</p>	<p>Chartered Certified Accountant Self Assessment & Company Tax VAT, Payroll & Business Advice</p>	<p>5 South Charlotte Street Edinburgh EH2 4AN Tel 07890 409 891 email: admin@aaabizsol.co.uk</p>
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Christian Aid	Ruth Hunter	
Communications	Douglas Donaldson	
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Church Website	Hilary Smyth	
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“CONNECT” Editor	Val Barrie	
Presbytery Elder	Elspeth Walker Barry White	Roll Keeper
Safeguarding Coordinators	Val Morrison Win Wright	
Sunday Club.	Rachel Wallace	

For your information:

www.aberladygullaneparishchurch.co.uk

Click on “CONNECT” to read the magazine online.

www.facebook.com/AberladyAndGullaneChurchForChildren

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY	
November 10th	Remembrance Sunday
November 24th	Celebration of Holy Communion Joint service with children at Aberlady Church 10.30am
November 24th	15.00 - 17.00 Family Christmas Crafts at Gullane Church Centre
November 30th	17.00 Christmas tree lights switch on at Aberlady Church
December 1st	10.30am Joint Service at Gullane led by Worship Team 5.30pm EJAM Gullane Church Centre
December 9th	MONDAY 6.30pm <u>Service of Remembering at Gullane Church</u>
December 12th	Aberlady School Nativity at Aberlady Church
December 15th	10.30am Joint Service Nativity Gullane 16.00 Carols on the Green, Gullane - bring a torch
December 24th	18.30 Family Christmas Eve Service, Aberlady 23.30 Watchnight Service Aberlady 23.30 Watchnight Service Gullane
December 25th	10.30am Joint Christmas Day Service Gullane
January 5th 2025	10.30am Joint Service at Aberlady led by Worship Team
January 31st	Deadline for articles for February issue of 'CONNECT'
February 2nd	10.30am Joint Service at Gullane led by Worship Team
February 23rd	9.45am Celebration of Holy Communion - Gullane 11.15am Celebration of Holy Communion - Aberlady
March 2nd	10.30am Joint Service at Aberlady led by Worship Team
April 6th	10.30am Joint Service at Gullane led by Worship Team