

BUILDING TOGETHER IN WORSHIP, WITNESS AND SERVICE



The **Cairn**



News from St. Anne's Scottish Episcopal & Methodist Church in Dunbar

Rector's Letter

Remember, remember, the 5th of November.
Every autumn this refrain was simply part of life
growing up as a child of the 50's.

We never remembered the rest of this verse, the first 6
words alone were enough to bring up memories of
bonfires and fireworks. The excitement of it all.

Remember, remember, the 5th of November also
brings to mind costly memories as well of the joyous
ones. One year we built a really big bonfire, living near
a timber saw mill, living on an estate that was still being
built meant a plentiful supply of good dry timber. And
did we collect some! The bonfire we built was brilliant,
the heat generated was intense. The problem was we
built it a bit too near the back of an almost finished new
house. All its windows had just been glazed! Before the
fire had even reached its maximum intensity not a
single window remained uncracked. It was ages before
any of the bonfire builders saw any pocket money as
we paid the builders to have the house reglazed.

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November and autumn do seem to be a time to remember, nostalgically or otherwise, the past. The lengthening nights, the cooler days, the nearness to the passing of another year seems to lead us into to a time of reflection. We will shortly come to Remembrance Sunday, a day that focuses on the cost of war and the need for peace. Something very much to the fore this year. As we remember, the pain, the hurt, the fear and the loss of loved ones we also remember that peace can come. That healing and reconciliation is possible. Through remembering, hope can grow, we just need to work for it. Encouraged by remembering that we have a God of love and forgiveness. Calling us to forgive our mistakes as we are called to forgive others.

Earlier in the month we have All Saints Day. Here we are encouraged by remembering those saints who have made us who we are. Maybe our parents or family members, possibly school friends, work mates, partners, church friends whatever. It's maybe worth pondering on this thought, 'does anyone look back and remember us as being a saint who inspired, who supported or who helped someone when help, support and encouragement was needed'?

Life is a journey shaped by many contacts and experiences. It's a journey we are still on.

At the end of November our journey takes on new dimension as we enter Advent and start to head towards the stable. But that is to explore next month, for now we can celebrate the hope knowing God brings.

Remember, remember. It is good to remember our past, the past of friends and family, the experiences of our journey so far. A journey that tells us that we have a forgiving God who loves us, who commands us to love others as we love ourselves.

Remember, remember, God sent his only son that we might delight in his love.

Geoff

RNLI Launch a Memory – Susan Joy Dickerson



When our son William and his wife Mara in South Australia said they had donated to RNLI's 'Launch a Memory', to have Susan's name on a lifeboat; I wondered how that could be. Many lifeboats are named after certain individuals with the name written in big bold letters on the side of the boat. However, as we got to know more from RNLI, it transpired Susan's name would be one of twelve thousand and written in miniature within the letters and numbers on the boat. Apparently, names can be for anyone still alive or for pets too. And one can add multiple names. Naming can be motivated for any occasion or reason. To RNLI it's a welcome donation for each name given. They aim to raise up to one million pounds per boat. So, it's a



good scheme that has become popular, with a few boats done and more planned.

The lifeboat at Anstruther across the Firth of Forth estuary is one with names applied already. This time the one chosen was RNLI 13-13 stationed at Swanage in Dorset. Through an online booking system, we were given the opportunity to get up close to the boat at the RNLI All-Weather Lifeboat Centre at Poole also in Dorset, where they make the boats. RNLI have their head office and college there too. The boat had been brought from Swanage onto dry land for a clean and polish and to have the letter and number transfers attached.



So, on Saturday 19th September 2026, our daughter Alice, her two young girls, Aslan and Zazie and I were beside the boat for 15 minutes within our 45-minute time slot that included a talk and mini tour of the RNLI centre with a chance to meet members of the crew. We were told this was the thirteenth boat in this 13-metre-long class, thus 13-13. It was a poignant and meaningful experience especially to think Susan would be braving the waves along with the crew on a 'shout' in future.

Alan

The Lucky Horseshoe

Scarlett was walking along Belhaven beach with her grandad when she spotted something sticking out of the sand.

She bent down and pulled at it. Whatever it was had been there for a while. It was rusty, heavy and curved, with the sand packed hard around it.

"What's this?"

Grandad took it from her, rubbed it against the leg of his trousers and turned it over in his hands.

"It's a horseshoe."

Scarlett looked at it, then at him.

"What's it doing on the beach?"

A perfectly valid question.

"There used to be racehorses trained around here," he said. "A man called Tommy Craig had stables at West Barns. He trained them on Belhaven beach."

"Actual racehorses?"

"Actual racehorses."

For a moment he tried to imagine what that must have looked like. A string of thoroughbreds galloping along the wet sand early in the morning, hooves thundering where dog walkers and paddleboarders now had right of way.

The name *Tommy Craig* had jogged his memory too.

Back to his teenage years, sneaking into Musselburgh Racecourse with his school dinner money still in his pocket, studying the runners as if he knew what he was doing. If one of Tommy Craig's horses was running, he'd try to persuade some obliging adult to put two bob on it for him.

It was a different age.

Scarlett was studying the horseshoe. "Did everyone use horses to travel when you were my age?"

He looked at her. "No."

There was just enough indignation in his reply to create a mischievous smile on her face.

"I know I'm old, Scarlett, but I'm not from the Wild West."

He realised immediately that she probably didn't understand the reference.

"But you had horses?"

"I didn't, but they were a common enough sight when I was your age. The milkman had one. So did the coalman. There was the rag-and-bone man as well."

"The what man?"

"That's another story."

He could also remember the mounted police controlling the football crowds heading towards Easter Road on a Saturday, particularly when the crowd was swelled by visitors from one of the Ugly Sisters from Glasgow, or that other mob from across the city.

He was about to explain further when he realised he had lost his audience.

Scarlett had her phone out.

Her thumbs moved across the screen while the horseshoe dangled from her other hand.

"It says horseshoes are lucky."

"Aye, they are."

He took it from her and held it with the open ends pointing upwards.

"But you have to hang it this way. That keeps the luck in. If you hang it the other way, all the luck runs out."

She took it back and immediately pointed it skywards.

Grandad smiled. She had only known what a horseshoe was for five minutes and already she wasn't taking any chances.

Then she looked back at her phone.

"It says there is no scientific evidence that horseshoes bring good luck. It says it's only a superstition."

His bubble was burst.

There was something slightly depressing about watching centuries of folklore being demolished by an eight-year-old with a mobile phone.

"You can't believe everything Google tells you."

She looked up.

"In my day," he continued, "we didn't have phones to check everything."

Then she continued reading.

She gave him one of those looks. At eight years old, she was already developing a healthy suspicion that some of Grandad's stories might not survive independent verification.

"So how did you learn things when you were my age?"

He paused. It was a good question.

He had embraced technology himself and was quietly proud of the fact. For a man of his advanced years, he could hold his own. He could FaceTime relatives in Australia, identify a bird or a plant by pointing his phone at it, and find the name of a song on the radio before the singer had reached the chorus.

He used Google and, more recently, ChatGPT constantly.

Scarlett was still waiting.

"Google it," he said.

"What?"

"Ask your phone what old people used before Google."

She sighed, but tapped at the screen.

A few seconds later she looked up.

"What's an encyclopaedia?"

"A book version of Wikipedia."

That seemed to satisfy her.

They continued along the beach, Scarlett carrying the horseshoe carefully now, still with the open end pointing upwards.

Every so often she stopped to examine something else the tide had left behind: a piece of sea glass, a shell, a smooth, shiny stone. Each was inspected, considered and discarded back onto the sand. The horseshoe, however, stayed firmly in her hand.

Eventually she spoke again.

"Would you rather be a kid when you were a kid, or a kid now?"

Grandad thought about it.

His childhood seemed more carefree in his memory. You went out in the morning and came back when you were hungry. Nobody knew where you were and, more remarkably, nobody seemed particularly concerned.

There were no phones, no social media and no parents tracking your location on an app.

On the other hand, houses were colder, televisions had three channels and, if you wanted to know something, you apparently had to find an encyclopaedia.

"Then," he said.

"Why?"

He looked at her.

"Because if I hadn't been a kid then, I couldn't be your grandad now."

She considered this for a moment then a small smile appeared and she reached up and took his hand.

They walked on like that for a while, the horseshoe swinging from her other hand.

"Grandad?"

"Aye?"

"Can we hang this on your shed?"

"The horseshoe?"

She nodded.

"So you'll have good luck."

"We can."

"Which way?"

"You know which way."

She turned it so the open ends pointed towards the sky.

"But you said you don't believe it's lucky."

"I don't."

"Then why are we putting it up?"

"No point taking chances."

Rab



Remembrance Day

In late 1914, WW1 erupted across Northern France and Flanders. Great swathes of previously green fields and forests were blasted and bombed, leaving them bleak and barren, with seemingly every living thing destroyed. But then in the Spring of 1915, something beautiful began to come out of all the destruction. Tens of thousands of bright red Flanders poppies began to put out tentative shoots across the endless vistas of mud. These resilient little flowers had actually flourished in the middle of so much chaos and destruction, because their seeds grow when exposed to sunlight, through disturbances to soil.



We all know that these endless fields of cheerful poppies, growing in the midst of such misery and destruction, were what inspired the Canadian doctor, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, to write the now famous poem 'In Flanders Fields'. And it was McCrae's poem which inspired an American academic named Moina Michael to adopt the poppy in memory of those who had fallen in the war. She got it adopted as an official symbol of Remembrance across the United States, and worked with others who were trying to do the same in Canada, Australia, and the UK.

A French woman, Anna Guérin who was in the UK in 1921, caught the same vision, and planned to sell the poppies in London. There she met Earl Haig, the founder of the Royal British Legion, who was persuaded to adopt the poppy as its emblem in the UK. The Royal British Legion, which had been formed in 1921, ordered nine million poppies and sold them on 11 November that year. Ever since then, the red poppy has been a symbol of Remembrance, of support for the Armed Forces community, and also of hope for a peaceful future.

A poem by Megan Carter

*In November we come to remember
How war tore our country apart,
From village and town and all around
Men and boys left home and hearth.*

*Mothers and wives and sisters all
Saw their brave young men go away,
For some it meant the ultimate price
As they gave their tomorrows for our today.*

*Another Man left His home above
To rescue this world from sin,
It cost Him His life which He freely gave
So new life could enter in.*



*In this world there will always be war,
But the time will surely be
When the earth shall be filled with the glory of God
As the waters cover the sea.*

Smile please

What bishops do

We were celebrating the 100th anniversary of our church, and several former pastors and the bishop were in attendance. At one point, our minister had the children gather at the altar for a talk about the importance of the day. He began by asking, 'Does anyone know what the bishop does?'

There was silence. Finally, one little boy ventured: "Isn't he the one who moves diagonally?"

Explaining those words used in church

PROCESSION: The ceremonial formation at the beginning of service, consisting of altar servers, the celebrant, and late parishioners looking for seats.

USHERS: The only people in the parish who don't understand the seating capacity of a pew.

PEW: A medieval torture device still found in many churches.

CHOIR: A group of people whose singing allows the rest of the congregation to lip-sync.

HYMN: A song of praise, often sung three octaves higher than the congregation's range.

AMEN: The only part of a prayer that everyone knows.

HYMN, RECESSIONAL: The last song, often sung a little more quietly, since some of the people have already left.

What's on at St Anne's

Bishop Dagmar to visit and lead service at St Anne's

Bishop Dagmar will lead the service at St Anne's on Sunday 1st November at 10.30am. Since becoming Bishop of Edinburgh in May, Bishop Dagmar has been visiting churches and taking services across the diocese.

As the Church marks All Saints' Day, it is anticipated that the Bishop will reflect on this in her sermon, while also bringing a message particularly relevant to us in Dunbar.

Light refreshments will be served after the service, giving everyone an opportunity to meet and chat with the Bishop.

All are warmly welcome to attend so please save the date and keep Bishop Dagmar in your prayers.



...I haven't the heart to tell her the bishop went home 20minutes ago!

ST ANNE'S CHURCH, DUNBAR

Community Events & Fundraising Calendar 2026-2027

WORKING TOGETHER TO SUPPORT OUR CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

SEPTEMBER 2026 Coffee Morning & Cake Sales Guest Speaker (every other month)	OCTOBER 2026 Anne's Pantry Film Club Art Exhibition & Sale	NOVEMBER 2026 Anne's Pantry Film Club Christmas Sale • Christmas Cards • Christmas Puddings • Crafts • Calendars	DECEMBER 2026 9 Lessons & Carols Crib Service
JANUARY 2027 Anne's Pantry Film Club Guest Speaker (every other month) Quiz Night	FEBRUARY 2027 Anne's Pantry Film Club	MARCH 2027 Anne's Pantry Film Club Art Exhibition & Sale Guest Speaker (every other month)	APRIL 2027 Anne's Pantry
MAY 2027 Anne's Pantry Vinted Sale • Clothes • Jewellery • Crafts • Auction Guest Speaker (every other month)	JUNE 2027 Anne's Pantry Organ Recital Guest Speaker (every other month)	JULY 2027 Anne's Pantry Local Musicians Event Guest Speaker (every other month)	AUGUST 2027 Anne's Pantry Organ Recital
ALL YEAR			
100 CLUB • Richard Kendall • Alasdair Swan	TUBE COLLECTION • David Robins • John Rea • Pippa Swan	LOOSE CHANGE BUCKET • David Robins • John Rea • Pippa Swan	FOREIGN CURRENCY EXCHANGE • David Robins • John Rea • Pippa Swan
CHRISTMAS CARDS, PUDDINGS & CALENDARS • Mike Harvey • Anne Harvey			

Season of Remembrance.

On Thursday 12th November our discussions after the Holy Communion service will give opportunity to share together about *Death, Grief and Christian Hope*. If you're unable to come to the service, please come to church at 11am for coffee and join the conversation.



St Anne's AGM (chippie supper)

Tuesday 10th November 6pm

St Anne's Church, Dunbar

Silent Reflective Mornings in 2026

**Monthly on Saturdays
at 10.30am for an hour**

- 6th June
- 4th July
(extended session for Summer Silence)
- 1st August
- 5th September
- 3rd October
- 7th November
- 5th December
(extended session for Advent)

Each session is followed by coffee and chat

Contact for queries - Sharon Morgan
sharon@eh42.scot

SHARING PERSPECTIVES

WE ARE LAUNCHING AN INFORMAL MONTHLY GROUP SHARING PERSPECTIVES ON RICHARD ROHR'S DAILY MEDITATIONS FROM THE CENTER FOR ACTION AND CONTEMPLATION.

WE MEET ON THE LAST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH TO REFLECT ON THAT MONTH'S MEDITATIONS. NO PREPARATION NEEDED - JUST COME AS YOU ARE. ALL WELCOME.

THE CAC'S DAILY MEDITATIONS DRAW ON THE CHRISTIAN MYSTICAL TRADITION, EXPLORING CONTEMPLATION, COMPASSION AND NON-DUAL THINKING - INVITING US TO SEE GOD IN ALL THINGS.

ST ANNE'S CHURCH

FIRST MEETING: MONDAY 29TH JUNE
2026 AT 4PM

SUBSCRIBE TO THE DAILY MEDITATIONS:
CAC.ORG/DAILY-MEDITATIONS

ANY QUESTIONS?
SECRETARY@STANNESDUNBAR.ORG.UK

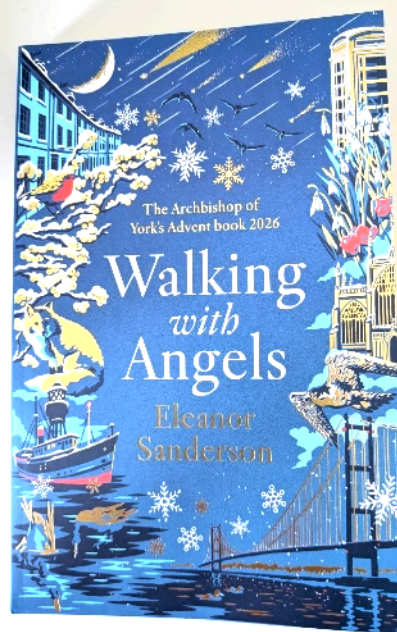
Last Monday of the month

The Book Group at St Anne's

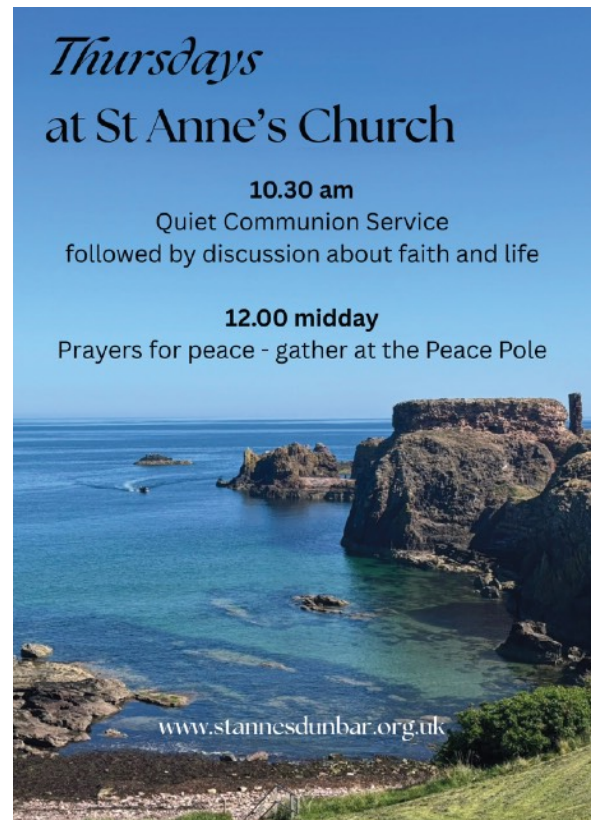
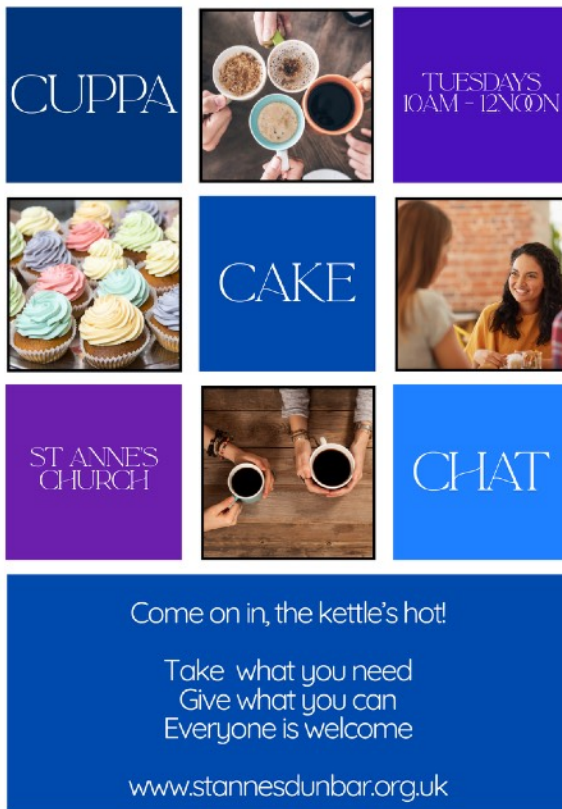
**Mondays at 10.30am
for tea/coffee
Discussion of the book
from 11-12.**

The next book we're reading is
'Leaving Bethany' by Susan Sutherland
available from
<https://leavingbethany.com/buy/>

(28 Sept to 23 Nov 2026)



'Walking with Angels' is this years Advent study book. The Advent study group will begin on Thursday 26th November and runs for 4 weeks. All are welcome. The book costs £10



St Anne's pantry on November 15th

Christmas puddings, cards, calendars and cakes for sale

Remembrance service is at 9:30 on November 8th

Please remember the change of start time

Advance notice

Talk by Tim Richards on Saturday 23rd January @ 3:00pm

Stained glass windows in East Lothian from an art history perspective

Tickets on the door £7.50

What's on elsewhere



Prayer Breakfasts

8:30-10am on the
Last Saturday of most months

31 October
Belhaven Stables

26 September
28 November
St Anne's Church



*continental breakfast
conversations & prayertime*



dacyp.org.uk



All welcome to attend
the Annual General Meeting of



7:30pm on
Thursday 19 November 2026
Bleachingfield Centre, Dunbar

followed by refreshments

for questions or to request papers, contact Alison:
dunbaryouthassistant@gmail.com



dacyp.org.uk



If you enjoy a really good sing, come along to our

‘Songs of Praise’

on Sunday 15th November at 2.30pm in Spott Church

* Favourite hymns, old & not-so-old *

* Refreshments *



BELHAVEN & SPOTT PARISH CHURCH

Readings and Rotas

Sunday 1st November (All Saints) Bishop Dagmar visiting

Revelation 7: 9-17, 1 John 1-3, Matthew 5: 1-12

Readings: Chris

Intercessions: Harriet

Chalice: Harriet

Organ: George

Sunday 8th November (Remembrance Sunday)

1 Corinthians 15:51-57, John 6: 37-40

Readings: Caitriona

Intercessions: Harriet

Chalice: Harriet

Organ: Brian

Sunday 15th November

Zephaniah 1: 7, 12-18, Matthew 25: 14-30

Readings: Robert

Intercessions: Mark

Chalice: Stuart

Organ: Brian

Sunday 22nd November (Christ the King)

Ephesians 1: 15-23, Matthew 25: 31-36

Readings: Stuart

Intercessions: Sharon

Chalice: Sharon

Organ: Diana

Sunday 29th November (Advent)

1 Corinthians 1: 3-9, Mark 13: 24-37

Readings: Brian

Intercessions: Robert

Chalice: Robert

Organ: Brian

All readings use the
New Revised
Standard Version of
the Bible

Services at St. Anne's

Sunday

10.30am - Holy Communion

Young Church every 1st and 3rd Sunday

Thursday

10.30am - Holy Communion followed by coffee and chat

12.00pm - Prayers at the Peace Pole



Rector: Revd. Harriet Johnston

email: rector@stannesdunbar.org.uk

Rest days Friday & Saturday

Useful Contacts

Vestry Secretary Pam Shields: secretary@stannesdunbar.org.uk

Treasurer Rab Shields: treasurer@stannesdunbar.org.uk

PVG Coordinator David Robertson

safeguarding@stannesdunbar.org.uk / 07737222832

Young Church Diana Greene:

youngchurch@stannesdunbar.org.uk

Event Bookings David Robins: events@stannesdunbar.org.uk

Organ Enquiries Brian Dale: organist@stannesdunbar.org.uk

Magazine (contributions) comms@stannesdunbar.org.uk

Please send Cairn contributions by the third Sunday of the month

Website Enquiries David Robertson:

Pastoral Care Enquiries

pastoralsupport@stannesdunbar.org.uk

Sharon Morgan 01368 864582 / Harriet Johnston 07511 876294

Find us on 

www.stannesdunbar.org.uk