



# *The* Cairn



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

## Trust in God: Our journey as a congregation

As we approach our AGM, it is a good time to reflect on the journey, we, as a congregation, have travelled since Diana advised us in January that she would be moving on to pastures new.

Change always carries a ripple of uncertainty, and many of us wondered what the coming months would hold. However, Diana's parting gift was the advice to: *"Trust in God."*



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At the time, it may have seemed like a simple farewell but, as the months have unfolded, those words have guided us whilst we discern God's will for our future.

## A period of listening

The first stage of the process required us to create our mission plan for the next five years. On paper, it sounded straightforward, but in practice it became something deeper: a time to ask, *who are we as a church? What is God calling us to become?*

The congregation met and Pam facilitated a discussion where we gathered everyone's aspirations for the future, identifying the following objectives:

- To retain the current form of worship whilst exploring new formats, including the music we use for worship,
- To be a community church for Dunbar,
- To develop the church as a centre for art and music,
- To expand our discipleship and fellowship programmes,
- To lead and host conversations on issues of peace and justice, offering a safe and active space for engagement and action.

That vision was refined by Vestry, endorsed by the congregation, and sent to the Bishop.

## A meeting of hearts

Through the Bishop's discernment, guided by the Holy Spirit, Harriet was matched with our profile. Harriet visited with her family to meet with Vestry, and following a formal interview it was agreed, without hesitation, that she was the right person for St Anne's – not only because she matched the profile, but because she resonated with our spirit as a congregation. Harriet, in turn, confirmed that she and her family felt both delighted and called to move to Dunbar as our new Rector.

## Trusting in the details

Of course, the journey isn't over yet. Harriet's official start date depends on the sale of the Rectory. These practical details can sometimes test our patience, but even here, it helps to reflect on Diana's advice to *trust in God*.



A conditional offer for the Rectory has been accepted, and a suitable property identified as a potential new Rectory. If all goes smoothly, Harriet and her family will join us in January 2026.

## Threads of grace

Looking back, it's remarkable to see the thread that runs through all this: the Holy Spirit's guidance. From the first prayerful conversations, through the discernment of the Bishop, to the warmth of Harriet's call, God's hand has been evident.

And so, we give thanks. Thanks for Diana's faithful ministry and for the wisdom of her parting words. Thanks for the Holy Spirit's presence among us, shaping our steps. Thanks for the promise of new beginnings with Harriet and her family.

We started with words of wisdom from Diana, and we end with Harriet's reassuring words for the future: *"With God's help I hope to enable St Anne's to grow both spiritually and numerically, to welcome and attract a new generation into the life of the church and serve the many needs of Dunbar and the surrounding area."*

**Rab Shields**



# We care about you!

## An update on data protection from Geoff

St Anne's vestry, the Scottish Episcopal Church and the Methodist Church all want to make as sure as possible that you are protected from harassment or abuse.

Anytime now, I will receive my new "*Directory of the Methodist Church*". The directory lists all the names, addresses and contact details of every Methodist minister in the UK. My 2024 directory will then be out of date. What to do with it? It doesn't just go in the recycling bin: old directories should be shredded.

A few years ago, a list of contacts from the place I used to live got into the wrong hands – my name was one of those on it. I still receive scam emails purporting to be from colleagues in that area!

As part of our care for each other, we need to ensure we don't let any contact details we have get into the wrong hands. Paper lists should be kept in a safe place and shredded when no longer needed. Digital lists should be password protected.

We also need to take care if we are asked for someone's contact details. We shouldn't share without seeking their permission first. A better alternative is to give the contact details of the person asking (with their permission) to the person whose details are being sought and let them make the contact if they wish.

We must remember that people may not want their contact details known to everyone – they may have very good reasons for this. Part of our caring for all is respecting a person's wishes for privacy.

The state recognises this right for privacy with the Data Protection Act: Church and State working to make us a caring people.

With my "safeguarding hat" on, handling contact details with care is part of our safeguarding work. Address details in the wrong hands can be misused to contact vulnerable people, young and old.

I now look forward to pulling my 2024 *Directory* to bits and feeding it through the shredder – but not until the new one arrives!



Rev'd Geoff Shutt

## KEEP UP WITH THE METHODIST NEWS!

Would you like to receive regular emails from the Methodist Circuit and District for Scotland (of which we are a part), with news of upcoming events and important information?

If you would like to receive regular emails from the Scotland Circuit, please email [communications@methodistchurchinscotland.net](mailto:communications@methodistchurchinscotland.net), including your name and email address.

# The Nicene Creed: An exploration

## 6. “... the only Son of God ...”

### Stuart continues his insights into our weekly proclamation

It may well be true to say that, of all the titles of Jesus, that of “Son of God” comes most automatically to our lips. And yet, it may also be true to say that, of all the titles of Jesus, this is the title of which the meaning is least clearly defined in our minds.

Jesus’s ministry began, continued and ended in astonishment. The astonishment was partly about what Jesus said and did, but even more importantly, it was about Jesus himself. It was when men and women were confronted with him that they were astounded and amazed.

So, here is the meaning of the title (all within 250 words!). In the Gospels, we have not yet reached the time of systematic theology. We are still in the time of immediate, personal reaction to Jesus Christ. Confronted with him, each man and each woman knew they were in the presence of one who:

- Was nearer to God than anyone they had ever seen or met before,
- Had the wisdom of God on his lips and the power of God in his hands, and
- In the most unique way, was for them the Way to God.

The instinctive reaction of each man and woman to Jesus was a feeling of wondering adoration ... remember Mary (of Martha and Mary fame)? No human categories could contain Jesus of Nazareth - so they called him the *Son of God*.

**Stuart Ritchie**



^^ *Cristo Redentor de los Andes*, erected in 1904 at 4,000 m altitude on the border of Argentina and Chile, to celebrate the peaceful resolution of a border conflict that brought both countries to the verge of a war. Image: Andy Stuardo L. via Wikimedia Commons



## The Way

**The topic for our recent quiet reflective morning was 'journeys', a word that can mean many things: everyday journeys, pilgrimages, life's journey, and more.**

While reflecting on this topic, I stumbled across the fact that the Jewish sect which would later be called Christianity was originally known as "The Way" by both followers and adversaries. A quote from Acts 9:2 serves as an illustration: "Saul went to the High Priest and asked him for letters to the synagogue in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem."

We are immediately reminded of John 14:6: "I am the way and the truth and the life." The people of the Way are those who have faith in he who *is* the Way – the Way is not a set of books, but the living Lord himself.

So, it's not surprising that Jesus didn't say, "sit down and study," but he often said, "come and see". His way is not about theory but about practical lived experience. It is as if he was saying: *I'm not going to tell you what this way is; see for yourself. Watch what I'm doing, watch how I am, what I say and what I point to.* I imagine you could learn more from watching Jesus eat a piece of fish than you could reading a hefty tome on doctrine!

And he also urged his disciples to follow him. Both externally – there is an enormous amount of travelling from place to place documented in the Gospels – but more importantly, follow him internally, by letting what they see and hear change, mould and transform them until they, indeed, become people of the Way.

What this means for us is for all of us to discern in our own hearts – always searching for the "marrow of the gospel", as St. Francis



called it. Each of us have our own gifts and temperament, our own ways to become people of *the Way*.

**Ursula Bauer**



Last month's Harvest Festival service – photos by Mike Harvey



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## Something definitely happened

By popular request, Rab Shields provides a brilliant sequel to *August's Nothing happened ...*

At exactly 8.12am the next day, something definitely happened.

Don't ask me what, because if you ask ten folk in Dunbar, you'll get twelve different answers. But there was definitely a shift. You could feel it in your bones.

Old Mike, down at the harbour, nodded sagely. "Aye," he said, "the tide suddenly rolled back further than it should have, like the sea had drawn in a deep breath ... and was holding it, watching and waiting."

Moira in the Co-op swore she heard waves crashing, not the gentle lap you get on the beach, but a full-on storm surge, thundering through the aisles, jars and cans dancing and rattling on the shelves. Customers froze, bracing for a rush of water to come bursting through the doors, and then, suddenly, it ceased, leaving a strange hush hanging in the air.

For a single second afterwards, the whole town seemed to hold its breath. No screeching gulls, no cars grinding up the High Street looking for parking spaces, no kids laughing and shouting on their way to school. Just stillness.

Then, all at once, everything carried on again, as if nothing had happened. The community baker's had the usual queue stretching into the street, the Co-op Costa machine was back to spitting brown froth, and some daft was trying to park a campervan in a space meant for a Toyota Aygo, causing chaos.

Normality once more ... or not!



By mid-morning, the ever-exaggerating stories were flying around, faster than the dive-bombing gulls.

A delivery driver swore he saw a streak of light over Belhaven Bay, far too fast to be a plane, it must have been a missile or supersonic drone. Someone in the Post Office queue claimed the war memorial clock struck thirteen, though nobody else heard it. By the time word reached the chemist, it had turned into the usual suspects from the day before, MI6, submarines and a new culprit in the CIA, or all three, depending on who you asked.

By mid-afternoon, Dunbar Banter was on fire. Half the keyboard warriors insisted nothing had happened and folk should stop

scaremongering. The other half swore blind that something had definitely happened: the earlier streak of light over Belhaven Bay had gained traction among "eyewitnesses" though most were anonymous posts so who could really believe them.

And now there was a new mystery being debated: a fishing boat, apparently seen drifting silently through the harbour without any crew.



Strangely but perhaps predictably, there were no phone pics to prove any of it.

Another anonymous post simply read, "It's started." Everyone was too afraid to ask Anon 365 what "it" was.

Come teatime, the pubs were split down the middle: the *Definitely Happened* team nodding and whispering over their pints, and the *Nothing Happened* crowd scoffing, "Away ye go, it's Dunbar, no' the X-Files."

And yet.

When the evening commuter train rolled in, twenty minutes late as usual, more than a few lingered in the doorway, toes hovering over the platform as if testing whether the ground was still solid before stepping down. For reasons they couldn't explain, they also knew something had definitely happened; the echo from that morning had somehow reached them too, twenty miles or more to the west, at their places of work, a faint, restless pulse from Dunbar still humming in the air around them, impossible to both ignore and explain.

So, something definitely happened that day. Everyone knows it, even the ones who say they don't.

Strangest of all, a week later and the gulls have gone quiet. Not vanished, just ... keeping their distance. And that's not like them, is it?

Try explaining that over a pint to the *Nothing Happened* crowd and you'll feel their eyes dart towards the High Street, just for a heartbeat, before they slowly look down at the floor.

**Rab Shields**



## Noticeboard

St Anne's, Dunbar

# Silent Reflective Mornings

*Reserve the dates in your diary: step aside from the busyness  
of life for time and space for quiet reflection*

Saturdays at 10.30am for an hour, followed by coffee &  
conversation:

4<sup>th</sup> October

1<sup>st</sup> November

6<sup>th</sup> December (extended session for Advent)

Contact for queries: Sharon Morgan 01368 864582



East Linton Community Hall

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October

10am-1pm

Even if you don't have anything to repair, pop in and say hello!

More info: <https://www.fixingforafuture.org/post/next-repair-caf%C3%A9-4th-october>

## Inspire Women's Group

Next meeting: Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 7.30pm

Aberford Villa, East Links Road, Dunbar EH42 1LT

Poetry evening - everyone is invited to bring along a poem that has significance for them.

For more information contact Chrissie Black (07799 607163) or Alison Murray (07823 469472).

*All women will be made most welcome*

## BELHAVEN & SPOTT PARISH CHURCH



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

**Ecumenical 'Autumn Songs of Praise'**

**on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October at 6.30pm**

**in Spott Church**

**\* Favourite hymns, old & new \***

**\* Refreshments \***

**All Welcome**



# EYE-WITNESS

## Stories from Israel and the West Bank

*Come and hear first-hand from Neil Irving, recently returned from the West Bank*

- *What is daily life under occupation really like?*
- *What can be done to promote a just peace in Israeli-occupied Palestine?*

2.30pm Saturday  
25th October 2025  
St Anne's Episcopal &  
Methodist Church  
Dunbar

**ALL WELCOME!**

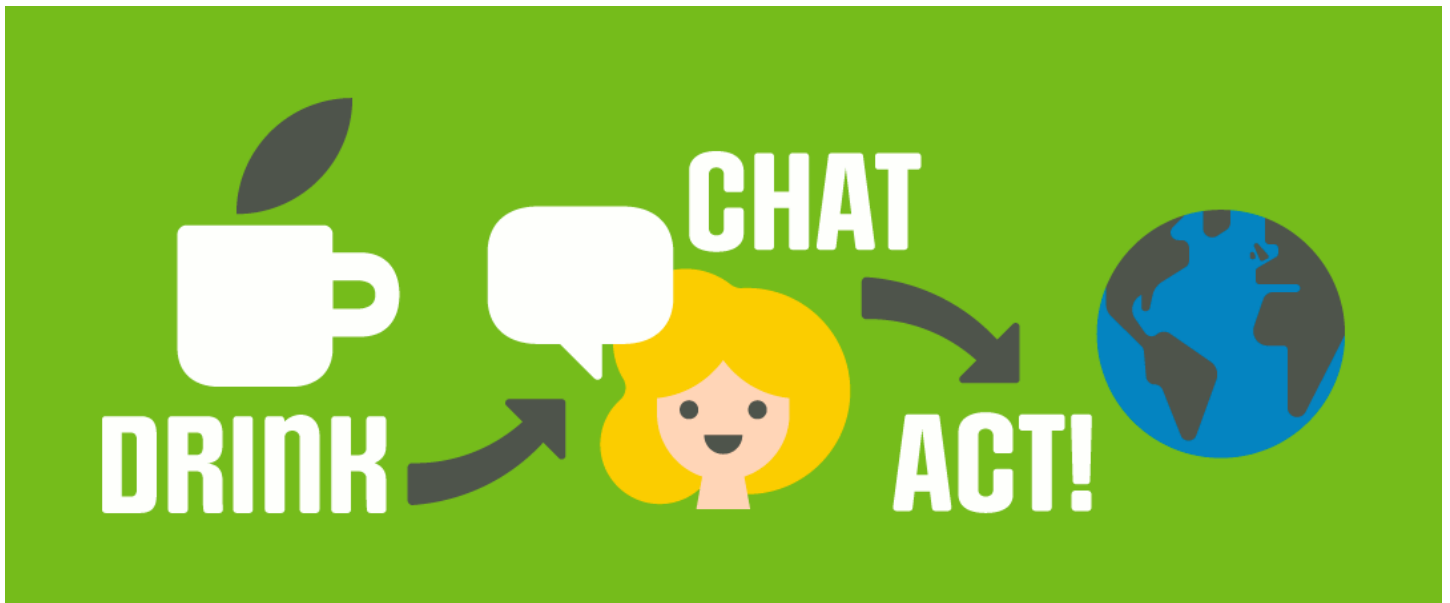
For more information about the  
programme please visit:

[www.eyewitnessblogs.com](http://www.eyewitnessblogs.com)



Ecumenical  
Accompaniment  
Programme  
in Palestine  
and Israel





Climate café is normally on the second Wednesday of the month - but this month only it will be on the *third* Wednesday

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October**

**12.30-14.00 at St Anne's Church**

An open, inclusive, café space for people to get together to talk, share concerns and plan climate action. Everyone welcome to join the conversation and get involved.

Share a simple lunch of soup (plant based) and bread. Optionally bring a cake/traybake to share. Donations welcome

More info: Mark 07914 602123 or [mark@sustainingdunbar.org](mailto:mark@sustainingdunbar.org)

**Important diary note:**

The Remembrance Sunday service on 9<sup>th</sup> November will be at the **earlier time of 9.45am** so that those who want to attend the war memorial at 11.00 can do so.



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## Readings and Rotas

### **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October**

2 Timothy 1:1-14, Luke 17:5-10

Readings: Brian

Intercessions: Noreen

Chalice: Noreen

Organ: Brian

### **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October**

2 Timothy 2:8-15, Luke 17:11-19

Readings: Mike

Intercessions: Sharon

Chalice: Sharon

Organ: Diana

### **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October**

2 Timothy 3:15-4:5, Luke 18:1-8

Readings: Alasdair

Intercessions: Mark

Chalice: Stuart

Organ: George

### **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October**

*With Young Church*

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18, Luke 18:9-14

Readings: David

Intercessions: Noreen

Chalice: Noreen

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 will meet during the service on 26<sup>th</sup> October*

### Thursday

10.30am - Holy Communion followed by coffee and chat

12.00pm - Prayers at the Peace Pole



## Useful Contacts

**Vestry Secretary** Pam Shields: [secretary@stannesdunbar.org.uk](mailto:secretary@stannesdunbar.org.uk)

**Treasurer** Rab Shields: [treasurer@stannesdunbar.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@stannesdunbar.org.uk)

**PVG Coordinator** Rev'd Geoff Shutt:  
[safeguarding@stannesdunbar.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@stannesdunbar.org.uk) / 07485 238663

**Young Church** Diana Greene:  
[youngchurch@stannesdunbar.org.uk](mailto:youngchurch@stannesdunbar.org.uk)

**Event Bookings** David Robins: [events@stannesdunbar.org.uk](mailto:events@stannesdunbar.org.uk)

**Organ Enquiries** Brian Dale: [organist@stannesdunbar.org.uk](mailto:organist@stannesdunbar.org.uk)

**Magazine (subscriptions and contributions) and Social Media** Alex Davey: [comms@stannesdunbar.org.uk](mailto:comms@stannesdunbar.org.uk)

*Please send Cairn contributions by the last Sunday of the month*

**Website Enquiries** David Robertson:  
[webmaster@stannes.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@stannes.org.uk)

## Pastoral Care Enquiries

Sharon Morgan [pastoralsupport@stannesdunbar.org.uk](mailto:pastoralsupport@stannesdunbar.org.uk) /  
01368 864582

Rev'd Anne Harvey 07860 181880

Find us on 

[www.stannesdunbar.org.uk](http://www.stannesdunbar.org.uk)

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