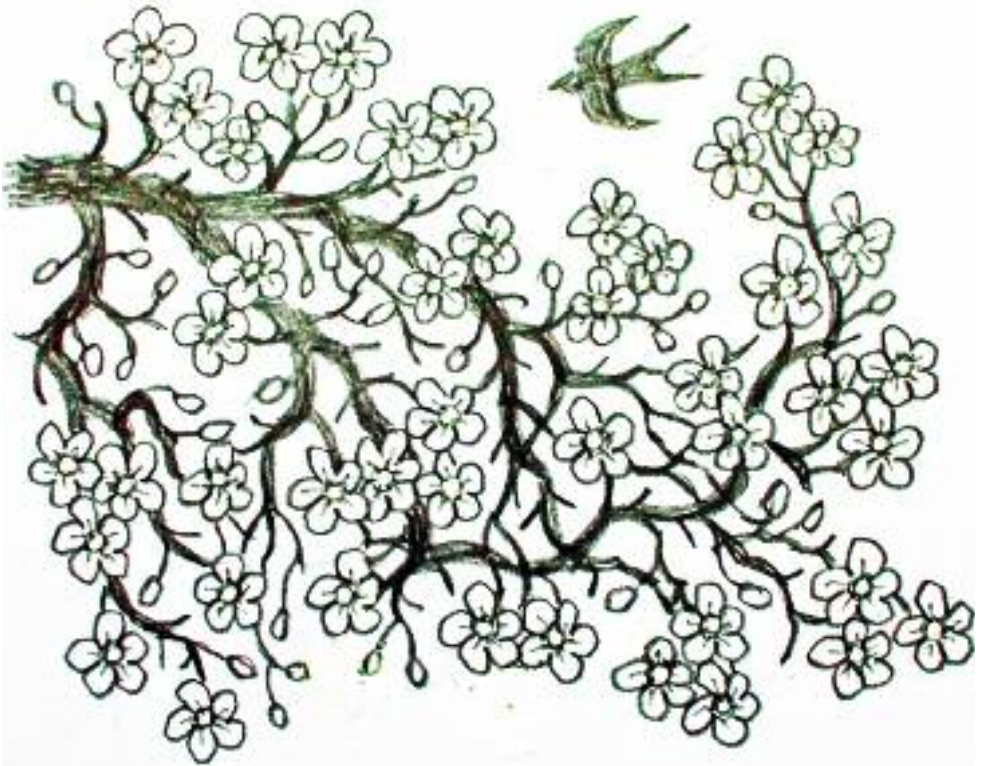




THE PARISH CHURCHES OF MAXTON & MERTOUN WITH NEWTOWN WITH ST BOSWELLS

United in serving God, by welcoming you,
sharing His love, and reaching out in service
to our community



Picture: John Martin

MARCH – MAY 2018 NEWSLETTER

WHO'S WHO IN THE CHARGE

Minister Rev Sheila W Moir, The Manse, Strae Brigs, St Boswells TD6 0DH
Tel: 822255 e-mail: SMoir@churchofscotland.org.uk

Maxton & Mertoun (Scottish Charity No: SC 013481)

Session Clerk Mr Douglas Scott, Stonewall Cottage, Main Street, Maxton TD6 0RL
Tel: 823392 e-mail: dandpscott@btinternet.com

Treasurer Mr Christopher Blunt, Tel: 824438
e-mail: blunty1000@btinternet.com

Gift Aid Treasurer Mrs Ann Smith, The Old Schoolhouse, St Boswells. Tel: 822239

Newtown (Scottish Charity No: SC 000575)

Session Clerk Mrs Winnie Milligan, 26 Glenburn Avenue, Newtown St Boswells
TD6 0QW; Tel: 823457 e-mail: winnieandsandy@tiscali.co.uk

Treasurer Mr Alan Smith, 22 Roxburghe Place, Newtown St Boswells TD6 0QH
Tel: 822288 e-mail: alansmithplanb@gmail.com

Gift Aid Treasurer Mrs Anne Smith, 22 Roxburghe Place, Newtown St Boswells TD6 0QH
Tel: 822288

St Boswells (Scottish Charity No: SC 010210)

Session Clerk Mrs Lucy Smith, Sunnybank, Main Street, St Boswells TD6 0AT; Tel: 822425

Deputy Session Clerk Mrs Mary Sargent, 9 Jean Lawrie Court, St Boswells TD6 0BF; Tel: 824261

Treasurer Mr Brian Evans, Alderwood, Main Street, St Boswells, TD6 0AP; Tel: 823031

Gift Aid Treasurer Mrs Lucy Smith, Sunnybank, Main Street, St Boswells TD6 0AT; Tel: 822425

Newsletter Editor Mr Blair Cummock, Wester Cottage, Mainhill, St Boswells TD6 0HG
Tel: 823166 e-mail: blair.cummock@iofc.org



<https://www.facebook.com/The-Parish-Churches-of-Maxton-Mertoun-with-Newtown-with-St-Boswells>

St Boswells Church hall & vestry bookings: Mrs Sandra Thomas, Tel: 01835 823518
Voluntary Hospital Transport Scheme: Mrs Ann Melrose Tel: 01835 822357

The Parish Churches of Maxton & Mertoun, Newtown & St Boswells take no responsibility for the advertisers in this newsletter, nor the services or goods offered by them.

HELLO FROM THE MANSE

It is hard to believe that spring is just around the corner as I type my letter from the Manse, as it is still February, but the snowdrops are in full flower. As Rosie and I have our daily walks it is just wonderful to know that the short dark days we have in winter are giving way to longer daylight hours. We are also heading into Lent, and will be in the middle of Lent when our newsletter drops through letter boxes at the beginning of March.

But looking back over our Christmas events though for a moment, there are some 'thank yous' I would like to make. On the Friday before Christmas a number of people, for the first time, took part in Carol Singing around the charge, beginning at Milestone and ending at the Dryburgh Abbey Hotel, where we also went back on Christmas Eve, between singing round the Christmas Tree in Newtown and our Watchnight Service in St Boswells. All of these events would not have been possible without the support of the people who came along, including St Boswells Band who played for us on the Friday, and the people who donated so generously to the Presbytery Malawi Midwife Project. Young people and their parents in our charge who go along to the Wobbly Mile Club on a Friday raised money for the project too at their Christmas Run. So thank you everyone who made it possible and all who contributed in any way.

Lent, like Advent, is a time of preparation, but unlike Advent there is less focus perhaps on what happens. The birth of Jesus is what some might think of as a feel good story – a young woman giving birth to her first child, and the feeling that it invokes. But the journey of Lent is also about a birth. The Easter story is about new life and a second chance for all, whether you regard yourself as a Christian or someone who is seeking: a chance to be born again in Christ, accepting Christ into one's life and heart to be reborn in the Spirit. One of my favourite Bible stories is found in the Gospel of John at Chapter 4 from verse 7, where Jesus meets a woman who has come to the village well to draw water at a time when she thought she would not meet anyone else. She meets Jesus who asks her for a drink, then goes on to say that he can offer her living water, which would mean that one would never be thirsty again; as in verse 14: 'but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never again be thirsty, The water that I shall give will be a spring of water within him, welling up and bringing eternal life.' Christ dying on the cross and rising on Easter Sunday fulfilled that promise of life giving water.

Shalom Rev Sheila

SUNDAY SERVICES: MARCH – MAY 2018

	Newtown	Maxton/Mertoun	St Boswells
4 March <i>3rd Sunday in Lent</i>	9.30am	Mertoun 9.30am	10.45am <i>Coffee after service</i> see below**
11 March <i>4th Sunday in Lent</i>	9.30am	Maxton 9.30am <i>Communion</i>	10.45am
18 March <i>5th Sunday in Lent</i>	9.30am	Mertoun 9.30am	10.45am
25 March <i>Palm Sunday</i>	5pm <i>Stated Annual Meeting</i> <i>Coffee after service</i> see below**	Maxton 9.30am <i>Coffee after service</i> see below**	10.45am <i>Stated Annual Meeting</i> <i>Coffee after service</i> see below**
	Holy Week Services - see opposite		
1 April <i>Easter Day</i>	9.30am	Mertoun 9.30am	10.45am
8 April	9.30am	Maxton 9.30am	10.45am
15 April	9.30am	Mertoun 9.30am	10.45am
22 April	5pm <i>Coffee after service</i> see below**	Maxton 9.30am <i>Stated Annual Meeting</i> <i>Coffee after service</i> see below**	10.45am
29 April	United Communion Service Newtown 10.30am		
6 May	9.30am	Mertoun 9.30am	10.45am <i>Coffee after service</i> see below**
13 May <i>Christian Aid Week</i>	9.30am <i>Communion</i>	Maxton 9.30am	10.45am
20 May <i>General Assembly</i>	9.30am	Mertoun 9.30am	10.45am <i>Communion</i>
27 May	5pm <i>Coffee after service</i> see below**	Maxton 9.30am <i>Coffee after service</i> see below**	10.45am
	** You are invited to make a small monetary donation for coffee in support of The Vine Trust project 'Build a House in Tanzania'		

Services for Easter

Thursday 29 March – Maundy Thursday

Informal 'Supper in the Upper Room'

Service of Communion

St Boswells Church Hall 7pm

Friday 30 March – Good Friday

Service of contemplation and reflection

Mertoun Kirk 7pm

Sunday 1 April – Easter Sunday

Christ is Risen, Hallelujah!

Greet this wonderful new day, sharing in worship, praise & prayer

Ecumenical Service – Dryburgh Abbey – 7am

(No access through Dryburgh Abbey Hotel car park)

Offering in aid of Borders Samaritans, SC009843

Easter Morning Breakfast – St Boswells Church Hall

following the Dryburgh service.

Please make a generous donation to cover the cost of
breakfast rolls and coffee.

Profits in aid of Borders Samaritans, SC009843

Family Services

Come along with your decorated egg and/or Easter Bonnet.

Prizes for age groups 0-5, 6-12,12 and over:

Mertoun Kirk 9.30am

Newtown Church 9.30am

St Boswells Church 10.45am

Monday 2 April – Easter Monday

Messy Easter – St Boswells Church Hall 2 - 4pm

(see page 15)



Schools' End of Term Services

Thursday 29 March - Newtown School in school 9.15am

- St Boswells School in St Boswells Church 1.15pm

Families and friends are welcome at both services

WHAT'S ON MARCH:

Worship on Wednesday 7 March,
St Boswells Church Hall, 10am.

Thursday 8 March: **Meeting of St Boswells Guild:** Project and Guest Afternoon 'All Friends Together', and Sales Table, Church Hall, 2.30pm.

Sunday 11 March: **Communion, Maxton Kirk**, 9.30am

Thursday 15 March: **Newtown Hour of Praise**, Newtown Community Wing, 2pm.

Worship on Wednesday 21 March,
St Boswells Church Hall, 10am.

Thursday 22 March: **St Boswells Guild AGM:** Church Hall, 2.30pm.

Saturday 24 March: **Newtown Church Coffee Morning**, Community Wing, 10am. Usual stalls.

Sunday 25 March: **St Boswells Church Stated Annual Meeting**, after 10.45am worship.

Sunday 25 March: **Newtown Church Stated Annual Meeting**, after 5pm worship.

Thursday 29 March: **Maundy Thursday**, United Worship, 'Supper in the Room' St Boswells Church Hall, 7pm.

Friday 30 March: **Good Friday**, United Worship, Mertoun Kirk 7pm.

WHAT'S ON APRIL

Sunday 1 April: **Easter Sunday**, Ecumenical worship Dryburgh Abbey, 7am, followed by breakfast in St Boswells Church Hall. Normal morning worship times.

Monday 2 April: **Messy Easter**,
St Boswells Church Hall, 2–4pm.
See page 15

Tuesday 10 April: **Joint Meeting of Kirk Sessions**, St Boswells Church Hall, 7pm.

Saturday 14 April: **St Boswells Church Coffee Morning**, Church Hall, 10am.

Worship on Wednesday 18 April,
St Boswells Church Hall, 10am

Thursday 19 April: **Newtown Hour of Praise**, Newtown Community Wing, 2pm.

Sunday 22 April: **Maxton & Mertoun Stated Annual Meeting**, after 9.30am worship in Maxton.

Sunday 29 April: **United Worship**, with Holy Communion, Newtown Church, 10.30am.

WHAT'S ON MAY:

Worship on Wednesday 2 May,
St Boswells Church Hall, 10am

Monday 7 May: **Editorial deadline** for June/July/August Newsletter

Tuesday 8 May: **Meeting of St Boswells Kirk Session**, Vestry, 7pm.

Wednesday 9 May: **Meeting of Maxton & Mertoun Kirk Session**, Mertoun Kirk, 7pm.

Thursday 10 May: **Meeting of Newtown Kirk Session**, Vestry, 7pm.

Sunday 13 May: **Communion, Newtown Church**, 9.30am

Worship on Wednesday 16 May, St Boswells Church Hall, 10am.

Thursday 17 May: Newtown Hour of Praise, Newtown Community Wing, 2pm.

Sunday 20 May: **Communion, St Boswells Church** 10.45am

WEEKLY:

Mondays: **Art Group**, St Boswells Church Hall, 2 - 4pm.

Wednesdays: **Craft Group**, St Boswells Church Hall, 1.30 - 3.30pm.

Wednesdays: **Come & Sing, All-Age, All Ability Choir**, Newtown Community Wing, children 6pm, adults from 6.30pm. See page 13

Wednesdays from 14 February during Lent: **Alpha Course** – a journey through Lent, the Manse, St Boswells, 7.30pm. See page 16

Thursdays: **Praying Together**, St Boswells Vestry, 6.30pm.

Thursdays: **IMPACT** After School, for primary school children, St Boswells School, 3.15 - 4.15pm. Last 22 March.

Fridays: **Lunch Club**, St Boswells Church Hall, noon - 1.30pm; Repeat Prescription Forms for Newtown Surgery may be left in the box inside Lunch Club; Borders Churches Emergency Foodbank: donations.

Maxton & Mertoun, Newtown and St Boswells Churches

CONGREGATIONAL STATED ANNUAL MEETINGS

The Stated Annual Meetings of each congregation will take place after worship as follows:

St Boswells Church
Sunday 25 March, 10.45am

Newtown Church
Sunday 25 March, 5pm

Maxton & Mertoun Maxton Kirk
Sunday 22 April, 9.30am

Heart & Soul 2018
celebrating the life of a church
Sunday 20 May

This great Church of Scotland event in Princes Street Gardens will have a particular focus on children and young people. There will be a Family Village with stage events, a family picnic area and lots going on. Do plan to come!

Clean up Scotland - St Boswells Village

Saturday 7 April 2018 10.00am to
12.00noon

Meet at St Boswells Bus Station

Wear suitable clothes/gloves

Children must be supervised

Contact Ralph Parker for details:

01835 822528



Extend Exercise Class for the over 60's

Tuesdays 9.15-10.15 am
St Boswells Church Hall
in school term time

For more information call
Amanda 07712 587 516.

Hooray!!! We have built ONE House

In 2015, our congregations pledged to raise within 3 years, the £3700, required to fund the building of one family home

Thanks to the generous support of our communities, we have raised £4174, as at 31st

December 2017, well ahead of our 3 year target!
Fund raising will continue until the end of August.



Praying Together

What is Praying Together? A time of quiet reflective prayer, listening for the voice of God as revealed in the Scriptures.

What happens? We begin by reading a Bible passage slowly, then silently reflect on those words within it which speak to each of us the most, to allow the Holy Spirit to reveal God to us as individuals.

We then spend time in silent personal prayer and rest in God's presence. We finish with the opportunity to share what God has said to us (but there is no obligation to do this)

Why do we do this? By praying in this way, we learn to listen to God's voice in our lives and allow Him to guide us.

All are welcome to join us. Come along and give it a try!
St Boswells Church Vestry Thursdays 6.30pm



A FOND FAREWELL – AND A WELCOME

At the united service at Newtown on Christmas Day, we said farewell to Jamie McKenzie who has been organist at Newtown since May 2016. Jamie was presented with a clock and a card on behalf of the congregation and Rev Moir wished him every success and happiness as he moves from the Borders. Although we were very sad to see Jamie go, we have been very pleased at Newtown to welcome Derek Reid back as our organist. We are also very fortunate that Derek has volunteered to play the piano for our Hour of Praise services and he is also leader of our new community choir 'Come and Sing!'



Jamie receiving his parting gift.

NEWTOWN: BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

On Sunday 17th June at 2 p.m. we shall hold a special service of celebration to mark the 150th anniversary of the opening of the present church building. We look forward to welcoming members past and present at that service, which will be followed by a time of fellowship and hospitality. As advertised in the last newsletter, we are hoping to stage a display of christening robes and wedding dresses which have been worn at celebrations in our building. We would also welcome any photographs. If you have something which you would like to share in the display, please contact Winnie Milligan (01835 823457 or by e-mail winnieandsandy@tiscali.co.uk) as soon as possible.



NEWTOWN CHURCH

*Coffee
Morning*



Saturday
24th March

In Newtown Community Wing
from 10 a.m. Usual stalls

SALE!

Pale blue cotton, gusseted,
long handled shopping
bags, depicting all four Churches.



**Price reduced while stock remains
Last chance to buy**

Now £2

Available at Church events and from:
Maxton & Mertoun: Kathleen Bertram 23781
Newtown: Winnie Milligan 01835 823457

a Look Back

As we all look forward to spring flowers, warm sunshine and longer days, let's take a look back at events within the Charge over the last three months.

St Boswells and Newtown Churches held their traditional annual Christmas Fairs during November and, as always, the local community was very supportive. These are our main fund raising events of the year and their success in raising £1302 and £1275 respectively was greatly appreciated. Also in November, we celebrated St Andrew's Day with a united evening communion service in St Boswells Church.

At the start of Advent, a traditional Christmas lunch was enjoyed in St Boswells Church Hall and raised £541 for church funds. That evening the annual service of Lessons and Carols in Newtown Church, this year featuring music from St Boswells Band, was enjoyed. The contribution from Newtown Primary School pupils who read the lessons and sang in the choir was greatly appreciated by the congregation.

On 22nd December, a group of carol singers from all parts of the Charge, accompanied by St Boswells Band, visited various venues within the community where they received a warm welcome and very generous donations to the chosen charity which was Midwife Training in Malawi. The carol singers were even invited back to Dryburgh Abbey Hotel on Christmas Eve to entertain the guests who were there to celebrate Christmas .

On Christmas Eve, around 60 excited children and their families arrived at St Boswells Church Hall to make Christingles which were then carefully transported across to the church for an impromptu nativity play. There was more carol singing round the Christmas Tree at Newtown in the early evening, again accompanied by St Boswells Band. Later that evening, a united Watchnight Service was held in St Boswells Church, where we were pleased to welcome some of the guests staying at Dryburgh Abbey Hotel.

On Christmas Day, a united family service at Newtown saw some of the children showing, and demonstrating, gifts they had received. Due to very generous donations received at the carol singing, from the participants in the Wobbly Mile at St Boswells and at our special services the wonderful



total of £764 was raised for Midwife Training in Malawi.

Later on Christmas Day, an invitation was extended to everyone to meet in St Boswells Church Hall for soup and mince pies.

On the first Sunday in January a united Café Church was held in St Boswells Church Hall. This new venture – a different and more relaxed way of worshipping - was well attended and greatly enjoyed by all who came along.



After all the festivities were over, we looked forward to the annual Ceilidh Dance. This year, it was held on the snowiest week of the winter so far. Despite the heavy snow on the Friday afternoon, around 60 hardy and enthusiastic dancers gathered to enjoy the wonderful music of Neil Hardie's band. The profit of £670.50 was shared equally between the three congregations in the Charge.



The last event in February, St Boswells Church first Coffee morning of the year on the 10th, raised £339.30.

We never take for granted, and are always grateful for, the generous support we receive from the community.

ST BOSWELLS PARISH CHURCH

Thank you to everyone, members of the Church and members of the Community, who responded to our appeal for support of our Church's finances last autumn.

To date there has been an encouraging response which has contributed to a reduction in our projected deficit for 2018. We are not in a position to be

complacent and continue to value further commitments.

If you wish to make arrangements for regular giving to the Church please

contact Lucy Smith (Session Clerk & Gift Aid Treasurer) Sunnybank, Main Street, St Boswells, TD6 0AT.

Tel: 01835 822425

email: lucyasmith49@gmail.com



CAFÉ THURSDAY IS COMING BACK!

But we need your help!

Last year we ran Café Thursday over four weeks of the summer holidays in the Church hall to help people keep in touch when other groups have stopped for the summer break. This was reckoned to be a success so this coming summer we want to operate on every Thursday in the Summer holidays. It is open to all ages and there will be activities for children. Could you help? We are looking for people to make tea/coffee and to welcome visitors. We



do not expect you to be there every week – two or three sessions would be great and we can operate a rota.

Please contact Sandra Thomas if you would like to offer help - tel no 01835 823518.

Thank you

Mission and Outreach group.



Last year around £2500 was raised with house to house collections within the Charge.

Our team of collectors hope to do as well, if not better, this year. If you feel you could help to collect in a street or a small area of the parishes, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact

Margo and Alec Harper Phone: 823623, e-mail: alecharper40@outlook.com (St Boswells)

George Luke, Phone: 823631, e-mail: george@galuke.plus.com (Newtown)

Lynn Bruce, Phone 01573 224470 e-mail: elaine64bruce@btinternet.com (Maxton & Mertoun)



Join us on our annual sponsored walk and cross one of Scotland's most iconic structures, the Forth Road Bridge. This magnificent three mile round trip will give impressive views and let you admire the new Queensferry Crossing.

Over more than 45 years, Christian Aid supporters have raised hundreds of thousands of pounds from taking on this challenge. You can join us and run multiple crossings, wear red for Christian Aid or wear fancy dress to help us celebrate!

Register now! Once you have signed up, don't forget to set up a JustGiving page in just a few clicks. If you would like any fundraising resources, don't hesitate to get in touch with our Events Fundraising Officer, Lucy Kirkland.

Forth Bridge Cross Sponsored Walk

Saturday, 28 April 2018 – 2.00pm
Starting point: South side of Forth Road Bridge, FETA offices.



Call for Contributions to Female Ministry Celebration

An appeal has been issued for contributions to next year's celebration of the 50th anniversary of women being admitted to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in the Church of Scotland.

The project has been launched by New College and Edinburgh University Centre for Theology and Public Issues, supported by the Church of Scotland's Ministries Council;



and it will include an exhibition, conference, act of worship, events and publications.

Project co-ordinator, Dr Lesley Orr, says: 'We hope to celebrate all the gifts and blessings that diverse women have brought through their faithful ministries over the past

fifty years. But we also want to reflect on some of the wider themes and challenges of equal ministry and gender justice for church and society as we consider the current situation and look to the future.

'We want to ensure that our research is firmly grounded in the sources and materials of those who have been involved (as ministers, relations, congregational members, colleagues...) in the unfolding story.

'We would love to gather recollections and reflections of the past fifty years and more – particularly but not only of the early pioneers. We also hope to gather images and artefacts for the exhibition.'


Anyone interested in contributing to any aspect of the project can contact Dr Orr by the end of March 2018, on lesley.orr@ed.ac.uk or CTPI, New College, Mound Place, Edinburgh EH1 2LX.

Newtown Parish Church

Come & Sing

All-Age, All-Ability Choir

Bringing Joy to Our Community





Choir Leader: Derek Reid

Wednesday Evenings
Newtown Community Wing

Children only from 6.00pm
Adults from 6.30 – 7.30pm

Admission Free

Project funded by The Church of Scotland Go For It Fund.
For further information contact:
Rachel Wilson, Assistant Minister 07801913348

PRAYER

'Turn your eyes upon JESUS...'
HHL



All eyes turned to watch HIM as HE crossed the room. It was like that wherever HE went. To be near HIM was to begin to see more clearly. To be near HIM, was to experience a love that was unconditional and unending in its possibilities. HE was the source of wisdom, the beginning of understanding. In HIM lay their hopes and their dreams. HE knew them better than they knew themselves. Wherever HE went, they could see HIM with their eyes, they could touch HIM with their hands, they could hear the words HE spoke to them and the way HE spoke and the expression in HIS eyes when HE spoke to them. They could see the hands that reached out to heal.

We can't.

Even when HIS physical body was dying in great pain, they came and watched and one who also was dying in great pain next to HIM, turned in recognition and hope to HIM and heard words from HIS lips of love and ultimate fulfillment, 'This day thou shalt be with ME in Paradise.'

We could not see this.

But now, we have the glory of unlimited access to HIM at any time, in any place, in any condition. Nothing is a barrier to HIS Presence; not geography, nor time, nor weakness, nor sin. HE removed every barrier and won that access for us, for without HIM we are lost.

HE went to HIS Father in the morning and in the evening while HE was on earth. In love and grace He waits now for us.

What draws you to HIM? Is it love, or need, or both?

*'Turn your eyes upon JESUS. Look full in HIS wonderful Face
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
In the light of HIS Glory and Grace.*

*HIS Word shall not fail you, HE promised
Believe HIM and all will be well. Then go to a world that is dying,
HIS perfect salvation to tell.*

*Turn your eyes upon JESUS. Look full in HIS wonderful Face.
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
In the light of HIS Glory and Grace.*

(Words and music by Helen H. Lemmel)

Rev Winnie Munson



ST BOSWELLS GUILD NEWS

On 9th November 2017 Mr David Frew talked to us about walking to Santiago de Compostella. He spoke about the significance of the walk, and the many interesting people he met on the walk.

Mr Philip Grant came on 23rd November and told us about his time as a pilot both in the RAF and with British Airways

We ended 2017 with our party at which Mrs Priscilla Scott and friends sang some Gaelic hymns and carols accompanied on the clarsach. Mrs Scott also told us the story of St. Brighde and recollections of her childhood.

We recommenced January 11th 2018 when Rev Winnie Munson introduced a video on the Lord's Prayer, aided by Billy McClelland with the projector.

On 25th January Mr John Roberts and his friend Wendy brought along their Hearing Dogs for Deaf People and told us of the work and training of their dogs. They demonstrated some of the ways they helped their owners.

On 8th February, Mrs Ann Smith gave an illustrated talk on her recent visit to the Holy Land.

On Friday 2nd March a World Day of Prayer service will be held in St Cuthbert's Catholic Church in Melrose. All will be welcome.

St Boswells Parish Church

invites you and your family to



Messy Easter

Food



St Boswells Church Hall
Monday 2nd April 2018
2.00-4.00
(includes snack time)



A different way of experiencing church for all ages through Creativity, Celebration and sharing food. (Children must be accompanied by an adult)

Further info: Rev Shelia Moir 822255 smoir@churchofscotland.org

St Boswells Church Rest Charley No 1000000



What is Alpha?

Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith, typically run over eleven weeks. Each talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. Alpha is run all around the globe, and everyone is welcome. It runs in cafés, churches, universities, homes – you name it. No two Alphas look the same, but generally they have three key things in common: food, a talk and good conversation.

First up there's

Food - Whether it's a group of friends gathered around a kitchen table, or a quick catch up over coffee and cake, food has a way of bringing people together. It's no different at Alpha. Most sessions start with food, because it's a great way to build community and get to know each other.

Then a

Talk - The talks are designed to engage and inspire conversation. Usually around thirty minutes long, they can be given as a live talk or played as a video. They explore the big issues around faith and unpack the basics of Christianity, addressing questions from: Who is Jesus? and How can we have faith? to Why and how do I pray? and How does God guide us?

Followed by

Discussion - Probably the most important part of any Alpha: the chance to share thoughts and ideas on the topic, and simply discuss it in a small group. There's no obligation to say anything and there's nothing you can't say (seriously). It's an opportunity to hear from others and contribute your own perspective in an honest, friendly and open environment.

You are invited to come along to the Manse on Wednesday evenings from 14th February 2018 on a journey through Lent and Easter exploring our Christian faith through an Alpha Course.

**ST BOSWELLS
CHURCH**

*Coffee
Morning*



Saturday 14th April

In the Church Hall from 10 a.m. Usual stalls
– cakes, books, Bric-a-brac.

All contributions greatly appreciated

Poppies

In November 2018 we shall remember and mark the ending of the First World War 100 years ago. As part of this commemoration, we plan to set up displays of poppies at all four churches in the charge. Already quite a number of



people are busy knitting or crocheting poppies to form the display. If you would like to take part, there are patterns available in all churches, or contact Winnie Milligan (01835 823457). If you do not knit or crochet, but want to be involved, perhaps you would like to make a small donation towards the cost of wool or canes to form the 'stems' of the poppies.

Volunteer Befrienders

We need you



We are now recruiting for a new befriending service for people living with dementia in the Borders.

As a befriender, you can help to make a real difference to the lives of people living with dementia in the following ways:

- Provide companionship
- Boost people's confidence and self esteem
- Motivate people to take up hobbies and interests again
- Encourage people to take part in local groups and activities



No experience necessary as full training and support will be given.

For more details please contact the Coordinator:
Jacqui Ramage, Volunteer Coordinator, 07733 313393,
jramage@alzscot.org



This work is supported with funding from the People's Postcode Lottery

ALZHEIMER SCOTLAND - ACTION ON DEMENTIA is a charity registered in Scotland, number SC14963. Registered office: 111 Loche Road, Edinburgh, E15 1JL. Tel: 020 262 5442. www.alzscot.org

Shimmer

Hair Studio

01835 823888

Your one stop shop
for all your
Hair & Beauty Essentials

68 Main Street
St. Boswells
TD8 0AP

Linda Sinclair

BSc, Pod. Med. - HC Registered

PODIATRIST / CHIROPODIST

Tel: 01835 822632

Web: 07708 336 977



WWW.BORDERSFOOTCARE.COM

LIFE EVENTS IN OUR CHARGE AND SERVICES ON BEHALF OF OTHERS

Funerals: 'In Life, in Death, O Lord, Abide with me'

In Remembrance.....

21st November 2017: Mr Edward Stuart Burnett, Edinburgh. Service held at The Borders Crematorium on Tuesday 5th December 2017.

23rd November 2017: Mr Thomas (Tommy) Baxter, Newtown, Service held in Newtown Church with interment at Wairds Cemetery on Friday 1st December 2017

7th December 2017: Miss Fiona MacDonald, Chichester and St Boswells. Service held in St Boswells Parish Church with interment at Benrig on Friday 29th December 2017, conducted by the family Pastor, Alistair Noble.

20th December 2017: Mrs Margaret Douglas, St Boswells. Service held at The Borders Crematorium on Friday 29th December 2017.

19th January 2018: Mrs Jessie Lacuder, Galashiels Nursing Home, formally St Boswells. Service held in Browns Service Rooms with interment at Wairds Cemetery on Friday 26th January 2018.

27th January 2018: Mr Alexander (Alec) Wilson, Galashiels Nursing home, formally St Boswells. Service held at The Borders Crematorium on Tuesday 6th February 2018.

25th January 2018: Mrs Margaret Douglas, St Boswells. Private Service held at Benrig on Thursday 8th February 2018.

31st January 2018: Mrs Ruth Hood, St Boswells. Service held at The Borders Crematorium on Monday 12th February 2018.

Marriages U2R1

Captain Abigail Jane Russ and Captain David Frances Hamilton, Edinburgh, in St Boswells Parish Church on Saturday 9th December 2017. Conducted by Captain Russ' corps chaplain Rev Clive J Larrett and assisted by the minister.



St Boswells Church Flowers

March 4	
March 11	Mairi Campbell
March 18	Joan Stewart
March 25	Dorothy Inglis
April 1	
April 8	Margaret Smith
April 15	Margot Harper
April 22	
April 29	(Newtown)
May 6	Sheila Scott
May 13	Lucy Smith
May 20	Joan Stewart
May 27	

MATERIAL FOR THE JUNE, JULY, AUGUST NEWSLETTER

Monday 7th May

is the deadline for submission of material. It should be given or sent, preferably by e-mail, to the editor, Blair Cummock, at the address on page 2.