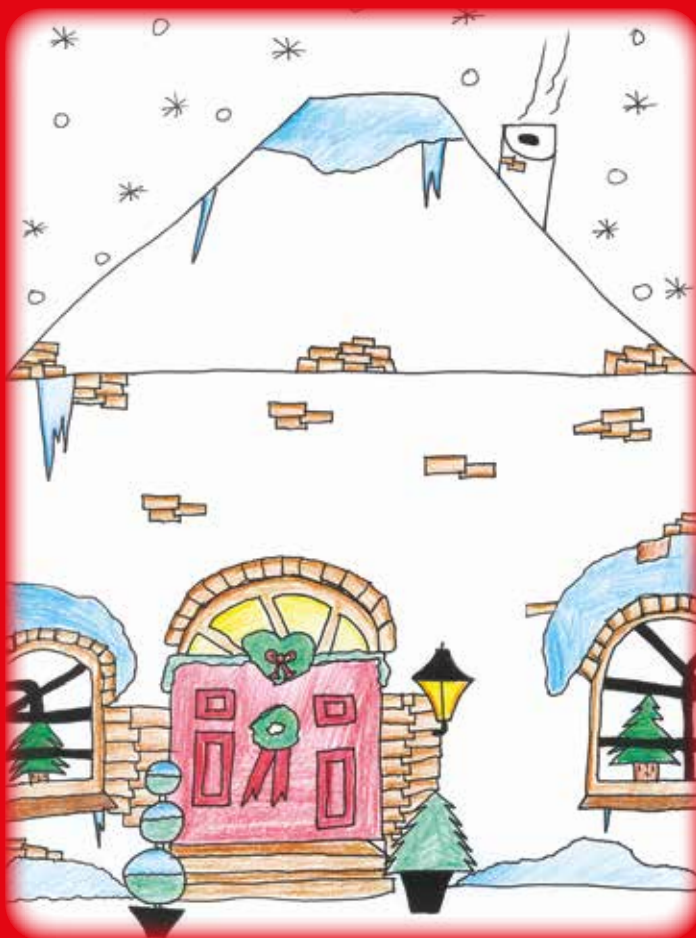


# DRYBURGH DISTRICT CHURCHES

(Church of Scotland) SC010210

**Maxton, Mertoun, Newtown & St Boswells**



Picture by Holly Cunningham, P7 Newtown Primary School

**DECEMBER 2022 – FEBRUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER**

# WHO'S WHO IN THE CHARGE

<b>Minister</b>	Rev Sheila W Moir, The Manse, Strae Brigs, St Boswells TD6 0DH Tel: 01835 822255 E-mail: SMoir@churchofscotland.org.uk
<b>Website</b>	www.dryburghdistrictchurches.org <b>Contact</b> Web4churches@gmail.com
	 <a href="https://www.facebook.com/Dryburgh-District-Churches-Maxton-Mertoun-Newtown-St-Boswells">https://www.facebook.com/Dryburgh District Churches: Maxton, Mertoun, Newtown, St Boswells</a>
<b>Session Clerks</b>	Mrs Winnie Milligan, 26 Glenburn Avenue, Newtown St Boswells, TD6 0QW Tel: 01835 823457 E-mail: winnieandsandym@gmail.com Mrs Lucy Smith, Sunnybank, Main Street, St Boswells TD6 0AT Tel: 01835 822425
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mr Brian Evans, Alderwood, Main Street, St Boswells TD6 0AP Tel: 01835 823031
<b>Gift Aid Treasurer</b>	Mrs Lucy Smith, Sunnybank, Main Street, St Boswells TD6 0AT Tel: 01835 822425

Please submit material for the **March – May 2023 Newsletter** to Lucy Smith: editornewsletter24@gmail.com by **Friday 27th January** at the latest.

**St Boswells Church Hall & Vestry bookings:** Mrs Sandra Thomas, Tel: 01835 823518

## THANK YOU TO:

- \* everyone who has supported our recent fund raising events: **Border Towns & Villages Quiz (£46); Yard Sale (£255); September & October Coffee Mornings (£353 and £275 respectively)**
- \* those who filled 24 shoeboxes for the **Blythswood Appeal**, together with cash donations and four boxes of knitted goods and shoebox fillers
- \* **John Martin** (who is having a well-earned rest this time, thanks to the school children) for his wonderful cover pictures for our Newsletters
- \* everyone who has helped with the construction of the **Nativity Scene** in St Boswells Church grounds and all those who decorate our **Christmas trees and churches**
- \* the wonderful volunteers who keep our **church grounds and gardens** tidy and free of autumn leaves and twigs!
- \* our faithful **Newsletter delivery teams** who pop each issue through your door
- \* and **anyone missed** from this list who gives us support to continue our worship in our community

*Dryburgh District Churches take no responsibility for the advertisers in this newsletter, nor the services or goods offered by them.*

# HELLO FROM THE MANSE

I have been reflecting and pondering recently about the kind of Christmas this year will bring. The weather, as I write, is so changeable, with a lot of wind. The leaves falling from the branches gather together, almost in a huddle, as if trying to keep warm. This had me wondering about how many of us are going to keep warm this winter and enjoy the kind of Christmas we would like.



My thoughts then wandered, as they do, to that first Christmas, as I begin the preparation of the various worship services we have here at Dryburgh District Churches. I am getting excited, as they are my favourite services (apart from Easter and everything in-between). Christmas does, however, seem to capture our attention more, perhaps because we love seeing the faces of excited children as they open presents and the feeling of warmth and love that we hopefully feel in our hearts as we look on. One of the many events I am excited about, is being back in our primary schools and seeing how the young people in our communities interpret the Christmas story. This is always a delight and a credit to them and to their dedicated teachers.

But back to that first Christmas – the birth of Jesus was at a time where life was not easy either. Herod had issued a decree that everyone needed to go to their place of birth to be counted. At least when we have a Census in our country we're not asked to do that! So, Joseph and his heavily pregnant wife to be, had to make the journey from Nazareth, which is in Galilee, to Bethlehem in Judea. Today that would not be too difficult, but back then it was. When they got to Bethlehem, there was nowhere for them to stay. All the inns were full, so a draughty stable, full of animals, was all they could find, the surroundings cold and miserable by today's standards.

It was in this environment that God's gift, the greatest gift that I, as a Christian, treasure, is that Jesus, my Saviour of the world, was born in difficult times, just as many of us at present are living through times of hardship.

There is a Christmas Carol written by Christina Georgina Rossetti that springs to mind at this time. One that reminds me of the Christmas message for us. The first verse is:

“Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine,  
Love was born at Christmas, star and angels gave the sign.”

Although we may not be in a position materially to give what we would like to give this Christmas, we can hold on to love. We can show that we love, with a kind word, or a smile, for that is a gift that is free.

May the Lord our God, who loves us all as his children, be with you and all your loved ones at this very special time.

Christmas Blessings  
Rev Sheila



**December 2022 -  
February 2023**

**Sunday Services**

**4 December  
St Boswells  
10.30am  
Coffee after Worship**

**11 December  
Maxton  
10.30am  
Communion**

**11 December  
Newtown  
6pm  
Lessons & Carols**

**18 December  
Newtown  
10.30am**

**25 December  
Mertoun  
10.30am**

**1 January  
Newtown  
10.30am  
Coffee after Worship**

**8 January  
St Boswells  
10.30am**

**15 January  
Maxton  
10.30am**

**22 January  
Newtown  
10.30am**

**29 January  
St Boswells  
10.30am**

**5 February  
Mertoun  
10.30am  
Coffee after Worship**

**12 February  
Newtown  
10.30am**

**19 February  
St Boswells  
10.30am**

**26 February  
Maxton  
10.30am**

*All dates and events in this Newsletter were correct at time of printing (Mid November).  
Please check website and noticeboards in case of unexpected changes.*



# WHAT'S ON: DECEMBER 2022 TO FEBRUARY 2023

Dryburgh District Churches (Church of Scotland) SC010210

## CHRISTMAS FOR EVERYONE

**SUNDAY 11 DECEMBER**

**3rd ADVENT SUNDAY**

**ALL-AGE FAMILY SERVICE  
OF LESSONS & CAROLS**

**Newtown Church 6pm**

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

**CHRISTINGLE**

**Church Hall, St Boswells 3.30pm**



**Come along to make Christingles  
(all materials provided).**

**Children are invited to dress as their  
favourite Nativity character.**

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

**ALL-AGE FAMILY SERVICE**

**Mertoun Kirk 10.30am**

**Bring a gift you have received to  
'show and tell'.**

Retiring Offerings are  
invited in aid of  
Scotland's Largest  
Veteran Charity  
SC006609

**ERSKINE**  
Caring for Veterans since 1916



Dryburgh District Churches  
(Church of Scotland) SC010210

## Come & Sing All-Age, All-Ability Choir

Wednesdays  
6.30 - 7.30pm

Now back in  
Sproutston Room  
Community Wing,  
Newtown

Wednesday 21  
December then  
holidays until  
1 January

Weekly Sub £1

New members  
Welcome

Sing for:  
**FUN  
FRIENDSHIP  
HEALTH**

Don't worry if  
you think  
you can't sing.  
Just come  
and give it a try!

Choir Leader: Derek Reid  
derekreid@aol.com

Dryburgh District Churches  
(Church of Scotland) SC010210

## Worship on Wednesday (WOW!)

Midweek Service  
Church Hall in St Boswells

Wednesdays 10am

A time of Praise,  
Prayer, Reflection  
and Fellowship  
in the middle of the week

December 2022 - February 2023

21 December  
18 January  
15 February



Everyone Welcome

Dryburgh District Churches  
(Church of Scotland) SC010210



EVERYONE WELCOME

THURSDAYS 7.30PM

Last in 2022 15 December  
Restart 12 January 2023

Link on website:  
[www.dryburghdistrictchurches.org](http://www.dryburghdistrictchurches.org)

Meeting ID: 843 4289 1909  
Passcode: 479943

Rev. Sheila Moir: 01835 822255  
Email: [Smoir@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:Smoir@churchofscotland.org.uk)

Dryburgh District Churches (Church of Scotland) SC010210

## Community Lunch Club

12noon - 1.30pm

Fridays  
2 & 16 December  
6 & 20 January  
3 & 17 February

Church Hall  
St Boswells

Everyone Welcome

Adults £2.50  
School child £1  
Pre-school 50p

Foodbank  
Donations  
welcomed



For more information  
please contact  
Wendy Davidson  
01835 823542

## Messy Church Play



This is an opportunity for children and their parents/carers to hear about the Word of God in a fun, informal and interactive way. There is tea or coffee and biscuits for the adults and juice and snacks for the children.



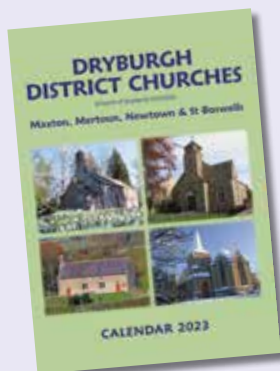
It's a great way for the community to come together to worship the Lord. After the snacks we have a song, accompanied by the guitar, followed by a short Bible reading linked to whatever the week's theme. Crafts next and we get creative! We close with a short prayer of thanks to God!

Please feel free to come and join us in the Church Hall in St Boswells every second and fourth Friday of the month, from 12.45 to 2pm.  
ALL AGES welcome - FREE OF CHARGE!! Hope to see you there.  
Sarah Cook, 07825 160074, for more information

## CHRISTMAS PRESENT? CHURCH 2023 CALENDAR

A4 Portrait format  
with hanger and card envelope.

£5 from our churches,  
church events, local shops  
and our website.



Dryburgh District Church  
(Church of Scotland) SC010210

## COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 28 January 10am

Church Hall, St Boswells

Donations welcomed for stalls:

Cake and Candy  
Bric-a-brac  
Books & Jigsaws





# DRYBURGH DISTRICT CHURCHES GUILD

## Bush of Remembrance

On Monday 12th September, members of the Guild planted a Myrtle bush in St Boswells Church Garden in remembrance of all the St Boswells Guild members of the last 129 years. Myrtle was chosen because of the association with the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee and because all royal brides since Queen Victoria have had a myrtle sprig in their wedding bouquets.

At the first meeting of the new Session, a Chrysanthemum Tea and chat was much enjoyed by previous and new members. I outlined the speakers who have kindly agreed to join our meetings over the next few months (see below).

At our next meeting on 27th October, Claire McPhee gave us a most interesting talk about St Boswells Community Woodland, including those who are contributing to the development of the area to its former use by laying paths and weeding the old curling pond. See page 15 for further information about the Woodland.



## Guild Programme December 2022 – February 2023

**Thursdays 2.30pm, Church Hall St Boswells**

**15th December:** Christmas Party

**12th January:** Fran Selkirk: The Guild Theme – Wee Seeds, Big Trees

**26th January:** Ian Skinner; Open Meeting – St Cuthbert's Way

**9th February:** Rev Winnie Munson – Reminiscences of her time in Shetland

**23rd February:** Rosamund de la Hey – The Main Street Trading Company

Everyone welcome to our meetings.

*Elizabeth Kitchin, Guild Convener*

## CHRISTMAS PICTURES

Huge thanks to all the children who submitted drawings and to their teachers for the organisation involved! It was extremely hard to judge the winning entries!

Primaries 4 - 6 of Newtown and St Boswells Schools drew mono pictures for the front of this year's Christmas Cards, one of which should be enclosed with your Newsletter! The winners are:

Newtown: **Liam Skelly, P4; Faye Currie, P5; Charlie Miles, P6**

St Boswells: **Ruby McPhee, P4; Erin Scott, P5; Quinn Hawthorne, P6; Mariana Lyon, P6**

P7 children drew colour pictures for the front of this Newsletter and again and we are sure you will agree that this year's winning picture is really lovely. Well done to the winning artist from **Newtown School, Holly Cunningham.**



# CHALLENGING TIMES AHEAD FOR CHURCHES

Our readers may be aware from the local and national press, of closures of church buildings throughout the country. The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, during its 2021 Assembly, passed an Act, recognising reducing levels of resources. As a result, the Presbytery of Melrose and Peebles, along with all other Presbyteries in Scotland, had to categorise its buildings. In this Charge of Dryburgh District Churches, we have five (Churches in Maxton, Mertoun, Newtown and St Boswells as well as the Hall in St Boswells), plus the manse.

A buildings' survey was undertaken earlier this year and, together with the Church's General Trustees, Presbytery's Business Committee has produced a Mission Plan for the next five years. This was approved at a meeting of Presbytery on 16th November 2022. As a result, Maxton and Mertoun Kirks will require to be disposed of by the end of 2024 and 2026 respectively. Newtown and St Boswells Churches and St Boswells Church Hall, will remain in use at least for the next five years, when further consultation will take place.

Whilst we appreciate that this information makes unhappy reading, we nevertheless must acknowledge the severe financial burden of maintaining our five buildings and the viability of worship given dwindling congregational numbers. We will provide further information as available, through our website and Kirk Session meetings.

*Rev Sheila Moir, Winnie Milligan & Lucy Smith (Joint Session Clerks)*

## AN EXTRACT FROM LIFE & WORK

The magazine of the Church of Scotland:

### TRAINING TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



A new training programme has been developed to help people within the Church of Scotland tackle violence against women and girls. The training has been put together over 18 months by the Church's violence against women task group, Integrity, with the support of a specialist in the field.

The session aims to equip people at all levels of the Church to improve understanding of violence against women, build confidence when responding to the issue directly, and reflect on the role of the Church in preventing, resisting and responding to violence against women.

Most participants in the training so far have reported improved knowledge of the subject and confidence in responding to it.

The next session was held on 20 November, and more will be held in 2023. For more details email: [intergity@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:intergity@churchofscotland.org.uk)

There are links to resources and organisations offering immediate help at [www.churchofscotland.org.uk/about-us/our-views/violence-against-women](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/about-us/our-views/violence-against-women)

## A RICH HARVEST



Thanks to our talented members, the churches in the Charge were beautifully decorated for our Harvest Thanksgiving services in St Boswells, Newtown and Mertoun Churches in October.

As well as flowers, we had a wonderful array of foodstuffs, thanks to the generosity of the parents and pupils at Newtown and St Boswells Primary Schools who passed on the gifts donated at their Harvest assemblies.

Flowers were distributed within the parishes, where they gave great pleasure to those who received them, and the large pedestal arrangement from St Boswells Church was given to Grange Hall Care Home to be enjoyed by the residents there.

The foodstuffs were donated to St Boswells Foodbank – see also page 12.

Gifts of money, totalling £255 were donated to Border Women's Care Charity.

## FLOWER MINISTRY

In Newtown and St Boswells Churches flowers are donated each week for Sunday morning worship by members of the Church and the community. After a service they are distributed to folks in our communities for various reasons – to those who are mourning the loss of a loved one, the first anniversary of a death, a new baby, someone who has been in hospital, or a special anniversary or birthday etc.

If you know someone who might appreciate these flowers, please contact Rev Sheila. We really like sharing these flowers which have graced our Sunday Service, with you all.

Donations of flowers or monetary contributions are welcomed. If you wish to provide flowers in **Newtown Church** or donate to the cost, please contact Newtown Flower Convener, Carol Hunter. For **St Boswells Church**, anyone is welcome to provide flowers or make a donation. If necessary, someone else can do the arrangement. Contact St Boswells Flower Convener, Mary Sargent, 01835 824261.

# CAFÉ CHURCH



We welcomed the congregation to our Cafe Church service in the Church Hall, St Boswells on Sunday 30th October – a more relaxed and informal way of worshipping with coffee or tea, goodies and chat.

The theme of the worship was the environment and, in groups, we began by finding articles in local and national newspapers dealing with environmental issues. We also chatted about ways in which we can all make a difference by small changes to our daily lives.

Some of the issues highlighted included fracking, drinks container recycling, the upcoming football World Cup in Qatar, the effects of plastic pollution both on land and in our oceans and the importance of supporting local businesses.

On the positive side, we heard of one young boy's litter-picking efforts which had raised funds for a local foodbank, and about local community groups whose work has been recognised by 'Keep Scotland Beautiful'.




We were able to see all the entries received for the fundraising calendar for 2023 and we all agreed that we have a bounty of riches in the Borders, both in our surroundings and our local wildlife and that we all have a part to play in protecting it for future generations. We were reminded that the elderly do not have a monopoly on wisdom – we need to listen to and encourage the younger generation who have a greater stake in the future of the environment locally, nationally and indeed world-wide.


The congregation was challenged to identify small changes that we can all make which will make a difference, no matter how small they may seem: eat seasonal foods; have two days a week which are meat or fish-free; if appropriate, pledge to donate at least part of your fuel payment from the government, to a charity that looks to help those who are in fuel poverty such as Energy Action Scotland <https://www.eas.org.uk/>; use Royal Mail for deliveries where possible; don't buy bottled water; recycle more; use and offer community transport and lastly:

**One starfish makes a difference – you had to be there!**






# ST BOSWELLS FOOD BANK



## WHO CAN GET A FOOD PARCEL?

Anyone of any age who is needing support to get basic food items - no special referral needed and your request will be treated as private and confidential.



## LIFE CAN BE HARD, EVEN IF YOU ARE IN WORK OR HAVE ALWAYS MANAGED

The cost of living is rising and this sometimes makes it very hard to make decisions about what to prioritise.


Receiving a food parcel with basic items could make things just a little easier.

## SHOPPING LIST FOR DONATIONS

Any canned, dried or packet food such as:

- soup / beans / fish / vegetables
- biscuits / tea / coffee
- pasta / rice / cereal


Toilet roll / toiletries



## HOW CAN I HELP ?

If you are in the fortunate position to be able to help, please donate items or consider making a one-off or regular cash donation by contacting:


[stboswellsfoodbank@gmail.com](mailto:stboswellsfoodbank@gmail.com)



## DROP-OFF POINTS FOR DONATIONS

There are drop-off points at:

- Old Post Office (Tony's Newsagents)
- Scottish Borders Chambers (White Bungalow, Orchard Park)
- Church Hall: during Wednesday afternoon and Friday Lunch Club




## TO GET A FOOD PARCEL...

*Speak in confidence with:*

- St Boswells Primary School
- Eildon Surgery
- St Boswells Community Council
- Rev Sheila at St Boswells Church
- Scottish Borders Chambers (White Bungalow)
- email: [stboswellsfoodbank@gmail.com](mailto:stboswellsfoodbank@gmail.com)

*Or use the QR Code to fill in an online request.*



**SCAN ME**

St Boswells Community Council in partnership with Selkirk Food Bank

We are delighted to have launched a Food Bank for St Boswells, operating as part of Selkirk Food Bank. You may have seen the above poster popping up around the village. We have already given out several much needed parcels and would encourage anyone who is needing some help in these difficult times to get in touch with the Community Council, Rev Sheila Moir, St Boswells Primary School or Eildon Medical Practice, for a confidential referral.

If you would like to donate food then there are drop off points at Tony's Newsagents and the Church Hall with lists of suggested food items. If you would like to arrange a cash donation to support our work or get more information please email on:  
[stboswellsfoodbank@gmail.com](mailto:stboswellsfoodbank@gmail.com)

It has been humbling and inspiring to see everyone working together to make sure that nobody goes without. With thanks to all who are supporting the scheme

**Angela Farnish and Yvonne Clement, St Boswells Community Council**





Thank you to our volunteers who decorated our churches and the grounds with a myriad of wonderful poppies, including the 'Messy Church' children's poppy banner.



Remembrance worship was held in St Boswells Church at 10am and preceded the 11am Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial. Wreaths were laid by members of the community.

Newtown's afternoon Act of Remembrance was held at 1.30pm at their War Memorial, when the community again laid wreaths.

Hospitality in the Community Wing followed, with entertainment by the 'Come and Sing!' Choir.

£157 received from retiring offerings has been donated to Poppy Scotland.

Please visit our website:

[www.4dryburghdistrictchurches.org](http://www.4dryburghdistrictchurches.org) for more pictures.



## MAXTON BELL TOWER

The bell was made in Holland in 1609. In recent years, the fabric of the tower and the wooden frame supporting the bell deteriorated.



Work was required to renovate this enabling the bell to ring once again. In 2019, Maxton Kirk received a grant of £15,000 towards the cost of renovating its historic bell tower, provided by the Scottish Landfill Communities Fund.

The Kirk was also successful in securing a grant of around £4,000 in respect of VAT meaning the total cost of the £23,000 project for the Kirk itself was under £5,000.

On 8th October 2022, Rev Sheila Moir, Shaun Campbell (Property Convener) and I were delighted to attend a presentation of a plaque to commemorate this investment.

***Christopher Blunt, Elder Dryburgh District Churches  
(former Treasurer, Maxton & Mertoun Kirks)***

## BOSELLS BUDDIES

**Our group meets in St Boswells Village Hall**

**Thursdays: 1.15 – 3.30pm**

**15<sup>th</sup> December, 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023, 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

We are aiming to have social afternoons where folk can enjoy an afternoon of different crafts and activities, with time for a chat and tea /coffee.



The afternoons are open to members, past members and anyone who would like to join us – all welcome. Sessions are free however a small donation would be appreciated to help with cost of materials.

**St Boswells Institute** meet in the Village Hall;

Tuesdays at 7.15 till 9pm: **learn something new**

13<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas felting with Kirsty, plus nibbles: **try a craft**

10<sup>th</sup> January 2023 – Let's play: Time for a Beetle Drive: **have fun!**

14<sup>th</sup> February – tbc

***Give us a try!***



# ST BOSWELLS COMMUNITY WOODLAND – FRIENDS OF THE WOODLAND

Situated south of St Boswells next to the tennis courts, the Woodland is split over two areas known as the Upper and Lower Woodland. Hosting a variety of trees from Birch, Rowan, and Cherry through to older and larger Oaks, Willow and Yew, the Woodlands are also home to a fascinating collection of plants and wildlife. Recent observation has found Marsh Orchids by the pond, a rare *Leucoagaricus nympharum* fungi and over 50 species of moth including the enormous Poplar Hawk Moth. The Woodlands are owned by the Buccleuch Estate but managed in partnership with the community.



Arwen created a huge task of clearing fallen trees to re-open paths. A few trees remain hanging but will be cleared soon.



The Friends of the Woodland are village volunteers normally meeting the first weekend of each month to maintain paths and support the environment through small projects and open events. Storm



**ST BOSWELLS COMMUNITY WOODLAND**  
**HORSE LOGGING EVENT**  
**SATURDAY 3RD DECEMBER FROM 10AM**



We are delighted to announce that...

**Teamwork Horse Loggers**

...are coming to remove felled trees from recent storms in our woodland.

They will be showing us how we can have a natural connection to the land and manage woodland without heavy machinery.

All welcome, children must be supervised.

St Boswells Curlers held their club there 1877-1956 while the Boating Club used the pond until recent years too. In more recent years the Woodland has been used by dog walkers, cyclists, the Primary school, Borders College and even the Tiny Trebles Music group during Village Week.

Please join us for our **open event on Saturday 3rd December** when heavy horses will finally pull the Storm Arwen timber from the woods.

Contact Claire McPhee on 07411 751403 or link in through the Friends of the Woodland Facebook group.

# PRAYER

## ON THAT NIGHT AND IN THAT MOMENT

'Do not be afraid, for behold I bring you good news of great joy which shall be to all people, for unto you is born this day in the city of David, a SAVIOUR, WHO is CHRIST THE LORD:'  
*Luke 2:11.*

That glorious news affects not only mankind, but also the whole of Creation. Since the Fall in Eden, not only man, but all of Creation suffers the consequences of the fall. The Psalmist tells us in *Psalms 50*, that every creature belongs to The LORD. Isaiah tells us that the day will come when the wolf shall dwell with the lamb: *Isaiah 11*. **On that night** when light broke into the minds and hearts of humble shepherds, they were changed men who hurried into Bethlehem to find and worship The CHRIST CHILD and then told everyone they met that the promised MESSIAH had come!

Almighty GOD, and Heavenly FATHER, **on that night and in that moment** when YOU entered YOUR Creation in time and space:

- was there a hush across Creation, and did the very air vibrate as angels hovered all around?
- did wise men on the silken road pause in wonder at the sudden increase of light?
- did children stir in their sleep?
- was there a rippling of the grass across the earth?
- did the music of the spheres echo out across the universe?
- did the trees of the fields clap their hands in that moment? (*Isaiah 55:12*)
- did the joy of tumbling streams spill over into dancing as they cascaded their way down mountain sides?
- and **on that night and in that moment** did the lonely gentian on the mountain top lift its jewelled face to heaven?
- did shoals swarm and move in harmony around the deeps and dolphins leap to see the star?
- and **on that night** when lambs were exalted did the skylark soar in song to new heights, nearer heaven than ever before, longing for the day of revelation?
- did the king of beasts halt its pacing and lift its noble head to purr, and every tiny creature pause in wonder **on that night and in that moment** when YOU entered YOUR Creation for our re-creation?

In humility and love HE came and accomplished our salvation, and this we know, that one day every eye shall see HIM (*Revelation 1: 7*) when HE comes in great power and glory on the clouds (*Matthew 24*) coming this time as KING of Kings and LORD of Lords.

*Rev Winnie Munson*

## EXPEDITION BIBLE



There are some very interesting YouTube videos if you search:  
[WWW.EXPEDITIONBIBLE.COM](http://WWW.EXPEDITIONBIBLE.COM)

There are many titles but here are a few:

Jesus, the Soul Shepherd

Cave Inscription reveals Archaeological Evidence for Jesus

Unearthing the prophecy of Jesus Birthplace

Is this where Jesus was tried by Pontius Pilate?

*Jackie Jones*



## ANN

As I sat, listening to Ann's eulogy, hearing again the story which she had told me regarding her father's cruel death at the hands of Japanese guards in a World War II prisoner of war camp in Singapore, as he tried to shield another prisoner who was being attacked, my thoughts were, what marvellous genes you inherited, Ann.

I listened on and I heard every word but as happens, my own thoughts elbowed their way in. I went back a few weeks to a time in Ann's living room when we were talking over a strange brew which she claimed was tea and since I witnessed her preparing it in her kitchen, I must take her word that it was indeed tea! She told me that she had recently been thinking of her parents more than she usually did!

Bringing my full attention back to the Service, we sang a hymn, which Ann herself had chosen but again my thoughts brought me to the words of another psalm, which I hadn't sung for some time. If I remember correctly, the words were: 'Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me, all the days, all the days of my life'. Then later the words go on to say 'I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever and I shall feast at a table spread for me'. Perhaps it might have looked somewhat disrespectful but I smiled at the thought that Ann would be sitting at a table set for her in Heaven. Near the end of the service, as I watched the curtain glide shut, in my mind's eye, what I saw was an image of Ann (smiling, always smiling) dressed in flowing white, standing on top of a Borders hill with arms outstretched, wearing heavy iron shackles and these shackles of life falling away and an unburdened Ann floating upwards on the breeze.

My thoughts then, were that I should not have selfish feelings of sadness that I would not enjoy Ann's company again but that what I should feel is joy. Joy in the knowledge that Ann had gone home and that the 'gliding curtain' did not mean 'the end' but instead, a new beginning, a fresh chapter in her existence.

So, I'm not saying Goodbye. What I'll say instead is "Godspeed on your journey, Ann".

*Elsie Wutherspoon*



The Church of Scotland  
Social Care Council

Operating as CrossReach, Scottish Charity No: SC011353

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