### **DRYBURGH DISTRICT CHURCHES**

(Church of Scotland) SC010210

Maxton, Mertoun, Newtown & St Boswells





'Springtime' by John Martin.

#### WHO'S WHO IN THE CHARGE

Minister Rev Sheila W Moir, The Manse, Strae Brigs, St Boswells TD6 0DH

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Maxton, Mertoun, Newtown, St Boswells

Session Clerks Mrs Winnie Milligan, 26 Glenburn Avenue, Newtown St Boswells,

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Tel: 01835 823031

Gift Aid Treasurer Mrs Lucy Smith, Sunnybank, Main Street, St Boswells TD6 OAT

Tel: 01835 822425

Please submit material for the **June – August 2024 Newsletter** to Lucy Smith: editornewsletter24@gmail.com by **Friday 26 April 2024** at the latest.

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

## AN IMPORTANT DATE FOR OUR CHURCH MEMBERS' DIARIES!!

The Kirk Session, at a meeting in September last year, voted to adhere to the Presbytery Mission Plan for our Churches in our charge. This means that Maxton and Mertoun Kirks would, if the members of the congregation also concurred, be sold by the General Trustees.

The Kirk Session decided that the best way to facilitate this vote was to do so at the Stated Annual Meeting of our congregation on **Sunday 12th May 2024**. Members whose names are on the roll of membership will be given a voting slip as they come to the service in Mertoun Kirk at 10.30am.

The Church of Scotland do not allow proxy voting, therefore only members in Church on **Sunday the 12th May**, will have a vote.

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

#### HELLO FROM THE MANSE

#### Dear Friends

On a recent trip to Wooler for a meeting of the Churches Together St Cuthbert's Way steering group, I was drawn to one of the shops as I walked back to my car. What caught my eye after the title of the shop was of course the large clock on the right hand side of the shop door.

It reminded me of Alice in Wonderland and the rabbit who was always running around, being late, but it also got me wondering about time and when we do take time to be....



We are told in the Old Testament, in the book of Ecclesiastes chapter 3, that for everything, every season, every activity under heaven there is a time: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance..... The whole notion of this 'time to be' got me reflecting about what I do with my time each day and when I do take the time just to 'be' in my day-to-day life. So in reading this article, let me ask you – how do you take the time 'just to be'? Do you for example take time to stop and either reflect on your day or take the time to pray or wonder about creation? In my reflecting on this phrase I thought that that is what was good about taking the time 'just to be'. Or are you too busy 'doing' that you forget to 'be', and time then passes and you miss something that if only.....

As I was taking the time 'to be', my thoughts carried me to the readings that we have used over the last few weeks. As we leave Christmas behind our Christian calendar takes us into a new season, the season of Lent. And in the gospel readings before Lent there was one week that spoke about even Jesus taking 'time to be'. In reading Mark's gospel there seems to be urgency in what was unfolding as Jesus begins his ministry. In chapter one, it begins by introducing an adult Jesus saying that it is the Gospel about Jesus. There is no nativity, nor early years recorded in Mark, Jesus begins his ministry and then we read in verse 35 how: "Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house, and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed". He took 'time to be'. No matter how busy and possibly chaotic it was as he carried out his ministry there were times he would go off on his own, which we read in the other Gospels too. Jesus took 'time to be' by himself, 'time to be' with God his heavenly Father, 'time to be' rested, renewed.

There is what could be called a profound simplicity in stopping to take 'time to be', that can be a catalyst for a mindful pause — a space where we can connect with our inner selves, which in turn may help us forge meaningful connections with others. In doing so, 'time to be' might help us to acknowledge the importance of authenticity and self-discovery in our lives, as it did perhaps for Jesus and those who followed him at the time.

Perhaps during this season of Lent you can take 'time to be', prompted to go on a contemplative journey into the essence of existence, to discover, to be renewed, and be aware of who Jesus is, what he did for us, the love he and our heavenly Father give to us even those who deny they know him.

Shalom Rev Sheila



3 March St Boswells 10.30am Communion Coffee after Worship

10 March Maxton 10.30am

17 March Newtown 10.30am

24 March Palm Sunday St Boswells 10.30am

Holy Week Worship see separate poster

31 March Easter Day Dryburgh Abbey 7.30am

31 March Easter Day Mertoun 10.30am Communion

7 April Newtown 10.30am Coffee after worship 14 April St Boswells 10.30am

> 21 April Maxton 10.30am

28 April Newtown 10.30am

5 May St Boswells 10.30am Communion Coffee after Worship

12 May Mertoun 10.30am Stated Annual Meeting

> 19 May Newtown 10.30am

26 May St Boswells 10.30am

2 June Maxton 10.30am Coffee after Worship

All dates and events above were correct at time of printing (end February).

Please check website and noticeboards in case of unexpected changes.



## **CELEBRATE EASTER 2024**

Maundy Thursday 28 March Service of Communion Church Hall, St Boswells 6.30pm

Good Friday 29 March Service of contemplation and reflection Newtown Church 6.30pm

Easter Sunday 31 March Christ is Risen, Hallelujah! Greet this wonderful new day, sharing in worship, praise and prayer.

Ecumenical Service Dryburgh Abbey 7.30am Please note time

Offering in aid of
Borders Talking Newspapers
SC020192

with Sacrament of Holy Communion Mertoun Kirk 10.30am



Come along with your decorated egg and/or Easter Bonnet. Prizes for ages 0-5, 6-12, 12 & over

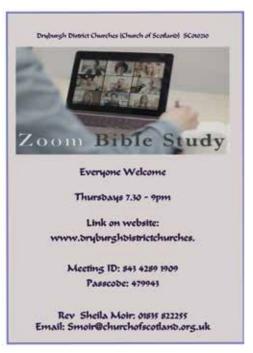
**Family Easter Service** 

#### WHAT'S ON IN OUR CHARGE

(Continued on next pages)













Worship on Wednesday (WOW!)

Midweek Service 1st Wednesday in the Month 10am

Church Hall, St Boswells

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

Followed by a cuppa and chat

Everyone Welcome

Dryburgh District Churches (Church of Scotland) SC010210

#### **MINDFUL**

Every day I see or hear something that more or less kills me with delight, that leaves me like a needle in the haystack of light.

It was what I was born for – to look, to listen, to lose myself inside this soft world – to instruct myself over and over in joy, and acclamation.

Nor am I talking about the exceptional, the fearful, the dreadful, the very extravagant

- but of the ordinary, the common, the very drab, the daily presentations.

Oh, good scholar, I say to myself, how can you help but grow wise with such teachings as these — the untrimmable light of the world, the ocean's shine, the prayers that are made out of grass?

**Mary Oliver** 

#### **DATES FOR**

## COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 13 April

Community Wing, Newtown 10am

Donations welcomed for Raffle and Stalls

Bric-a-brac Home Baking Books & Jigsaws

Entry £2

Dryburgh District Churches (Church of Scotland) SC010210

#### Christian Aid

Fundraising May 2024

We are not able to make house-to-house collections so ......

Please support our fund raising events:

\*\* Donation envelopes
will be available in all our churches

\*\* Big Brekkie Sunday 19 May See separate poster

\*\* Hamper 'Squares'



'Buy' a square for £2 to win a Spring Hamper:

Old Post Office, St Boswells





## You're invited to a Big Brekkie!

Want to change the world over breakfast?

We'll be serving a delicious breakfast of bacon and/or scrambled egg rolls, plus tea or coffee, for £4.

All profits to Christian Aid.

Church Hall, St Boswells Sunday 19 May

8.30 - 10am

Dryburgh District Churches (Church of Scotland) SC010210
Critisin Aid is a lay member of ACT Alliance. Eng and Wales charly no. 1105881 Scot charily no.
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#### Saturday 25 May St Boswells Church Garden 10am



Plant donations welcome: Marilyn McCall 01835 823070 or 07484 384387

Proceeds to Church Funds

Dryburgh District Churches (Church of Scotland) SC010210

#### **YOUR DIARY**



Dryburgh District Churches is most appreciative of the fundraising support by our communities.

From September to February we raised:

- \*\* Christmas Bazaar, Newtown: £1072.85
- \*\* Winter Quiz sales: £80
- \*\* Christmas retiring offerings for Versus Arthritis: £190.30
- \*\* Coffee Morning, St Boswells

## Monteath Mausoleum



#### Open Days 2024

Sunday 31st March / Monday 1st April Sunday 5th May / Monday 6th May Sunday 26th May / Monday 27th May Saturday 29th June / Sunday 30th June Sunday 4th August Sunday 25th August / Monday 26th August Sunday 8th September

A grand Victorian monument. Free guided tours on Open Days. Come and see the Lions and the Angels!

Lilliards Edge, just off A68 north of holiday park.

Look out for roadside signs

www.friendsofthemonteathmausoleum.org.uk

Thanks to our amazing construction crew, the stable was erected before Mary & Joseph's arrival (and dismantled after Christmas!).

#### **CHRISTMAS 2023 MEMORIES**



The Messy Church children made a wonderful Nativity scene.







Thank you to the many people who decorated our churches inside and out. Special thanks for the trees at the Church Hall, St Boswells and Newtown Church which were a gift to the communities from Buccleuch, Borders Estate.











In Newtown, we were delighted to have a new addition to our Christmas display - a beautifully crafted depiction of the Nativity figures, stitched by the late Lorna Dickson. We are very grateful to Lorna's daughter, Carol, for allowing us to display the work which was greatly admired.



After the service, it was exciting to see that the baby Jesus had been born in the stable (in St Boswells!).





On Christmas Eve the children made Christingles and were 'piped' from the Church Hall to St Boswells Church for the service ....





.... story telling, singing, games ....



#### **Dear Dryburgh District Churches Members,**

As I sit to pen down my thoughts for our beloved church newsletter, my heart brims with gratitude and joy. I wish to extend a sincere thank you to each one of you for the warm and embracing welcome I received upon joining this vibrant community. Your kindness and openness have truly made my journey here not just comfortable, but profoundly enriching.

During my time here, I have had the privilege to experience a very varied view of ministry. It has been an enlightening journey, witnessing the multifaceted ways in which we can serve and be a testament to our faith. From engaging in community outreach programs to participating in the spiritual nourishment of our congregation, every moment has been a learning experience, enriching my understanding of what it truly means to be a servant of God.



One of the most remarkable aspects of my time so far has been the diversity of tasks and the breadth of experiences. Each day brings with it new challenges and opportunities, allowing me to grow not just as a minister but as an individual dedicated to the service of our Lord and His people. This exposure to various facets of church life has been instrumental in shaping my perspective on ministry, teaching me the importance of adaptability, compassion, and unwavering faith.

Looking forward, I am filled with enthusiasm for the rest of my placement here. I eagerly anticipate becoming even more involved in the different aspects of our church life. Whether it be in the realm of pastoral care, community service, educational endeavours, or spiritual guidance, I am ready and willing to contribute my best.

In closing, I would like to reiterate my deepest appreciation for your support and fellowship. It is your encouragement and faith that make this journey so rewarding. Together, let us continue to grow in our faith, serve our community, and uphold the values that our church stands for.

In His Service,

Greg Robertson

Candidate for Ministry

#### **IDEALS**

Remember that ideals are like stars up in the sky, you can never really reach them, hanging in the heavens high ... But like the mighty mariner who sailed the storm-tossed sea, and used the stars to chart his course with skill and certainty, you too can chart your course in life with high ideals and love, for high ideals are like the stars that light the sky above ... You cannot ever reach them, but lift your heart up high and your life will be as shining as the stars up in the sky.

Helen Steiner Rice, 1900-1981

#### THE TAXI FUND

Some elderly people struggle to get to church. It can be for a variety of reasons; illness, infirmity, injury or just plain old age and lack of mobility.

But for those who attend Coldside Church in Dundee, there's a solution. Thanks to a generous bequest, people who are infirm, elderly or injured can call a taxi to take them to church and back.



Marilyn Lawson, acting Session Clerk, said: "Some years ago, we received a bequest from a man whose wife had been a member. He wanted to give money to the church so that it would be used to help the older members of the congregation. We had a think how that would best be accomplished and realised we could help them directly by making it easier to access the church on a Sunday.

"We decided the best way to do this would be to set up a dedicated taxi account that members of the congregation could use to get them to and from the church. It's been especially useful since we had to close one church and so some members of the congregation have to travel further now. It's been a real blessing."

The taxi account can only be used for trips to and from the church and is largely for those who don't have their own transport, but it can also be used by people who have sustained an injury that makes them temporarily unable to travel as they normally would.

One member of the congregation, who is in her nineties, said that she uses the taxi service every Sunday: "I used to be able to make it on foot when the church was round in the next street, but since that one was closed down and sold off, I'd have probably not been able to get to church unless someone could drive me and I hate having to rely on others for favours. This fund has made it possible for me to get in to church irrespective of the weather and the drivers are always so helpful. I chipped a bone recently so the taxi service has been a real Godsend".

#### THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND STAMP APPEAL 2023-24

Please continue to collect your used stamps to support the new 2023-24 project to help the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) improve nutrition, improve agricultural productivity, create youth employment and mitigate the impact of the climate crisis. The CCAP project, Firmly Planted aims to establish self-sustaining tree nurseries to nurture and protect the environment and protect livelihoods for households and communities.

Stamps may be left in any of our churches, the Church Hall, St Boswells, the Old Post Office, St Boswells or 9 St Cuthbert's Drive, St Boswells.

(Cliff Ellershaw tel: 823445).





Do you enjoy looking at the lovely flower arrangements which decorate our churches every week? We rely on our Flower Conveners who purchase and arrange them. Sometimes a member of the congregation will offer to do the arranging! After worship each week, the flowers are given to someone in the community (not necessarily a church member) whom we wish to support – perhaps following a bereavement, a birth, illness etc.

Please support this outreach by making a donation to the flower fund either for a date which is special to you, or to be used generally. And if you wish to arrange the flowers please offer:

Flower Conveners: Cariol Hunter (Newtown), Mary Sargent, 824261 (St Boswells)



## SCOTTISH FAITH LEADERS DECLARATION

Faith leaders met together in June 2023 under a joint initiative hosted by the Catholic Church and the Church of Scotland, to launch a campaign to unite the views of the faith communities on an urgent call to Scottish Government for fair pay to all social care workers.

The campaign sits within a backdrop of a national recruitment crisis. While recruitment issues exist for many industries, the challenge for third sector providers is made particularly difficult by the fact there is a recognised delay to deliver a promise of fair pay to the social care workforce.

The event concluded with the signing of a declaration by The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland and the Archbishop of Glasgow.

#### **DECLARATION:**

- We believe in the importance of human dignity. We honour those people who serve, care for and support others so that this dignity can be respected and that all may have fullness of life. We thank them for their time, hard work and compassion.
- We believe in fairness and justice, and believe that all staff working in social care in Scotland today should be paid fairly for this fundamentally important work.
- We recognise the challenges today facing social care staff and providers, following the difficult years of the Covid-19 pandemic, the cost of living crisis and the current challenges with recruitment.
- We call on church and faith communities to encourage and support advocacy and fundraising and for better social care in Scotland.
- We recognise recent commitment made to the Adult Care Workforce but call on the Scottish Government to do everything within its power to ensure all frontline social care workers be paid a minimum of £12 per hour immediately, and that the appropriate funding is made available which allows all social care staff to be recognised for their skills, experience and contributions, in whichever role they serve.

#### TRUE BEAUTY

At the age of nineteen, I signed up with Her Majesty's Naval Reserve (R.N.R.). This entailed three years of twice weekly two-hour sessions, at least three weekend training sessions per year at Portsmouth and one fortnight training at Plymouth for the first year then Portsmouth for the next two, which your regular employer was duty bound to let you take.

When I first walked into H.M.S. Claverhouse, by Granton Harbour, I didn't know anyone and everything was new to me, so I watched and tried to learn what was what.

After the first hour of class work, we were given a tea break. I followed my classmates through a warren of corridors to the large drill hall and waited to see what happened next. Enter stage right – a shooglie tea trolley, followed by a doddery elderly lady, who at first glance, looked quite like Ena Sharpes (Violet Carson) from Coronation Street, or perhaps like the old Grandma 'battle axe' from a 'Giles' cartoon, her face crumply and deeply lined.

Next, an (almost) orderly queue formed of mostly twenty something junior ratings, all giving 'Annie' a bit of cheek, which I soon saw as well-intentioned banter. I quickly learned that all of Annie's 'customers' thought highly of this elderly lady and the lads even took it in turn to walk her home at the end of the night, as in the 1970's, Granton wasn't the kind of place you would want to wander about in after dark.

What was so special about Annie was, when a young person interacted with her, she just lit up and she smiled the sweetest of smiles I think I had ever seen. Her aged, lined face transformed before one's very eyes, and in turn, having its effect on the young folk.

Roll the years on a bit. Now I'm in my mid-twenties, in Leicester, having just bought our first home, my fiancé and I walking the town centre streets buying our first few essentials for our dilapidated 'do-er upper'. What caught my eye were two tall, stunning looking girls with perfect figures, immaculate blonde hair and make-up, well dressed and finished off with knee high black leather boots.

Both were keeping perfect time, doing their high step 'model' walk and clearly knowing that everyone was looking their way. The only down side to their 'look' was that they both had bland expressions and dead 'fish' eyes.

Instantly my thoughts flashed back to Annie, who I hadn't thought of in some time, and I couldn't help but make the comparison between them, and the truth of the old saying hit me – beauty is only skin deep!

Elsie Wutherspoon

- P.S. A few years down the track, on a Christmas visit home to Edinburgh, I walked past a 'Salvation Army' choir singing Christmas Carols with their usual brass band accompaniment. Something made me stop and look a bit harder and sure enough, even though she was wearing her 'Sally Army' uniform and not her 'pinnie', there, singing at the end of a row was Annie with her unmistakable sweet smile.
- P.P.S. Thing is as the years roll on and it gets harder to put names to faces and sometime the faces themselves blur into fuzz, its dawned on me that the faces I remember the most are those who often wore a smile. I don't think that I'll be forgetting Annie's anytime soon.

#### **BEST NUMBERS YOU WILL EVER NEED!!**

# BIBLE EMERGENCY NUMBERS

when in sorrow	John 14
When man fails you	Psalm 27
When you have sinned	Psalm 51
When you have worry	
When you are in danger	
When God seems far away	
When your faith needs stirring	
When you are lonely and fearful	
When you grow bitter and critical	
When you feel down and out	
When you want peace and rest	
When the world seems bigger than God	
When you want Christian assurance	
When you leave home for labor or travel	
When your prayers grow narrow and selfish	
When you want courage for a task	
To get along with your fellow man	
For a great intervention or opportunity	
For Paul's secret to happiness	Col. 3:12-17
If you want to be fruitful	
If your pocketbook is empty	
If you're losing confidence in people	
If people seem unkind	
If discouraged about your work	
Find the world growing small and yourself gr	eatPsalm 19

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#### **PRAYER**

#### 'JESUS wept'

John 11, v 35

Have you ever stood on the shoreline on a summer's day and felt the sand slipping away beneath your toes as the waves receded?

It is almost like standing on the edge of time, as the seconds pass. Time is a gift to each one of us and what we do and say and feel matters to the Giver of life.

You and I did not physically see JESUS while HE was on the earth. The first disciples lived with HIM for three very privileged and precious years, after responding to HIS call to them.

They needed that time of learning through experience to be shaped into the Apostles they became. They watched HIM and walked and talked with HIM day by day.

We know that in HIS infancy JESUS was persecuted. During HIS years of ministry HE was continually criticised and slandered. HE gave of HIMSELF tirelessly no matter what the time or situation. HE was utterly faithful in Love to HIS Heavenly FATHER'S will. HIS life on earth was one of Holiness and Love. We did not have the privilege of being there. We did not hear HIS laughter, or see HIS tenderness as HE healed Jairus's daughter, then told her parents to give her some food. We did not share in the daily conversation at mealtimes, or on journeys. We did not see HIS look of admiration when HE encountered great faith; nor the astonishment of Zacchaeus the tax collector, when JESUS, possibly with a twinkle in HIS eyes, called Zacchaeus down from that sycamore tree in which he was hiding, in order to reinstate him.

We did not see HIM as HE called to the disciples to let the children come to HIM, or when HE spoke of what would happen to anyone who harmed them. We did not see HIS eyes as HE spoke of hypocrisy. We did not see HIM as HE wept at the tomb of Lazarus.

We did not hear HIM, as HE hung on The Cross, cry out 'It is finished!'!

HE had journeyed through the moments, days and years of HIS life on earth in utter Faithfulness and Love.

No sin was found in HIM therefore death could not hold HIM. Genesis 3, v 3 HE had defeated sin, death, hell and Satan.

At the moment of HIS death, the Temple curtain, which separated people from The Holy of Holies, was torn in two from top to bottom and the Holiest Place is now accessible to anyone who comes in faith through the Shed Blood of CHRIST.

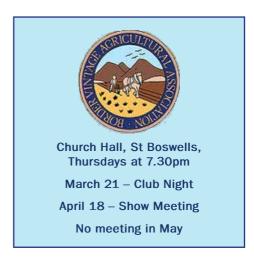
Whoever will, may come.

'I hear the words of love, I gaze upon the blood, I see the mighty sacrifice And I have peace with God.'

Horatius Bonar

**Rev Winnie Munson** 





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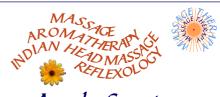
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## Extend

## Exercise Class for the Over 60s

St Boswells Village Hall – Tuesdays 1.45-2.45pm

Classes run in school term time

Classes will now run in 6 week blocks £30 payable in advance

> For more information call Amanda 07712 587 516

Book now: 01835 822710 www.huntersstables.co.uk

#### **HUNTERS STABLES**

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- Families welcome
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**Contact: Ian Hunter** 



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