

DRYBURGH DISTRICT CHURCHES

(Church of Scotland) SC010210

Maxton, Mertoun, Newtown & St Boswells



Autumn Time by **John Martin**

SEPTEMBER – NOVEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

WHO'S WHO IN THE CHARGE

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Maxton, Mertoun, Newtown, St Boswells

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Please submit material for the **December 2021 – February 2022 Newsletter** to Lucy Smith: editornewsletter24@gmail.com by **Friday 30 October** at the latest.

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

AMAZING!

It was relatively easy to find articles for our last Newsletter (first since pandemic!). But my dilemma for this one was 'what can we fill it with?' Yes, we've been worshipping every week but that's about it! Kirk Session meetings apart, not a lot of interesting articles spring to mind. However, a plea to the Kirk Session and members of the Bible Study group worked wonders. Not to mention twisting a few other arms. I am so grateful to those who have put pen to paper and do hope that you will enjoy this bumper issue!

Readers' Challenge: now dear readers, it's over to you. Please send me anything at all which you think might interest your fellow readers: reminiscences, anecdotes, photographs ...

Please send asap – don't wait for the deadline. Filling the next issue up early will keep my blood pressure down! And if your business is interested in advertising, just ask me for rates and availability.

Yours in anticipation ...

Lucy, Editor

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,

The summer months have been full of sunshine and of sporting events, which due to the pandemic had been postponed from last year, so after the football came the Olympics in Tokyo. It was interesting hearing that the theme of the opening ceremony revolved around the idea that, through the active performance of the athletes and the power of sports, the Olympic Games could bring new hope and encouragement to people all over the world.



As restrictions were being eased, I think that this was a sign of hope for people. The theme at the opening was 'Moving Forward and United by Emotion' and the ceremonial part included an oath which emphasised the importance of unity, tolerance, non-discrimination and equality. Even the music for the games was designed to accompany the moment when people around the world would unite in praise and celebration of the athletes, especially those who would go on to win medals and take their place on the podium.

For me, hearing about this theme brought parallels with the Church, and especially our now United Charge and the mission of the Church here and all over. As Paul says, in his words to the Philippians chapter 3: verse 14, "Press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus".

As we move forward in our Union, it is important in the Church too that we place at the centre, along with Jesus, the same aspects of life that were spoken about in the opening ceremony of the Olympics.

Where there is the need to have a sense of belonging, the Church is the place at the heart of our community for everyone. It has been touching to welcome new members and to hear from people who live at a distance that they have felt connected to the Church through our on-line services.


There are many challenges that we face in the Church, some of which are the result of the pandemic, some due to the general age profile of our members and Kirk Session, but we continue to strive to ensure, with your help, that our Churches remain part of our communities, whatever the future holds.

More words from Paul, this time from his letter to the Hebrews in chapter 12: verse 2, "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith...."

Rev Sheila

A letter to the Guardian Newspaper:

My pre-school niece, when sending a birthday card to me, her Auntie Chris(tine), addressed it 'Dear Anti Christ'.



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(Church of Scotland) SC010210
Maxton, Mertoun, Newtown & St Boswells

Autumn Worship 2021

Sunday Services at 10.30am

Newtown	St Boswells	Mertoun
5 September	12 September	19 September Communion
26 September	3 October Harvest Season	10 October Harvest Season
17 October Harvest Season	24 October Harvest Season Communion	31 October Harvest Season
7 November	14 November Remembrance 10am	21 November
28 November Communion St Andrew's Day & Advent		

Following the easing of social distancing restrictions,
it is no longer necessary to book a place in advance
at any of our Sunday morning services.

In the meantime, 1 metre distancing will be observed,
face masks must still be worn in church and details
for Track and Trace purposes will be taken on arrival.

Please see opposite page for details of our
Harvest Season and Remembrance Sunday arrangements.

Details of worship are correct at end July 2021.
Should there be a change in restrictions, information will be
available on the website and on notice boards.

Minister: Rev Sheila Moir: 01835 822255

WHAT'S ON

Worship on Wednesday (WOW!)

Midweek Service
Half hour of worship
Coffee/tea and fellowship

September - November 2021
Church Hall in St Boswells

Wednesdays 10am
15 September
20 October



Everyone Welcome
Safe Distancing will apply
Please wear face masks

Zoom

Link on website:
www.dryburghdistrictchurches.org



**WEDNESDAYS
AT 7.30PM**

**RESTARTS
1 SEPTEMBER**

HARVEST SEASON

This year our Harvest Worship will be similar to the 2020 Season. Under current restrictions we can't bring donations of food or flowers into our churches. BUT WE CAN STILL donate to those in need in our communities. Cash donations will be made to local foodbanks. Please bring your cash donation (no cheques please) to worship during October in a sealed envelope marked '**HARVEST DONATION**'. If you are unable to bring your donation to church, please contact the Minister or Session Clerks to make an alternative arrangement.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2021

Worship in St Boswells Church at 10am

Retiring Offering in aid of Poppy Scotland (SC014096)

Please note earlier time

This service will finish in time to allow those who wish, to make their way to the War Memorial for The Act of Remembrance at 11am.

For details of Newtown's Act of Remembrance at the Newtown War Memorial, please see our website or Newtown Community Council's website and notice boards.

SESSION CLERKS' NEWS

Our most exciting event in July was the First Minister's announcement reducing safe distancing to 1 metre. This means, of course, that we no longer require our congregations to book in for Sunday morning worship. See Pages 4 and 5. But it also means no Friday night phone calls from worshippers – lovely though it was to hear from everyone, of course.

But to backtrack a bit! Since our last News, written in June, our Kirk Session met at the end of the month and continued to work through the formalities of amalgamating all our finance and business. This means some continuing work for all treasurers.

Since the start of the pandemic, there have been no fund-raising events and weekly offerings are severely reduced, especially, of course, when we were unable to worship in person. Those who make offerings through their bank account have been most co-operative in changing Standing Orders in favour of the new Charge name – Dryburgh District Churches. This commitment of financial support of our church is even more appreciated. Please contact Lucy (see page 2) as Gift Aid Treasurer, if you would like to receive envelopes to encourage your regular giving, or make a donation through your bank.

We are pleased that Rev Sheila was able to take a very well earned holiday in July and both of us and our husbands have also had some time away. Sheila's absence meant that we had to be responsible for the recording of worship – not quite sure where that is written in to a Session Clerk's job profile! But we did our best.

Our ongoing task is combining the members' rolls from the three congregations! Thanks to Excel and a huge amount of co-operation, we expect to complete the task in early August.

With relaxation in numbers allowed to meet indoors, we are looking forward to our new Property Committee being able to meet in person. This is an opportunity to share the responsibilities of caring for our four churches (Maxton, Mertoun, Newtown and St Boswells) as well as the Manse and Church Hall in St Boswells.

The mention of these buildings is perhaps an appropriate time to express our thanks to those who clean our churches and the Hall. They have coped without complaint with the alternating and changing patterns of use, and we are hugely grateful to them for making sure that our buildings are safe to use.

Winnie & Lucy

MAXTON KIRK CAR PARK

As some of you will know, there is car parking available at the bottom of the lane leading to Maxton Kirk. This car park is privately owned and is intended for use by those attending services in the church, or a funeral in the churchyard. Increasingly, however, it is being used quite extensively for organised cycling and rambling events, by professional dog walkers, and even for overnight parking by campervans. This is leading to a problem with litter as well as disruption to local homeowners. There is no objection to members of the local community using the car park for a short period while taking a walk down by the river for example, but we would ask that anyone using the car park shows respect for the owners.



DISCERNING THE CALL

My name is Sarah. I am currently a pharmacist store manager and a mum of two very energetic children! I have always considered going into ministry and it's only in recent years that this 'calling' has become so strong that it has resulted in me undertaking this process, as I believe the Lord is calling me to serve him.



In October 2020 I started a discernment process with the Church of Scotland, which basically is a 3-6 month placement to test and 'discern' your calling and ensure you are ready for the challenge of what lies ahead! This is a period of time to deeply reflect, take part in services and really gain a good insight into the role of a minister and what the everyday job entails.

After completing this placement in the Church in Melrose, I was certain this was the path that I was to pursue to lead me into Ministry. I then went through the National Assessment Conference, which is a very tough process, again testing that call from God as well as knowledge of Church of Scotland business.

The next step on the ladder of this incredible journey that I am very blessed to be on, is starting my degree in September with Highland Theological College, as well as another placement in a local Church.

I couldn't have done any of this without the grace of God leading the way and a very supportive family network around me. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Rev Rosie Frew and Rev Margaret Steele for guiding me through the discernment process and being there to answer the hundreds of questions I had for them. But in particular I would like to thank my own minister, Rev Sheila Moir, for everything she has done to support and encourage me throughout this process. She has been truly amazing!

Becoming a minister is a long road but I believe it is all worthwhile and it's certainly a journey I am very much looking forward to embarking on.



ST BOSWELLS GUILD NEWS

On Thursday 8th July, we had our first Guild 'Tea and Chat' for nearly two years. It was so nice to meet up for a cup of tea and speak to people we usually wave to across the street.

The Guild Committee hopes to start holding Guild meetings again on Thursday 14th October at 2.30pm in the Church Hall.

Our first meeting will be our annual Chrysanthemum Tea, when we will speak about the coming session. We hope to have local people come and tell us about things happening on our doorsteps.

'All are welcome, All are welcome, All are welcome in this place.'

CH4 198: *Let us build a house.*



Elizabeth Kitchin, Guild Convener

THE BEST KEPT SECRET IN DRYBURGH DISTRICT CHURCHES?

Where else could you enjoy good company, an opportunity to share experiences and memories and have a good laugh? Well, it's all available by ZOOM, and it's our Bible Study group.

We've been reading and discussing the Book of Genesis over the past few weeks and who says the Bible has nothing to teach us in modern times? We've witnessed God's creation of the world and everything in it, including humanity. And we found that, though it was presented as a Creation Story, the details reflect the scientific sequence of our understanding of earth's development.

We've experienced the drama of the development of the human story and it's like a soap opera. And the mistakes made are repeated to this day! We have much to learn as our nature remains very similar. We read of Abram, Isaac and Jacob, their families and their travels. We also read of their developing relationship with God and their growth into a nation, the chosen of that same God. We discovered unpronounceable names for people and places and this caused much merriment. We discovered that the battle of the sexes has changed little over time, and that family is all important in life. And it was confirmed that life lived in the presence of and for the glory of God, is life that is fulfilling. We continued to the story of Joseph and his saving of the Hebrew people from famine. God acting in history to provide for the well-being of his people: which included the story of Noah and the flood.



The group grew in confidence and friendship as the weeks passed and we learned more about the Genesis stories and about ourselves and our faith. The story continues of God's great purpose for his people and their growing relationship with Him, the Living God. Our own story goes on as we move on to the Book of Exodus and the slavery of the Hebrews in Egypt and their journey towards the Promised Land.

Please come and join us when we return on 1st September at 7.30 pm on Zoom. All details are on the website and in this Newsletter. You are promised the journey of a lifetime. See you soon?

Fran

INTO THE WILDERNESS

Moses came as a stranger to his flock.
A message he brought from Our Heavenly Father,
which Pharaoh did mock.
A command to let His people
go to praise and repent.
Bringing miracles to convince all
that a greater God he did represent.
Faith came slow to Jew and Egyptian alike.
One people falling into despair, the other to delight.
When finally Pharaoh relented
and gave in to God's might.
He learned too late, that against Our Heavenly Father you cannot win the fight.



Anonymous

THE WONDERS OF NEW TECHNOLOGY

I have had the pleasure of being part of the congregation of the church we attended in Glasgow in the seventies all through the magic of Zoom.

It was then called Stevenson Memorial but after many unions is now called Kelvinbridge Parish Church. This is very appropriate as the church is built on the side of the bridge over the River Kelvin on Belmont Street off Great Western Road. The church which was built on three levels – sanctuary on the bridge level, halls on the level below and the beadle's flat which leads onto the street leading into a back entrance of a lane below the bridge on the ground level. It has a tower in the form of a crown and as well as being an A listed building it has a world heritage designation. The architect was J J Stevenson and it was opened on the 27 February 1902.



It is also the home of the very first BB Company appropriately called 1st Glasgow. The founder of the BB's Sir William Smith was a member of the then Stevenson Memorial Church. The company is hoping to open once again after being closed by COVID.

You will most probably have been inside the sanctuary or one of the halls, unknowingly, as the church has been used by BBC Scotland and STV for venues in "Shetland" and "Taggart" as well as other productions. It is a very welcoming church and in "normal times" I would have been invited to have coffee with them after the service. Not unfortunately this time.

Ann Smith

ST BOSWELLS CHURCH HALL

When you are next in the Church Hall you may not notice any difference. But if you look up at the ceiling, you will see that the lights have been changed.



The old ones were failing, a quarter of them had stopped working and the rest would soon follow. To safely replace them needed a mobile scaffold, so it made sense to replace the whole units with modern LED lighting. This work was carried out by Stewarts of Kelso. The lights in the Kitchen and storeroom were also replaced.

These new lights will use less than 40% of electricity used by the old ones, saving over 60% for church funds and benefitting the planet! As an Eco Church we do what we can in this direction! The new lights will last even longer than the old fluorescent ones so that will be another future saving.

The cost was funded by a Church member who realised that the Church funds are already reduced by fewer services and we are most grateful.

MEMORIES

When I was a little girl growing up in Hawick, the organist put into my hand, a handwritten copy of J. B. Selkirk's poem, 'A Border Burn', and so, at age eight, I found myself in a rather elevated position as part of the artists' party in the town, giving recitations. My mother tonged my fringe and, wearing my smocked dress and patent shoes, I was taught how to sit and stand nicely, and in a great big loud voice, proclaim about the 'bonnie babble'.

I love the sound of a burn and, having lived in Manchester for nearly 30 years, it's been the wonderful rivers of the Borders which have perhaps thrilled me most upon my return. I'm invariably compelled to stop and listen to the hollow timbres of the running water and, midst the chirps and splashes of river life, not only enjoy the music of refreshment, but wonder, among other things, about the journey of the water from its source to the sea.

Full of purpose and drama, a river seems to have a story to tell and none more so than the Tweed as it loops and twists through the parish of the Dryburgh District.

The great storyteller, Sir Walter Scott, whose 250th birthday anniversary we mark this year, must have known the meandering of the Tweed intimately. Time and time again he would have breathed in the expansive beauty of Scott's View and from that high vantage point, beheld the drama of valley and hill unfolding before his eyes.

For the gleam of the rainbow trout, the gurgling purity of the waters, the purpose which determines all hills and valleys, and for the rich beauty of the landscape spread so generously before us, Praise God!

Helen Leach, Organist



BLYTHSWOOD SHOEBOX APPEAL

We had a very good response to the appeal last year, despite the pandemic, and it would be lovely to do even better this year. Hopefully shopping for items for boxes will not be so problematic as it was last year! If you have not taken part before, please give it a try. Filling the shoeboxes is good fun and they mean so much to the people who receive them.



To be delivered in time for Christmas, filled boxes should be handed in to churches on or before **Sunday 24th October**.

If you have empty shoeboxes that you do not need, please recycle them by handing them in to any of the churches.

Leaflets for the 2021 shoebox appeal will appear in the churches soon.



The Church of Scotland

Social Care Council

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Excerpt from the website of CrossReach: www.crossreach.org.uk/

Support CrossReach through: <https://www.justgiving.com>

JustGiving™

Children and Families Supported (2020/21)

East **2844**

West **2493**

North **1752**

2500 individuals and families received counselling (2020/21)



EXCERPT FROM LIFE & WORK

The magazine of the Church of Scotland:



Kilfinnan Chapel, one of the sites on the Faith in Cowal pilgrim network.

Picture: subtlesensor

A new short video has been produced on behalf of **Faith in Cowal** that showcases the rich religious heritage and newly established pilgrim routes across Argyll's spectacular **Cowal peninsula**. Promoting "The Cowal Pilgrimage", the video is narrated by Jim Ritchie and includes a backing track written by Skye Beautyman, Gordon Whyte and Ciaran Whyte. The video, along with information about the pilgrim sites and detailed walking guides for The Cowal Pilgrimage, can all be found on the Faith in Cowal website: <https://faithincowal.org>



NEWS FROM ECO CONGREGATION SCOTLAND

www.ecocongregationscotland.org

*'Eco-Congregation Scotland is a Christian environmental charity supporting and encouraging Scotland's churches, **addressing climate change and conservation**. Our vision is for a Scotland that cares for God's creation.'*

As well as the pandemic raging just now, we are being made more aware of the effects of climate change, not only in this country but also in Europe and many small Asian countries whose land is disappearing. We may ask what we as individuals can do to help reduce the onset of global warming. Are we destroying God's wonderful creation in this world?

Eco-Congregation Scotland (of which our Church is a member) has been organising webinars and meetings on how we can prepare for the coming COP 26 meeting in Glasgow in November. Subjects include action to reduce carbon emissions, how to deal with plastic waste and in particular food waste which produces high levels of methane gas which are very damaging to the atmosphere.

As many are aware, bottled water uses a lot of plastic, and water from the tap, especially in this area is excellent. (In some tests many people could not tell the difference.) So, fill up your used bottles with tap water instead of throwing them out!

Coming workshops and subjects for discussion include **air pollution**. As we know, pollution comes from a variety of sources such as motor vehicles, aircraft, industry, volcanic ash and wildfires. Our actions and choices about the kinds of transport we choose and the goods we purchase can have a direct effect on the ability of children to enjoy their right to as good health as is possible for them.'

How could we reduce our demand for newly manufactured goods?

If you had to make one change to the way you travel or the things you buy tomorrow to help reduce pollution, what would it be? Have you noticed any effects of air pollution in Scotland?

How could we make sure that our use of transport, goods and other services doesn't stop children enjoying their right to as good health as is possible for them?

Are there any practical actions that society could take to clean up the air we breathe?"

Another workshop with Zero Waste Scotland is about making things last. "Four-fifths of the carbon footprint generated by Scotland comes from the products and materials we use."

So, is recycling the answer or is there another alternative?

All this for the sake of our children and grandchildren. Will they ask what part did we play in this?



PRAYER

**‘And HE got up and rebuked the winds and the sea
and there was a great and wonderful calm.’**

Matthew 8, verse 26

It was evening. It had been a long day as usual. JESUS had given HIS full attention in love as HE spoke and ministered, moment by moment, to the crowds, as well as to the individuals who came to HIM. And now, HE slept on a cushion in the stern of the boat as they crossed to the other side of the Sea of Galilee.

Suddenly, as is apt to happen there, a violent storm arose. (Amplified Bible: of hurricane proportions.) The disciples, some of whom were seasoned fishermen, cried out in fear as they struggled to deal with the water surging into the boat, believing that death was imminent. They woke THE LORD and said ‘Master, don’t YOU care that we are perishing?’ JESUS stood up, saying, ‘Why are you so fearful, O you of little faith! And HE commanded the winds and the waves to ‘Be still!’ The fear of the disciples, like the wind and the waves, subsided and turned to great awe.

Recently, I saw a notice in the window of a small church in Edinburgh. In large letters it said ‘Peace is not the absence of a storm. It is the Presence of THE LORD in the storm.’ ‘That is exactly the point which JESUS was making that evening in the boat on the sea of Galilee.

Ever present LORD,
Help us in our prayers for those known to us
going through their own storms at this time.
Grant us the grace so to walk with YOU in love
and trust each day, that when the storms of life
come our way we too may know the power and
Presence of the LORD of Life and the peace HE brings.
In HIS Name we pray, Amen.

Rev Winnie Munson

WORLD MISSION STAMP APPEAL

Please continue collecting stamps to support the Women's Development Centre (WDC) in Kandy, Sri Lanka, which supports women who have survived rape, sexual violence and family rejection, returning them to education and learning skills that will allow them to make a living.

Stamps may be left in any of our churches, or please contact:

**Ann Smith, Old Schoolhouse,
St Boswells TD6 OAE.**



OLD MELROSE WALKS

The two final Old Melrose Walks for this season will be on:

Tuesday 7th September
and **Tuesday 5th October**

Meeting at 1.30 pm at
Old Melrose Tearoom.

Please phone Ian Skinner
on 01835 822823
to reserve a place.

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Extend Exercise Class for the Over 60s

St Boswells Village Hall – Tuesdays 1.45-2.45pm

Restarts face to face from Tuesday 24th August

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

For more information call
Amanda 07712 587 516

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