



Coldstream Parish Church

COLDSTREAM AND DISTRICT PARISHES

LINKED WITH ECCLES & LEITHOLM PARISH CHURCH

Following the retirement of our minister in April 2023, the framework for implementing the Presbytery Mission Plan in our local area was approved in 2025, enabling us to call a minister.

We are at the start of a new chapter for Coldstream and District Parishes linked with Eccles & Leitholm Parish Church – a charge shaped by centuries of faith and deep community roots.



Leitholm Parish Church

The Presbytery Plan provides for a minister to be resident in Coldstream, who will be part of a team of ministers in the Berwick and Berwickshire parish grouping providing support and advice throughout the parishes in our area, with the Coldstream based minister having the role of worship advisor.

Our vision is a community where:

- All feel welcome and encouraged to participate
- Worship is stimulating, innovative & Christ centred
- Community and Church walk hand in hand
- The five marks of mission are at the core
- Faith and fellowship run strong as a family of God

We seek a minister with a heart for worship and preaching rooted in the Word of God — someone capable of helping people of all ages engage with the Bible and it's message and it's relevance to everyday life. The ideal candidate will provide guidance, inspiration, and leadership to help us make Jesus known within our parishes, and will demonstrate enthusiasm for being part of a team ministry.

We are looking for a minister who serves the entire community, is visible and approachable, and actively engages with individuals across all age groups and backgrounds.

Our two parishes lie in beautiful farmland on the border with England, halfway between Edinburgh and Newcastle, on the banks of the river Tweed, with the Cheviot hills to the south west and the Lammermuirs to the north.

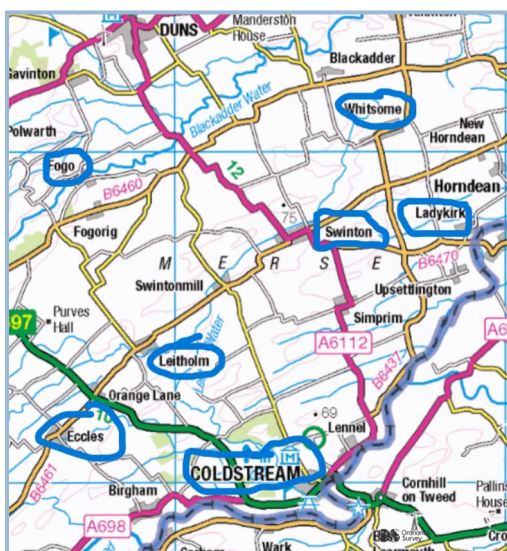


HISTORY & CURRENT PROFILE

There was first a church on the site of Coldstream Parish Church in 1705, with the current building opening in 1908. The tower from the original church was retained and continues to dominate the Coldstream skyline. The church is situated on the High Street, with the church hall to the rear. Coldstream Parish Church linked with Eccles Parish Church in 1985.

In 2016, the charge of the Merse Churches comprising Ladykirk, Swinton, Fogo and Leitholm Churches was dissolved on the retirement of the minister. Ladykirk Church was closed and subsequently sold to the Ladykirk Estates, Swinton Church united with Coldstream to form Coldstream and District Parishes and Leitholm Church was united with Eccles Church to form Eccles and Leitholm Parish Church. Fogo Church was placed under the guardianship of Presbytery.

Under the Presbytery Plan it was decided to close Swinton and Eccles churches on the retirement of our minister. A community trust is negotiating to buy Swinton church and it is expected that Eccles church will be for sale next year. Meanwhile both have remained available for weddings, funerals and occasional services.



Coldstream and District Parishes

Coldstream and District parishes includes the villages of Whitsome, Ladykirk and Swinton.

The current roll of the congregation stands at 286 members and adherents and attendance each Sunday is usually within the range of 25 to 35, the majority of attendees are over the age of 65.

The attendance has remained steady over the past two years and in this time a number of new people have become regular attenders from a variety of nationalities.



The Church is administered in accordance with the terms of the Model Deed of Constitution. There are currently 24 elders on the Coldstream Kirk Session, 15 female and 9 male, with the majority being over the age of 60. Our active elders number sixteen – 9 female and 7 male. In 2023 three new elders were appointed. There are an additional 8 members on the Coldstream Congregational Board, with election/re-election taking place every three years.

Both the Kirk Session and Congregational Board meet a minimum of 4 times a year. There is also a Finance Committee responsible for budgeting and organising the annual Gift Day.

Eccles and Leitholm

The Eccles and Leitholm parish congregational roll stands at 124 and attendance at Sunday services is on average 21, with attendance on special occasions, such as Christmas and Easter and Harvest, over 30 and often nearer 50.

The church is administered in accordance with the terms of the Unitary Constitution and the Leitholm church building is vested in the local trustees. There are currently eight elders in the Kirk Session – 4 female and 4 male. The Kirk Session meets a minimum of 4 times a year.

Our Kirk Sessions have voted to depart in terms of the Ministers and Deacons in Same Sex Civil Partnerships and Same Sex Marriages Act.

Both our congregations have many strengths. However, our main challenges are the age profile of our active membership; adapting to change; being confident in our faith and able to share it with others; reaching out to members who no longer come to church and also to the wider community . We need encouragement to use our gifts and talents, deepen our fellowship, grow our faith and strengthen our prayer life.

OUR COMMUNITIES

Coldstream is a town with a growing population of approximately 2,500 and the population of the parish is about 3000. About 200 new private homes have been built since 2000 on the northern edge of Coldstream and a housing association development of about 50 homes is under planning consideration.

A number of community facilities exist in Coldstream including a primary school, health centre, dentist surgery, community larder, and a community centre located in a former Church of Scotland building. As well as a range of local businesses, there are also some larger employers in the town. A holiday park was recently opened on the edge of the town, providing an opportunity to attract long and short-term visitors to worship with us.

Although over 50% of the population are over 50, and over 35% are over 65, Coldstream has a vibrant community with over 50 organisations and clubs.

Members of the church are involved in various roles in a number of these, e.g. Guides, Twinning Association, Literary Society, History Society, etc., as well as the setup and running of the community larder, which began life in the church hall before moving to permanent premises.



Eccles and Leitholm

Eccles and Leitholm parish has a population of about 800, including the village of Birgham. Leitholm is a small rural village with a population of about 230. The village has a village hall that offers a variety of events, and a pub on the main street.

Eccles is also a small rural village with a population of about 70. The village hall and the village school closed a number of years ago and the Church was the last community space.

The village of Birgham has a population of less than 300 and has a village hall.



Coldstream, and Eccles, Leitholm & Birgham, were two of the first five community council areas in the whole of the Scottish Borders to submit a local place plan to the council. The place plans set out visions and priorities for change over the next ten years, building on our area's potential and shaping its future for the better. Over 82% of Coldstream residents were supportive of the place plan, illustrating the level of community spirit and support within the town.

WORSHIP LIFE

Coldstream Parish Church

Services in Coldstream are held every Sunday at 10:30am. We have a church hall, which can lend itself to more informal, intimate services, especially during the winter months, and can comfortably accommodate a congregation of 35-40.



We celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion four times a year.

Since the retirement of our minister, services in Coldstream, in a variety of styles, have been led by our worship team or visiting ministers or preachers. Members participate in delivering prayers, Bible readings, and dramatised readings. We would like to explore ways of increasing the inter-generational appeal of our worship.

A worship team was established in autumn 2021 and now regularly plans and leads services. Three members of the group have completed all or part of the worship leaders' training offered by the Presbytery of Lothian and Borders jointly with the Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian.

The installation of a full audio/visual system in our church and hall has opened up the opportunity for new styles of worship, such as playing videos, displaying images, and playing a wider range of hymns and worship songs.

Most hymns are taken from CH4 and are accompanied on the two manual Allen electric organ or piano, or occasionally accompanied by a flautist or guitar.

There is also an upright piano in the hall.



School Christmas Service

We have a printed order of service every week with intimations keeping the congregation up to date with the many forthcoming services and events.

We enjoy fellowship after the Sunday service each week with tea or coffee, to which all regular attendees and visitors are always warmly invited.

Over the past five years, there have been 11 infant baptisms. Whilst we always welcome families on any occasion, we would love a minister who could encourage parents and families to return to church after their special day.

We have several special services during the year :-

Good Friday Walk of Witness; Easter Sunday service, Coldstream Civic Week, Harvest Thanksgiving, Remembrance Day and a Christingle service on Christmas Eve.

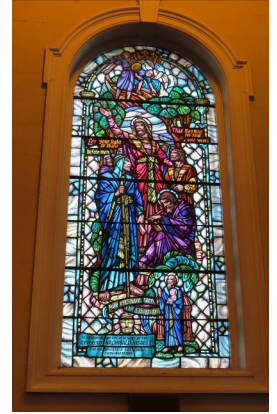
Some of these are joint services with our friends from St Mary's Episcopal Church .





Our link with the primary school is currently strong and the church has played host regularly to their Easter and Christmas services. The nursery children were so amazed when they were here for their Easter service that they returned for a special trip to ask questions about the church, the stained-glass windows, pulpit, etc.

In 2025 BCYT and some of our members put on Easter Alive in the Church for the P4 to P7 years.



We offer various services and gatherings :

- Men's Prayer Breakfast held fortnightly on Saturday mornings and attended by men from different denominations.
 - Ladies@10 who meet fortnightly for fellowship and discussion.
 - Sunday Sing which precedes alternate Sunday services, gives an opportunity to worship through the singing of new worship songs and some old favourites.
 - Monthly Iona services on Wednesday evenings.
 - The Guild meets monthly from October to March. For many of the 30 or so members, the Guild is the main or only contact with the church.
- It is not affiliated to the Church of Scotland National Guild.



The group from the men's prayer breakfast enjoying a full cooked breakfast as a special event.



"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit."

John 15:5

Leitholm Parish Church

Services are held in Leitholm at 9:45am on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. They are usually led by retired ministers and occasionally by the Session Clerk and follow a more traditional approach to worship. Members read the lessons from the Bible.

Tea and coffee are served in the church after the service.

Leitholm Church holds a “Cuppa and Chat” on the first and third Tuesday afternoons each month for anyone from the community, with an average attendance of nine.



Since November 2024 Coldstream session chose to move the time of their Sunday service to the earlier time of 10.30am in order to accommodate family commitments. Previously services were held at 11.15 a.m. to enable the minister also to take services in Eccles and Leitholm at 9.45 a.m. As the present timing does not allow for services to be held back-to-back, the Coldstream Kirk Session has agreed to work with our new minister to identify the optimal pattern of worship for the two congregations.

PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral care is seen as an essential part of our ministry, both for members and the wider community. We aim to work with those who need to be visited, heard, or comforted; the elderly, ill, infirm, bereaved, those struggling socially or financially, or those who just need an ear to listen.

Most members on the roll are in Elders Districts and are visited regularly with Church magazines and invites to Communion. The manse family is also included in an Elders District. Many of our members appreciate a visit from a minister and the elders would like the minister to partner with us in providing appropriate pastoral care.

In 2023, 14 funerals took place and in 2024, 12 funerals took place either in Coldstream Parish Church or conducted elsewhere, by our interim moderator or other local or retired ministers.

There are two residential homes in Coldstream, Lennel House and Victoria Lodge, both of which would welcome visits from a minister. An afternoon service takes place once a month at Lennel House, led by the Episcopal priest together with one of our members. There is a sheltered housing complex – Gowanlea, where our previous minister would hold regular services, sometimes including Communion.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Berwickshire Christian Youth Trust (BCYT) sometimes lead assemblies at the primary school, and also the local high school which, although not in Coldstream, is attended by the majority of pupils from Coldstream. BCYT also provide an annual activity day in Coldstream for primary school children, organised and assisted by members of the church. These activity days are attended by roughly 20-25 children and give them the opportunity to explore the church. We have held movie, popcorn and craft sessions and our Christingle service is well attended by local and visiting families.



We try to encourage children to the church by being interactive with treasure hunts & quizzes. The Girlguiding units in the town participate in special services such as Remembrance, celebrating the Queen's Jubilee, the King's Coronation & this year the guides took part in the Mothers Day Service.

More activities for youth was one of the top priorities in the Coldstream Place Plan so there is an opportunity to share our faith if the correct approach can be found with a minister's assistance.

We also offer Christian Education for adults through an annual Lent course, and recently we ran a three-week course on hope called Hope Explored. In the past, we have run Alpha and The Prayer Course along with using various other bible study materials at other times.

COLDLDSTREAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

We are privileged to have a good relationship with St Mary & All Souls Church in Coldstream, a Scottish Episcopal church and are keen to explore opportunities for increasing what we do together.

We share the leadership of Taizé services of stillness and reflection once a month.

A relatively new tradition has been established of Coldstream Churches Together leading community carol singing in Henderson Park or Market Square.

Other joint events have included Lent courses, a service and lunch for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, service and lunch for Christian Aid, Civic Week, Remembrance Sunday services and the annual World Day of Prayer.

We meet with them for our annual, traditional, ecumenical walk of witness along Coldstream High Street on Good Friday.



FINANCE

Both parishes pay their Giving to Grow contribution on time and in full. In 2025 the combined assessment is £54,422, apportioned £40,858 to Coldstream and District Parishes and £13,564 to Eccles and Leitholm Parish Church.

Coldstream & District Parishes hold a gift day most years and this usually results in a good boost to our funds from our members. Our other main fundraisers throughout the year are our Summer Teas and our annual Fayre.



In 2024 the General Fund income of Coldstream and District Parishes was £61,080 and expenditure £68,731. After transfers to the General Fund of £16,755 there was a General Fund balance of £9,618.

Eccles & Leitholm had a surplus of £2,398 in 2024 and a deficit of £1019 in 2023.

Both Parishes have strong unrestricted reserves.

CHURCH, HALL AND MANSE

Coldstream Parish Church and hall have full disabled access into and within the building. There is a fully equipped kitchen off the hall.

A review is being undertaken regarding the need for a new heating system within the church.

Recent alterations have taken place to ensure all areas of the premises are now wheelchair accessible.



A flexible space was also created which has so far been used as a children's activity area during a baptism service and for book and information displays when the church was open during Civic Week.

There is now an extended raised platform at the front of the church to create more room for those presenting worship.



Civic Week Service



The church has a high vaulted ceiling providing good acoustics and several stained glass windows. Last year the Church hosted a concert held by the Belcando Choir from Germany. A number of other groups including Coldstream Parish Church Guild and an art group make use of the hall. There is a diary in the hall and the Session Clerk takes bookings.

Leitholm Church

Leitholm Church is located in Church Lane, just off the main street. It is a traditional style church with wheelchair accessible pews and a balcony.

Under the balcony there is a welcoming vestibule with a small kitchen to one side and a vestry to the other side and compliant toilets. The entrance is accessible by a ramp.



Inside of Leitholm Church from the Balcony.



Pulpit, communion table and organ in Leitholm Church

The Manse

Coldstream Manse is a modern, three bedroom detached house with a garden and single garage only 15 minutes walk from the church.

See Appendix 1



PRESBYTERY PLAN & WORSHIP ADVISOR ROLE

The Presbytery Mission Plan adopted by the Presbytery of Duns at the end of 2022 outlined a bold vision of congregations taking an increasing role in all aspects of ministry supported by four ministers working as a team with their time split 20% on ministry within their own parishes and 80% as ministry advisors for the churches in Berwickshire. The four areas in which they would work as advisors were Mission, Worship, Pastoral and Christian Education. This plan was incorporated into the Mission Plan of the Lothian and Borders Presbytery, which was approved in the summer of 2023 .

The Plan did not define a framework for implementation of this vision. Four charges – two new linkages, an existing union and the existing linkage of Coldstream and District Parishes and Eccles and Leitholm Parish – agreed in early 2025 to form a parish grouping within which the four ministers will work as a team. This agreement opened the way to permission to call a minister to our charge, on a Basis of Reviewable Charge.

The minister called to our charge will have the role of Worship Advisor within the Parish Grouping. We anticipate that our minister will at the beginning spend the majority of their time within the two parishes in the linkage, while exploring the opportunities for developing **support for others to lead** worship within the Parish Grouping, **moving to 80% of their time on this aspect over time.**

WEBSITE & LINKS

Coldstream Parish Church has an informative website, which includes information for Leitholm Parish Church. Each week a 'Sunday Focus' is published which contains Bible readings, prayers, thoughts and links to videos of hymns and songs. This was first set up during the pandemic and has continued to be enjoyed since then by those who cannot always make a Sunday morning service, and for those who want additional time for personal worship. The number of views can vary between 50 and over 100 each week and so is a major part of our ministry.

Our website can be found here: www.coldstreamdistrictchurches.org.uk

We also have a church Facebook page: www.facebook.com/ColdstreamKirk

Church of Scotland—Find A Church: www.cos.churchofscotland.org.uk/church-finder/

Link to the parish grouping worship page: www.abvcosworship.com/

Berwickshire Christian Youth Trust: www.bcytborders.org.uk/

For an informal chat please contact our Interim Moderator Susan Patterson.

Email: aspatterson1960@gmail.com - Telephone 07976 902981

Nominating Committee Clerk: Karen Williams - coldstreampc.nc@gmail.com

Registered Charity Numbers: Coldstream and District Parishes SC001456 Eccles and Leitholm Parish Church SC000031

APPENDIX 1

Coldstream Manse is a modern detached 3 bedroom house within a quiet estate in the north of the town.

It comprises:

Entrance Porch

Hall with toilet

Lounge

Office

Kitchen/Dining room

Utility room

Large Garden Room

Main Bedroom with fitted wardrobes and an ensuite shower room

Two further bedrooms each with fitted wardrobe/cupboard

Bathroom – bath & overbath shower

Enclosed rear garden with wooden shed

Open front garden

Single garage and parking on drive
for 4 cars

Hot water and central heating provided by combi gas boiler

Electric solar panels and battery storage

Double glazed

EPC Rating – B

