

Coldstream & District Parishes Church Magazine February 2025



**You are invited to Holy Communion
at the Sunday Service in Coldstream
on 16 February 2025
at 10.30 a.m.**

..... Elder

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NEW BEGINNINGS

At this time of year as we look around us we see signs of new growth and renewal. The snowdrops have appeared, the new shoots of daffodils hold out the promise of spring just around the corner and the birds are gathering material for their nests. It's a time to think about new beginnings.

In church the calendar of readings has taken us to the beginning of Jesus' ministry. John's gospel records as his first miracle the occasion when Jesus turned the water into wine at a wedding in Cana – a reminder that Jesus was fully engaged with the life of his community and cared about day to day problems, and also a sign of the transformation which he freely offers to all of us.

Luke sees the story of Jesus' visit to the synagogue in his home town of Nazareth as defining the direction of his ministry. Their rejection of him shows that Jesus' message can be uncomfortable for the religious folk who think God is there specially for them. The vision which Jesus proclaimed is of good news that reaches out far beyond the walls of the religious institutions – it's for everybody.

As a church we are constantly challenged by Jesus not to rest on our laurels, but to be open to new beginnings and transformation. We hope that 2025 will be the year when we invite a new minister to our midst. That's not going to mean settling back into the old routine of expecting the minister to do everything! The future will very much involve working together as a team, making best use of all our abilities.

We hope that a new minister at the helm will bring fresh perspectives and that we will be encouraged and supported to think in new ways about being church in our community. First and foremost the minister will need our support, initially as they settle into the manse and long-term as we share in all aspects of serving our parish.

PLANS FOR A MINISTRY TEAM

It is now over two years since the Presbytery of Duns put forward a plan to create a new pattern of ministry in Berwick and Berwickshire. The vision was to make best use of a limited number of ministers by developing a model of team working in which each minister would serve as an advisor to all of the congregations in the area on a specific aspect of church work. The plan proposed that each minister would have their own parish, but spend the majority of their time working with all the churches, supporting church members to share in doing many of the things traditionally done by ministers.

Since then the Duns Presbytery has merged with the new Presbytery of Lothian and Borders and the Duns plan has been incorporated into the plan of the new presbytery. Actually working out how to implement the vision outlined in the plan has required a lot of patient discussion, but now the way forward has been agreed by all concerned and we are ready to vote on the new arrangements.

The Parish Grouping for the churches in Berwick and Berwickshire will have five ministers. The worship advisor will be the minister of Coldstream and District Parishes linked with Eccles and Leitholm Parish Church, the youth advisor will be the minister of Coldingham Parish Church linked with Eyemouth Parish Church, the mission advisor the minister of Duns and District Parishes, the pastoral advisor the minister of Earlston Parish Church linked with Gordon, Greenlaw and Legerwood Parish Churches and the Christian education advisor the minister of Berwick linked with Ayton and District Parishes and Fogo Parish Church.

We will be able to advertise for new ministers in Coldstream, Duns and Earlston, each of whom will be

appointed on the basis of reviewable tenure. This means that every few years there will be a review of the work of the ministers and of the congregations, which enables Presbytery to respond to changes in circumstances. The ministers in Berwick and Eyemouth will remain in place and gradually transition to their advisory roles.

Our Kirk Session and Congregational Board will be meeting on 13 February to vote on the Basis for the Parish Grouping and the Basis of Reviewable Tenure for the minister in Coldstream. A special congregational meeting will be held after the morning service on Sunday 23 February to vote on these documents.

When all the Kirk Sessions and congregations have voted in favour of the Parish Grouping and the other related matters the process of advertising the three vacancies in Coldstream, Duns and Earlston can begin.

All members and adherents of Coldstream and District Parishes are invited to attend the congregational meeting on 23 February. Formal notice will be given in church and the documents to be approved will be available to read in church.

ANNUAL STATED MEETING

The Annual Stated Meeting of the congregation of Coldstream and District Parishes will take place after the morning service on Sunday 9 March. At this meeting the Annual Report and Accounts will be presented and there will be an opportunity to ask questions about them and about the life of the Church. Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts will be available in church the previous Sunday.

Michael Rowe, Session Clerk

LENT COURSE

Lent this year starts at the beginning of March. We plan a Lent Course in our Church Hall with friends from St Mary's, starting with a pancake party on Tuesday 4 March. Please look out for details on the website and Facebook page.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The annual World Day of Prayer service will be held on Friday 7 March at 3.00 p.m. in our Church Hall. The service is planned each year by a team of Christian women in a different country of the world – this year from the Cook Islands, with the theme “I made you wonderfully”. The service will be conducted by ladies from our local churches, and men are very warmly welcome to attend.

OUR SUNDAY WORSHIP

Our **Sunday morning Church services** continue every week at the new time of 10.30 a.m., with tea and coffee in the hall after the service. During the winter months we alternate between the church and the hall. Many of our services are led by members of our worship team, though we have invited a couple of guest preachers in March.

Every other week “**Sunday Sing**” meets before the service in the hall at 9.30 a.m. to sing and worship God. We generally sing contemporary worship songs and hymns, but we have some old favourites too! We are not a choir, just people who enjoy singing together. Everyone is welcome – you do not have to be a great singer, just someone who enjoys singing with others! We'll be meeting next on Sundays 9 and 23 February and 9 and 23 March.

On the fourth Sunday each month at 5.00 p.m. we hold a joint **Service of Stillness and Reflection** at St Mary and All Souls Church, with refreshments from 4.30 p.m. The next services are on Sundays 23 February and 23 March.

WEEKDAY ACTIVITIES

Ladies@10: We meet every other week on a Wednesday morning from 10.00 to about 11.30. We enjoy catching up with each other over a coffee or tea and some cake! We have a look at a Bible passage and pray for any concerns that we may have. To check the dates and venue please email *ColdstreamPC@gmail.com*

Men's Prayer Breakfast: A group of up to a dozen men meet every other Saturday from 8.00 to 9.00 a.m. in the Church hall to share a breakfast of bacon or egg roll and tea and coffee and a time of fellowship and prayer. We come from different church traditions and are equally comfortable with times of silence and with spoken prayers. We share a common concern to bring to God the needs of the world, our community, neighbours, friends and families. New members will be very welcome.

Iona service: On the third Wednesday evening of the month we hold an informal service in the Church hall at 7.30 p.m., with refreshments served from 7.15 and afterwards. We begin and end with responses and prayers drawn from the worship of the Iona Community and each time reflect on and discuss a different theme.

Lennel House: On the last Wednesday of each month at 3.00 p.m. we hold a short service jointly with St Mary and All Souls Church for the residents of Lennel House. All are welcome to sing and to chat with the residents.

Parish Church Guild: The Guild is open to everyone – male or female – and meets at 7.00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month in the Church Hall. Visitors are always welcome at a cost of £2.00.

Members were saddened to hear of the recent death of Anna May Watson. Anna May was an active member of the Guild until her move to Melrose to be near her family and

will be remembered for her unfailing good humour and kindness to everyone. The Guild extend their deepest sympathy to Anna May's family at this sad time.

Our January meeting brought Dr Martin Hadshar and David Guthrie to talk about the defibrillators placed around Coldstream and how to work them. It was an excellent presentation and very informative. On 12 February we welcome John Elliot with "Memories of Scottish Photographer Nichol Elliot" which should be very interesting. On 12 March we have "An Evening with Rev Dr Susan Brown" and we finish our year on 9 April with our AGM and an evening of crafts with Isobel Johnson. All in all a varied selection!

Helen Park

NEWS FROM SWINTON KIRK

It is incredible to think that we started the journey as the Merse Church back in October 2023 and how we have grown as a congregation. We are still small in numbers, some 22 of us, but meeting regularly once a month for worship and fellowship. We have now put some structure into the church with a Church Council, consisting of myself as Pastor and four members and even have a constitution which will go to the congregation in February for approval. We are now looking at how we can ensure a long-term future as a church.

In parallel we have been progressing the purchase of the Kirk for the community, and we hope we are nearing the end of that journey. We now have meaningful engagement with the Church of Scotland and the Scottish Land Fund, to whom we would look for the majority of the funding for the Kirk's purchase. In addition, we have carried out detailed public consultation, commissioned an independent valuation, developed a business case and employed an

architect to take forward our plans for creating a flexible community space whilst allowing worship to take place in a building which maintains much of its ambience as a place of worship. There remain many hurdles, but we rejoice that we are still here proclaiming the word of God to our community.

You can be assured of a warm welcome at any of our services at 10.00 a.m. on the third Sunday of the month..

Sunday 16 February – Morning Prayer

Sunday 16 March – Preparing for Easter

Sunday 20 April – Easter Day Communion

Sunday 18 May – visiting preacher Rev Tim Morris

Sunday 15 June – Healing service

David Dalglish



SUNDAY FOCUS

If you can't manage to get to church – or would like something extra – we offer on our website a weekly selection of hymns, songs, a Bible reading and prayers, along with some thoughts on the Bible reading. You will find a link on the home page of the Church website and also posted on the Church Facebook page.

KEEP IN TOUCH

For the latest news and updates on Coldstream and District Parishes please visit our Church website

www.coldstreamdistrictchurches.org.uk

and Facebook page www.facebook.com/ColdstreamKirk

You can contact us via the website or Facebook page or by email to ColdstreamPC@gmail.com