

Coldstream & District Parishes Church Magazine February 2026



**You are invited to Holy Communion
at the Sunday Service
in Coldstream Parish Church
on 15 February 2026 at 10.30 a.m.**

..... Elder

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THE ART OF WAITING

Nowadays mince pies are still on the shelves when the first hot cross buns arrive! It seems that we can no longer wait till Good Friday – we must have them as soon as Christmas is behind us. In the world of next day delivery and instant messaging have we forgotten the art of waiting? With it have we lost out on expectation and anticipation?

The church calendar includes times of waiting and expectation, perhaps especially during the season of Advent when we look forward to Christmas and remind ourselves of God's promises that a Saviour would be born. Soon we will be in the season of Lent. Rather than the traditional fasting, today we see Lent more as an opportunity to slow down and carve out some time for reflection. Either way, it's a time of waiting and preparation for the events of Holy Week and the joy of Easter.

God's creation also speaks to us of waiting. The cycle of the seasons cannot be rushed. In the midst of winter we need to wait for the days to get longer and warmer, we live in anticipation of spring and summer and of flowers, fruit and vegetables growing, maturing and becoming ready to be picked.

There is a lovely verse in the book of the prophet Isaiah (chapter 40, verse 31) which in the King James version speaks of waiting: "But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." Other translations use the word hope, but hope also encompasses expectation and anticipation.

As a church we have been waiting. It's almost three years since David Taverner retired as our minister – and it seems a very long three years! There have been frustrations as details of the Presbytery Plan for ministry in Berwickshire

were negotiated. We are still in the time of waiting, but now that we have been able to advertise for a minister we have a greater sense of expectation and anticipation of the person whom God is calling to lead the ministry of our congregations in Coldstream and Leitholm.

In this time have we been “waiting upon the Lord”, in hopeful expectation, relying on God’s strength and guidance? I hope so. We may not yet be soaring as on eagle’s wings, but, as we walk with God beside us, I sense that He has been developing the life of our congregation and growing the gifts which He has given to each one of us.

Whether you are able to come to church or not, would you please pray for our church – your church – that as the people of God we may more and more show His love in the midst of our community.

OUR SEARCH FOR A MINISTER

Since advertising the post of minister in our linked parishes of Coldstream and Leitholm in September our Nominating Committee has received a number of applications. Please pray for wisdom and discernment from God for the members of the committee as we consider the most recent candidate. It is important for us to find the person who is right not only for our two parishes but also for the role of worship advisor for the Parish Grouping of congregations in Berwickshire.

Our nominating committee is required to recommend a single nominee to be invited to preach in both Leitholm and Coldstream churches, when the members of both congregations will vote whether to call the candidate to be our minister. The date will be announced in our weekly notices, on the website and in the Berwickshire News.

Michael Rowe, Session Clerk

CHURCH HEATING

Over the past couple of years increasing numbers of leaks in the heating pipes under the pews led us to consider a new heating system in the church. Work has now begun to install modern radiators which we believe will heat the church more effectively and cost-efficiently. The cast iron pipes were probably installed at the time the church was rebuilt in 1906 – it's amazing they have lasted so long!

While the work is being done our services are taking place in the Church Hall. We are always nice and warm in the hall and the atmosphere is more informal. We are committed to Sunday worship every week – if you haven't been to a service in the hall why not give it a try?

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Our Sunday services continue every week at 10.30 a.m. and all are welcome to attend and to join us for refreshments in the hall afterwards. On alternate Sundays we meet at 9.30 a.m., usually in the hall, for Sunday Sing – an opportunity to enjoy singing old favourites and new worship songs in an informal atmosphere.

Lent Reflections

We will again be having a series of Lent reflections in our church hall together with our friends from St Mary and All Souls Episcopal Church. We will meet at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday evenings on 24 February and 3, 10, 17 and 24 March.

The theme of the reflections is "Worship in the Wilderness" – all are welcome to come to join us to journey with Jesus through the desert for Lent.

There will be a service at St Mary's Church in Lennel Road to mark the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday 18 February at 5.00 p.m. to which all are warmly invited.

“Thinking day”

Sunday 22 February is “Thinking day” when Girl Guides around the world think of their fellow Guides. It was first celebrated 100 years ago and for our service at 10.30 a.m. we will be joined by the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides to mark the occasion. If you were ever a Guide you will be especially welcome to join us in Church.

World Day of Prayer

The annual service for the World Day of Prayer will take place on Friday 6 March at 2.30 p.m. in our Church Hall – this is a joint service led this year by St Mary and All Souls Episcopal Church, with participation from both our churches.

The service for 2026 has been prepared by Christian women from Nigeria – do come and join us and learn a bit about the lives of Christian women in Nigeria as we pray on this day together with Christians from around the world.

Holy Week and Easter

We will have a Palm Sunday service at 10.30 a.m. on 29 March and an informal Communion service on Maundy Thursday 2 April at 7.00 p.m. On Good Friday 3 April we will join with St Mary and All Souls Church for our ecumencial Walk of Witness along the High Street, leaving Henderson Park at 10.00 a.m. And our Easter Day celebration is on Sunday 5 April at 10.30 a.m.

Joint services with St Mary and All Souls Church

As well as the shared activities with St Mary’s mentioned above, we have a joint service of stillness and reflection at St Mary’s on the fourth Sunday of each month, at 3.00 p.m. in winter (November to February) and 5.00 p.m. for the rest of the year, with refreshments served before the service. We take it in turns to plan and lead the service.

Also every month on a Wednesday afternoon a group from both churches visits Lennel House care home for a short service of hymns and prayers.

For Robert Burns' birthday on Sunday 25 January, which coincided with the second Sunday of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the congregation of St Mary's joined us for our morning service and shared a Burns lunch of haggis, neeps and tatties after the service. It was a very enjoyable time exploring what Burns has to say to the church today and sharing fellowship over the lunch.

Our friends from St Mary's will be joining us again on 15 March for Mothering Sunday.

Men's Prayer Breakfast

A group of men from our congregation and other local churches meet for breakfast, a short Bible reflection and a time of fellowship and prayer every other Saturday. If you haven't attended, why not give us a try? You will receive a warm welcome, a bacon or egg roll, tea and coffee before we pray together for our community and our world. You can pray silently or aloud or bring a prepared prayer. We meet in the Church Hall from 8.00 to 9.00 a.m. You can check the dates on the weekly notices and on the church website.

Dave Henderson

Ladies@10

A group of ladies meets together every other Wednesday morning from September to June for a relaxed couple of hours starting at 10.00 a.m. to share coffee and cake, fellowship and some Bible study, either at Jayne Henderson's home or in the Church Hall. New members are always welcome – please contact Jayne in person or via the website or church email.

Jayne Henderson

The Guild

The Guild is open to everyone – male and female – and takes place on the 2nd Wednesday of the month in the Parish Church Hall at 7.00 p.m. There is a £2 charge for visitors who will be made most welcome.

We are well through the programme for the year but we still have a few meetings before the long summer break. On 11 February we welcome John Edwards who will give his illustrated talk on “Titanic – Myth and Reality”, which should be most interesting. Wednesday 11 March brings the welcome return of the Rev. Susan Brown with “A Night in India” which sounds very intriguing and is bound to be a most enjoyable evening. Our session ends on 8 April with our A.G.M. followed by our own Isobel Johnson leading us in a Craft Evening.

Helen Park

Annual Stated Meeting

Our Annual Stated Meeting will take place after the service on 22 March. This is an opportunity to ask questions about the parish’s annual report and to elect members of the Congregational Board.

SWINTON KIRK

The Merse Church meets twice a month, on the first and third Sundays each month at 10.00 a.m., with a Celtic Communion on first Sundays. The Swinton Hub community group has now secured funding to purchase the building from the Church of Scotland and hopes that the sale will be completed within the next few weeks.

Regular ecumenical Sunday services will continue to take place and the building will be available for weddings and funerals. The Swinton Hub have ambitious plans to develop the building for community activities, concerts and other events.

HEART FOR GOD WOMEN'S CONFERENCE 2026

“Deeply rooted in love” is the title for this year’s conference to be held again at Paxton House on Saturday 14 March from 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

The morning session will explore the theme together and in the afternoon the conference will break into smaller groups to continue discussion and sharing.

You can book online by following the link on our church website (see the box on the back page of this newsletter) or ask for a paper booking form. Do contact us at church if you would like a lift to get there.

There will be a bookstall accepting both cash and card payments and time to enjoy the grounds of Paxton House at lunchtime.



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*