

Hobkirk and Southdean with Ruberslaw

Parish News



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The Parish Newsletter of the linked charges of Hobkirk and Southdean with Ruberslaw
Hobkirk & Southdean Parish Church of Scotland: Charity No. SC012830

No: 45 Spring 2017
Ruberslaw Parish Church of Scotland: Charity No. SC034629

Guild's Gift of Prayer Shawls

As mentioned in the last issue of Parish news, members of Ruberslaw Guild have been busy over the winter months knitting Prayer Shawls.

This is a spiritual practice which embodies our thoughts and prayers for the receiver. These are now being distributed to people in the community who might benefit from knowing that we are thinking about them and praying for them. Each shawl is accompanied with an explanatory leaflet which states:

"This Prayer Shawl was made especially for you by a member of Ruberslaw Guild. As it was made, I prayed for you. I hope that as you surround yourself with this shawl, it will not only keep you warm but remind you of hope, joy, peace and love."

One has been given to Helen (Nellie) Thomson, a long-time resident of Denholm who is now living at Knowesouth Care Home. Nellie will celebrate her 100th birthday on April 8th and she was delighted to receive her shawl from Dorothy Douglas along with our best wishes. Our picture shows Nellie wearing her shawl.

Other shawls have been given to residents of other care homes as to people confined to the house due to infirmity. The Guild has been heartened by how delighted people have been to receive them.

We have had responses such as: "I'm delighted, blue's my favourite colour" and "It's comforting and cosy."

Another shawl was given to Eleanor Allan on leaving Denholm, having lived here for some fifty years. As a former Guild member, it will remind her of her years in the Guild and of their best wishes for her in her new home in Fife. Eleanor was delighted to receive her shawl and said, "What a lovely idea that will give a lot of pleasure to the recipients."

Guild members will continue to knit shawls and if you can think of anyone who would appreciate receiving one, please contact Dorothy on 01450 870512.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOBKIRK AND SOUTHDEAN

Funerals: 31 January 2017 at Hobkirk: Sheila Barclay
3 February 2017 at Hobkirk: John Dobbie

RUBERSLAW

Funerals: 18 January 2017 at Denholm: Gladys Tait
9 February 2017 at Denholm: Agnes Rachel Murdoch
16 February 2017 at Minto: Kenneth Scott
3 March 2017 at Denholm: Colin Huggan Crozier

Visit our web page at www.hobkirkwithruberslaw.org and like us at www.facebook.com/ruberslawchurch

A Message from your Minister.....

Recently I was given this poem ... which I now offer as my message:

THE LAST TIME

*The father, reading to his girl
some little tale they always read
is unaware that this may be
the last one that she'll ever need:
she's grown past stories softly read
by daddy sitting on the bed.*

*The mother with her muddy son,
kicking a football in the park,
cannot sense as they wander home
through chilly, soft-approaching dark;
this was the last time they'd come out
to kick that happy ball about.*

*How secret, sneaky-soft they come:
those last times when we'll kiss it better,
hold their hand across the road
or lift them up to post a letter.
They pass unmarked, un-noticed; for
we're not so needed any more.*



*So they abandon fairy tales,
and nursery rhymes that mummy sings
and leave behind soft toys – and us –
and put away their childish things;
a loss so small. Our loss the greater,
un-missed, un-mourned, until years later.*

May the Resurrection joy of Easter be yours – this year and always, Your minister and friend,

Douglas

EASTER SERVICES

Everyone is invited to come to these special services:

Palm Sunday, 9 April:

- 9.30am at Hobkirk Church – a short service followed by the Annual Stated Meeting of the Hobkirk and Southdean congregation
- 11am at Minto Church – Service of Readings and Hymns for Holy Week
- 6pm at Southdean Church – Service of Readings and Hymns for Holy Week

During **Holy Week** there will be the following opportunities of worship – both with others and personally:

- Thursday 13 April at 7pm at Denholm Church: Maundy Thursday Communion Service
- Friday 14 April at 7pm at Bedrule Church: Good Friday Service
- Saturday 15 April from 2pm to 4pm at Denholm Church: Church open for personal reflection with appropriate music being played

Easter Day, Sunday 16 April:

- 7am Dawn Service on top of Ruberslaw
- 9.30am at Hobkirk Church: Sacrament of Holy Communion
- 11am at Denholm Church: Family Easter Service

Data Protection – Change of Policy

In the last edition of 'Parish News' there was an article 'HAVE YOU SIGNED YET?' reminding all members of our congregations that current Data Protection legislation meant that it was necessary for the Rollkeepers to hold a signed statement of their agreement to the congregation having their name and address on the Membership Rolls. A new legal opinion has been given that this is not necessary – so thanks are offered to all who have already signed up ... everyone else can ignore the request!

Open Garden at Westerhouses!

Come along to the Westerhouses Open Garden on **Sunday 25 June**, from 1pm - 5pm, where there will be homemade teas and plants for sale, the proceeds from which will go to the Southdean Village Hall Charity (SCO44518) and other Scotland's Gardens' beneficiaries. Admission will be £4 with accompanied children free. Come to WESTERHOUSES, BONCHESTER BRIDGE, HAWICK TD9 8TG.

FINANCE

Ruberslaw finance, although running at a small deficit, is in a healthy position due to the generosity of the regular giving which has increased on the previous year; expenses are at a similar level and with a slight increase in fabric expenses because of a replacement boiler being required in the Manse.

In 2017 our expenses will be increased mainly due to a special allowance being given out by Presbytery in 2016 not being repeated this year so we will require an extra £1000.

Rather than run a full scale stewardship campaign, a suggestion has been made that we all pick two Sundays in the year when we feel able to give a little extra in our offerings.

On behalf of the Board and Elders we would like to say thank you very much for all your continued support and making the job of the Treasurer and Associate Treasurer an easier one.

Ruberslaw Worship Group

Ruberslaw Worship Group was formed and began sharing and exploring worship ideas in 2013. The group get together regularly and informally, mostly in the Manse. We are very supportive of each other and try to utilise the different talents we each bring. We invite others to come along. We invite people to consider the contribution they could make.

The group is developing in purpose to lay the foundations for team ministry

It is open to elders and non-elders alike and we are looking for some new folk to come on the Presbytery 'Leading Worship' courses. These are to be held in Kelso in late Spring and in Hawick in the Autumn. Please contact the minister for more information.

Scots Services around Burns Day have been held in all three church buildings.

Café Churches take place in Denholm Village Hall three times a year. The February event was most successful with a good number of children present. There are no two Café Church mornings the same! If the first you went to was not your 'cup of tea,' why not give it another try?

The next event is on Sunday 14 May at 11am in Denholm Village Hall when Christian Aid will be the theme. An idea of "The Big Brekkie" is being explored!

Members of the group, with our minister deliver worship opportunities to residents in Deanfield Nursing Home approximately three times a year. Residents are most appreciative of this and love the singing of old, familiar hymns and stories.

The next Deanfield Service is on Wednesday afternoon 12 April at 2.30pm and anyone who wishes is most welcome there!

DENHOLM MAY FAIR

A date for the diary! – Denholm May Fair will this year be on Saturday 20 May, starting with the Car Boot Sale opening at 8am and events happening throughout the day. There will be music and a demonstration of May Pole and Highland Dancing around lunchtime. Watch out for posters throughout our communities!

GUILD NEWS

Ruberslaw Guild

Ruberslaw Guild welcomed speakers from Borders Women's Aid to their March meeting. Since this was that charity which received the Christmas offerings from Ruberslaw Church, members were interested to hear details of the work of the charity and the service it offers to women who are the victims of domestic abuse and their families. The Guild was pleased to welcome members of the congregation who came along to hear the talk, along with some members of Ancrum Guild.

The next meeting, on April 18th will be our AGM when, along with reviewing our past session, we will view the dvd of the Guild Annual Gathering in Dundee.

Preparations are being made for next session's syllabus when the theme will be "Go in Love".

Hobkirk and Southdean Guild

In April we are looking forward to having a talk from Caroline Smith on her years as a teacher.

Saturday 20th May is the date for our annual coffee morning in the Laidlaw Hall Bonchester Bridge 10am- 12 noon. Entry will be £1 in aid of church funds.

There will be our usual stalls – Home baking, Bric-a-Brac, Raffle and our ever popular Plant stall.

We are always delighted to welcome new members

Details from Christian Curtis 01450860635

or Beatrice Martin 01835862347

WELCOME TO ALISTAIR AND SHEILA!

A new Minister has been inducted to the linked charge of Hawick: St. Mary's and Old Parish with Hawick: Teviot and Roberton, and we welcome the Rev. Alistair Cook and Mrs. Sheila Cook to our Borders communities. Already our Minister has welcomed Alistair to the Denholm Manse for coffee and has given him a guided tour of our extensive parishes and five churches.

1st Denholm Boys' Brigade

Boys' Brigade re-grouped on 12th January when we had fun and games and took part in a sports in competition with Hawick B.B. Companies. We also had a painting competition, the winners of which will be announced later!



With thanks to Helen Howden, we had a DVD night where we showed a film of Mary's Meals which all found interesting.

A local firefighter came along and gave an interesting talk on fire prevention, which was followed with an invitation to visit the fire station in Hawick.

We are now preparing an Easter tree for the children's church service. Our session ended for summer on 30th March and all good wishes go to everyone for a very happy Easter!

News from Southdean

More improvements are planned for Southdean Hall, including new gravelled pathways around the building, new windows and a new cooking range for the kitchen.

As well as the regular film and social evenings, activities at the hall included a presentation by Susan Finlayson to the Guild on the Great Tapestry of Scotland and a Mother's Day afternoon tea event on 26 March. During February, Mary Bishop from Bonchester Bridge gave a talk on her career in nursing, which was very much enjoyed by those who attended. Southdean S.W.I continue to meet regularly for craft afternoons and lunches. Denholm Drama Group's performance of two comedy plays and a comedy sketch, together with a delicious supper, will take place on 22 April.

Southdean Community Council are involved in debates about various local issues including the condition of the roads, the restored 'Courses' track, local broadband problems and traffic speeding through Chesters village.

The Mother's Day afternoon tea on 26 March saw hall committee members and helpers prepare and serve a traditional high tea for all to enjoy as an afternoon out on a special occasion. The Hall was themed appropriately for the event and a good turnout ensured that the event went well. Sunshine and the beautiful daffodils which grow around Chesters crossroads, gave a spring feel to the afternoon. Although this was partly a fund-raising event, the main point of the afternoon was to celebrate the special occasion and to facilitate social contact in a rural area. In this, the event succeeded admirably. Many thanks to all committee members and helpers who worked hard to make it a success!



Things you may not know about your Elders.....!

In this issue, we learn a little about Hobkirk and Southdean Elder, Gill Woolfenden:

Hailing from County Fermanagh I was delighted with Ireland's performance in Dublin a couple of weekends ago!

I was raised in Ireland leaving only after I married my husband David, when he was seconded to work for the Department of Forestry in Zambia. We spent three years in Zambia and we loved the country and its people. My two eldest daughters were born there.

We returned to Ireland once our secondment had finished and my youngest daughter was born in County Down. Then we took the opportunity to work in Dominica in the West Indies, sailing there with our three young daughters. We spent two years in the West Indies, returning to the UK in the late seventies.

We settled in Bonchester Bridge almost forty years ago and nothing would induce me to move now! I enjoyed teaching PE to lots of different schools across the Borders while David worked as a manager in the forestry industry. My three children have all returned to Scotland and I have four grandsons who keep me busy as well as gardening, golf and precious friends!

DENHOLM DRAMA GROUP

Come to the Denholm Drama Group's three one-act plays and supper at Southdean Village Hall on Saturday 22nd April. Curtain up at 7:30pm. Tickets are £12-50 to include a two-course meal and coffee. There will also be a licensed bar. Tickets are available from any Drama Group member or from Caroline Smith on 01450 860267. Or you can e-mail southdeancommunity@gmail.com

SOS children village Davao in the Philippines

Mabuhay! For the past four years, 20 members of the Ruberslaw congregation have been sponsoring the SOS children village Davao in the Philippines, which cares for around 160 children and teenagers.

The charity's motto is "a loving home for every child" and houses parent-less children in family-style homes, each one run by a 'mother', and with a range of age of children. The money we donate goes towards maintaining the site, both homes and communal buildings, as well as funding outreach programmes in the wider community. Some of the money is also spent on education scholarships.

Each year we receive two warm, illustrated letters from the village, often highlighting a special event or project, such as week-long camps, bereavement courses or the installation of a new house-mother.

We would be pleased to welcome anyone else into the group, which would allow us to increase our donation. For more information, or copies of the latest letters, please contact Mhairi Mitchell (mhairi.mitchell1@btconnect.com).

Church Web Site

Those of our readers who visit the Church's web site will notice that it has changed dramatically! This is largely due to the need for increased security over the world wide web and the need for the site to be capable of being properly displayed on mobile devices, such as tablets and smartphones.

The Communications Group hope you like the new look of the site which we hope has a cleaner, crisper, more modern look, at the same time being easier to navigate.

We are looking for a suitable photograph to put as a header on the home page. If any photographers can offer anything for consideration by the Comms Group, please contact our editor and webmaster Alan Dowler-Smith whose details are at the bottom of this page.

NEXT NEWSLETTER

Summer 2017 Issue

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