

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

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Summer 2017

Ruberslaw Parish Church of Scotland: Charity No. SC034629

Who ate all the chocolate cake?

Christian Aid Week was launched at the Ruberslaw Café Church in Denholm Village Hall on Sunday 14th May when, after everyone had enjoyed a “Big Brekkie” – croissants, rolls, crispbreads, juice, tea and coffee, - a large chocolate cake was brought in with candles to celebrate the 60th year of Christian Aid Week. The cake was duly shared out – but not as most people expected. Two-thirds of the cake was shared amongst one-third of the people while the remaining one-third was divided amongst the remaining two-thirds. Why?

Today, more than 20 million people globally are at risk of starvation, while millions more suffer from drought and food shortages – more than at any time in modern history. The United Nations is calling this the largest humanitarian crisis since 1945. On Sunday 21st May the congregations of Hobkirk and Southdean with Ruberslaw responded to a request from the World Council of Churches to pray for an end to global famine.

The particular focus of this year’s Christian Aid Week was refugees, reflecting the origins of the organisation in supporting refugees since 1945. Today there are over 65 million refugees and displaced people in the world. During the Café Church, time was given to considering the plight of refugees through praise, prayer and a poem about refugees which reflected that Jesus and his family were themselves refugees:

*“.....Jesus and his parents fled
From Herod’s imminent danger;*

Still he wanders with the crowds,

A frightened, nationless stranger.....”



A magnificent total of £1603.47 has been contributed by the communities of Bedrule, Denholm and Minto to Christian Aid, including £505.55 from the three lunches held in Denholm Church Hall during Lent and the £60 from the Lambing Service at Gospelhall Farm.

Another small way in which we are helping is by collecting our used stamps which are sold by the Church of Scotland World Mission Council to raise funds to provide books for a library at Kakuma, a refugee camp in Kenya for those fleeing the violence and war in South Sudan. Receptacles for stamps are provided at Bedrule, Denholm, Hobkirk and Minto churches.

Clearly our communities are doing their bit to support those in need throughout the world!

Manchester and London Atrocities

The whole world is coming to terms with the recent terrorist atrocities in Manchester and London. Please remember in your prayers all those affected by these awful events and those whose acts of bravery prevented the situations from becoming far worse.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOBKIRK AND SOUTHDEAN

Service of Blessing:
8 April 2017 at Hobkirk: Thomas Alan Wilkins

RUBERSLAW

Baptisms:
6 May 2017 at Denholm: Isabelle Yvonne Ritchie and Katie Elizabeth Ritchie
Funerals:
13 April 2017 at Borders Crematorium: Archie Purves
24 April 2017 at Denholm: June Watson
30 May 2017 at Denholm: Peggy Telfer

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

A Message from your Minister.....

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2017

As sure as Spring comes round each year, there is talk of the Church of Scotland General Assembly in Edinburgh. A generation ago the city was filled with dark-suited Ministers with clerical collars and Elders of the Kirk in sombre attire. For those who caught the General Assembly this year on television a very different picture emerged – bright clothes of many a fashion, with many young people in the Assembly Hall seats.

This year the Lord High Commissioner was Princess Anne, and she took up the Assembly's theme 'Word of Life' as she shared that the 'Word of Life' for her was love – a quality that is the 'driving force' of the Church of Scotland. Such love was

displayed with the welcome given to a speaker from the Muslim faith, Prince Ghazi of Jordan, days after the tragic Manchester bombings, and the move – agreed by a large vote - towards the acceptance of gay marriage.

May the 'driving force' of love be as much in evidence in our Scottish Borders parishes!



Your minister and friend,

Douglas

WARM WELCOME AT DEANFIELD

The Ruberslaw Worship Group regularly shares in services at Deanfield Care Centre in Hawick. Gathered in the main lounge, residents enjoy singing well-kent hymns and listening to readings, prayers and an address. All who lead these services say that they feel that their efforts are greatly appreciated.



SUMMER SERVICES

Services throughout the Summer will take place as on the Calendar of Services, but special services include:

Sunday 18 June: 3pm at top of Ruberslaw to mark the Centenary of the Hawick Scout Pipe Band

Sunday 18 June: 6pm Open Air Service on Denholm Green

Sunday 13 August: 3pm Open Air Service at the Souden Kirk

Sunday 27 August: 11am United Service in Bedrule Church with the Elliot Clan

SPECIAL COMMUNITY EVENTS IN HOBKIRK AND SOUTHDEAN

Two special gatherings in the Hobkirk and Southdean Parish are community events enjoyed by large numbers of parishioners.

The 'Big Breakfast' this year was held on Saturday 30 April in the William Laidlaw Memorial Hall when a full cooked breakfast with all the extras – and the morning papers – was available!

Coming soon is the annual Parish Barbecue at Wauchope Farm which will be held this year on Sunday 27 August. Full details will be available on posters nearer the time.

Flower Shows

This year the annual flower shows will be held in Denholm on Saturday 2 September and in Bonchester Bridge on Sunday 3 September. The schedule for Denholm is available in the church and for Hobkirk and Southdean from 1 Weens Place, or tel 01450 860633. If anyone would like to join the Hobkirk and Southdean Show committee, please contact any committee member.

Denholm May Fair - a Stallholder's View

The village "Keep-Fit" class has run the "Water to Wine" stall at the Denholm May fair since 2011.

It has become part of our programme - collecting bottles, empty and more importantly full, filling, wrapping, identifying - which we have all enjoyed and had fun doing.

However, this year, on 20th May, driving down the hill from Minto, my thoughts were, "What are we going to do with all those bottles?" It was already raining and of course, it got worse. We got set up under cover, thankfully and were so sorry for some of the car-booters who had no protection and for some of the attractions that had to be cancelled. We missed them but

enjoyed sharing our tent with the Brownies and all their goodies.

Would people come out on such a terrible morning? They did - not as many as usual - but they plodded around in waterproofs and wellies, under umbrellas and got caught up in the gamble of winning a bottle of wine. Some were disappointed and others were lucky, with thoughts of "wine with supper tonight!" but everyone was cheerful and generous and the banter was great.

So, driving up the hill home, cold and wet with a car clogged up with wet grass, both inside and out, my thoughts were happy, relieved ones, full of admiration for the goodwill and generosity of both spirit and pocket shown by everyone involved - organisers, helpers and supporters. £726.25 raised for Church Funds.....a good day!

Consultation on the Proposed New School Campus in Jedburgh

Scottish Borders Council published a proposal paper in respect of the creation of an “intergenerational” school campus within Jedburgh and are looking for your views on the following proposals:

- To build a new school from nursery to secondary in Jedburgh;
- To close Jedburgh Grammar School, Howdenburn Primary School, Howdenburn Nursery, Parkside Primary School, Parkside Nursery and Howdenburn School house with the educational support for secondary aged pupils with complex additional needs being transferred to the intergenerational learning campus;
- To amend the arrangements for pupils from Ancrum Primary School transitioning to Parkside Primary School for P6 and P7 to facilitate transition to the intergenerational learning campus;
- To rezone primary school catchment areas from Howdenburn Primary School and Parkside Primary School to the new campus and to re-zone the secondary school catchment area from Jedburgh Grammar School to the new campus.

The consultation period is from 8 May to 18 June 2017. It closes at 5 p.m on 18 June.

You can get more information and complete an online questionnaire at: www.scotborders.gov.uk/jedburgh

Paper copies of the consultation report are available at Council Headquarters, Howdenburn Primary School and Nursery, Howdenburn Schoolhouse, Parkside Primary School and Nursery, Jedburgh Grammar School, Denholm Primary School, Jedburgh Library and Laidlaw Memorial Hall, Bonchester Bridge.

A public meeting was held at Jedburgh Grammar School on 30 May.

For more information please call 01835 825080 or email: schoolsestates@scotborders.gov.uk

Repairs to Hobkirk Church

The first phase of works to the west gable and the vestry of Hobkirk Church is now complete. These works were urgently required following the severe ingress of water due to the weather of the 2015/16 winter.

Work started in the middle of April and involved the coping stones to the end of the chancel being reset and the skew coping and part stonework taken down and rebuilt. The gable copings have been lead sheaved and crafted to perfection! Cavity trays have been inserted across the full width of the gable above the oriel window and below the window where the cavity tray cascades down either side of the vestry roof ensuring that any percolation of water is pushed out through weep holes externally. The lead flashings to the joint between vestry and chancel wall have also been replaced. The cement joint at high level on the chancel roof which had also been leaking was replaced with a new lead flashing and soakers and roofing slates were replaced. The works cost £24,000 of which £20,000 will come from the General Trustees, but there will be a shortfall due mainly to the additional roof lead and slatework to the chancel roof found during construction and we will have to find some extra monies.

The second phase of work is to repair the internal plaster and lathe internal wall where damaged by water ingress and redecorate. Our thanks to Messrs Robert Laidlaw and his staff for the hard work they have carried out on the project and to the ladies of the congregation who have had to clear up the inevitable dust and dirt after the works!

GUILD NEWS

Ruberslaw Guild

Ruberslaw Guild concluded another successful session with the AGM on April when Dorothy Douglas gave an update of our activities over the 2016/17 session which comprise a combination of enjoyable “home-made” activities and a number of stimulating speakers including the ladies from Borders Women’s Refuge who gave an enlightening account of the valuable service they provide for women and families who are victims of domestic abuse. This related well to the project we have supported this session “Care for the Family” to which we contributed £175. Currently the national total for this project in its second year is over £80,000. The Guild also agreed to make a donation to Ruberslaw Church of £150. Members were also very pleased by how appreciated their gifts of prayer shawls had been and hope to continue producing them in months to come. The video of the Annual meeting of the Guild in Dundee was shown and members were particularly interested in the address given by Sally Magnusson.

The Steering group of Ruberslaw Guild is currently putting together the syllabus for the new session, 2017/18, with the theme “Go in Love”

The next Annual Meeting is on 2nd September in Dundee, but once again there will be a live screening at Yetholm Church from 10.00am. People who wish to attend all day should bring a packed lunch.

Over the spring there have been discussions between Jedburgh East and Jedburgh West Presbyterial Councils with a view to amalgamating into a single Council. This was agreed at a meeting on 24th May. The new Council will be launched at a Rally on September 21st in Denholm Church. Helen Howden was appointed Resources Co-ordinator of the new Council.

Hobkirk and Southdean Guild

On a lovely summer evening in May we were able to much enjoy an outing to Evensong at Carlisle Cathedral thanks to the kindness of our Minister driving us. Douglas had got permission to park in the lovely Cathedral precincts. We were all moved by the beautiful singing coupled with the formal tradition of the service. And then on our way home we all enjoyed supper at the Liddlesdale Hotel who welcomed and looked after us so well.

Saturday 20th May saw us hosting our annual Coffee Morning in the Laidlaw Hall Bonchester which was very well attended. A grand total of £462 was raised. As usual now the plant stall was a great attraction and raised £149.

The Curtis family are opening their gardens at Easter Weens on Sunday 2nd July under the auspices of the National Gardens Scheme. This will include what was the derelict walled garden of Weens House and has now been restored. Part of the takings will go to Hobkirk and Southdean churches. Teas with homemade cakes will be available.

News from Southdean

Denholm Drama Group performed to a packed Southdean Hall on 22 April. The event was a sell-out and the Hall Committee provided a delicious supper. Three comedies were performed and the evening was a great success. Our thanks to Southdean Hall Committee, the lighting and sound technicians, the backstage crew, the actors, directors and writers and everyone who helped in any way.

Films continue to be shown every second Friday at the Hall, including, 'A Street Cat Named Bob,' 'Manchester by the Sea,' 'The Light Between the Oceans' and 'Imitation of Life.' Our local fish and chip van (run by June and Michelle Scott) is always popular at these evenings.

Three services were held at Southdean Church during May and early June as Hobkirk Church has been undergoing renovations. Many local people attended and it was lovely to be in this beautiful kirk with the sun streaming through the stained-glass windows on these occasions.

Southdean Community Council took due note that the wind farm development proposals for Highlee Hill will not now go ahead, the company having totally withdrawn its application.

Southdean Hall Committee has been planning for the open garden event at Westerhouses on 25 June. This is part of the 'Scotland's Open Gardens' scheme where local gardens are opened to the public, the proceeds going to charity. We are hoping for fine weather and a good attendance on the day.

On 23 May Southdean S.W.I hosted an event at Southdean Hall, which was a presentation by weel-kent local photographer, Adele Richardson of Bedrule. Adele gave an enthralling talk on her travels along the Great Wall of China. This was well received by those who attended.

SUMMER WALK BY TEVIOT WATER

*The path by Teviot Water
dips and ascends close to the lazy river,
Through lushly green vegetation
crowding the banks in the warm days of summer.
Insects hum in the languid air
as we set our feet walking east to Kelso.*

*The impressive variety
of tall, full-leaved trees and vigorous flowers,
Is like a pastoral painting
set against an azure, cloud-drifting landscape...
A melange of greens and colours
and a pleasure on a day of sweet rewards.*

*Trout leap in the slow-eddied depths
of water, in no hurry, in no real haste,
To keep its appointment downstream
with the regal Tweed, King of Borders rivers,
Where we will complete our journey...
Our summer walk by cool Teviot Water.*

Steve Smith (from his new book of poetry "Oceans")

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

In this issue, we learn a little about Ruberslaw elder Scott Tait:

I was born at Newlands Farm House, and moved to Ashloaning, Denholm in 1948 and then to Main Street in 1955. I am the last of at least six generations of Tait's with continuous dwelling in Denholm! I was educated at Denholm Junior School and Hawick High School and was a member of Denholm Life Boys and Boys Brigade. I was also practising the chanter with the Hawick Boys Brigade pipe band but I did not have enough puff for the bagpipes!



Moving on to higher education I studied Mechanical Engineering at Heriot-Watt University, and during leave periods I undertook practical work with James Melrose & Sons, Engineers & Iron Founders of Slitrig Crescent, Hawick. After a D.o.T. pre-sea grading I applied for and accepted a position as a Junior Engineer with the Royal Fleet Auxiliary (R.F.A.) in 1973. There followed almost thirty six years of world-wide sea service, joining my first ship in Mombasa and signing off my last ship in Dubai. Gaining my Chief Engineer's Combined Steam and Motor Certificate in 1981, I sailed on all classes of ship attaining the substantive rank of First Officer (E).

In 2008, I was presented with The Worshipful Company of Fuellers' silver medal. This was the first of an annual award to be made to a member of the R.F.A. and followed a recent affiliation between the Fuellers and the R.F.A. The presentation was made at a lunch at the Mansion House by the Lady Mayoress of the Lord Mayor of London.

Since completing my sea career I have become a member of various village committees and at present I am the Chairman of Denholm Feuars' & Household's Council. I have interests in local and family history, gardening, DIY and of course my duties as a Ruberslaw Parish Elder.

Denholm through the Ages Exhibition

We are meaning to hold an exhibition of photographs and artefacts depicting Denholm through the ages. The exhibition will take place in September probably in the village hall. If you have anything that you feel would be a suitable exhibit, please contact Helen Howden on 870729.

NEXT NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2017 Issue

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