

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: 53

Spring 2019

Ruberslaw Parish Church of Scotland: Charity No. SC034629

CrossReach @150!

In celebration of 150 years of the Church of Scotland providing social care in Scotland, CrossReach will be showcasing a very special exhibition.

The 150th anniversary exhibition will be debuted and on display at "Heart and Soul 2019" on Sunday 19th May at St Cuthbert's Church of Scotland in Princes Street Gardens in Edinburgh between 1pm and 5pm. It will then tour venues in Scotland throughout the year.

Knit for it!

You can contribute to the celebrations by exercising your knitting skills! 150 years ago, the Life and Work Committee started sowing the seeds of 'care in Christ's name.' To join in the celebrations, CrossReach invites you to take part in knitting one or more of 150 CALAMARI SHANARRI octopuses for children throughout Scotland to enjoy. Wellbeing is at the heart of the work of CrossReach with children, young people and their families. Are you ready to start sewing some wellbeing messages?

To learn more and download your pattern visit:
http://bit.ly/CR_meet_CAL or email
tanya.anderson@crossreach.org.uk

Or run for it!

If you're feeling fit, run in the **Edinburgh Marathon Festival - 25th - 26th May** with Edinburgh Castle as a stunning backdrop. There are limited free charity places available for the 5k, 10k, half and full marathon. Join team CrossReach and set yourself a new challenge!

Denholm May Fair - 25 May 2019

Building on the success of this event in the last few years, plans are well underway for this year's May Fair, so make sure the date is in your diary!

Further details of the day will be publicised nearer the time. Volunteers to help set-up and clear-up would be most appreciated to help make this day a success.

For further information, please contact Rev Rachel Wilson on 01450 870874 or Helen Howden on 01450 870729

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RUBERSLAW

Baptisms:

Lois Una Macdonald 30 December 2018 at Denholm
Toby Stewart Woof 24 March 2019 at Denholm Church
(service taken by Rev Professor A. Graeme Auld).

Funerals

Margaret Hurst: 4 January 2019 Borders Crematorium
Katie Hunter: 11 January 2019 Minto Cemetery
Mary (Moirra) Bowie: 23 January 2019 Borders Crematorium
Kenneth Steel: 4 February 2019 Borders Crematorium
Marjorie Austin: 13 February 2019 Borders Crematorium

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

A Message from your Minister.....

Back in January, I had the pleasure of being invited into Denholm Primary School to help judge their annual Scottish Poetry Competition. Each year group was given a choice of Scottish poems to learn and recite. Hailing from Derbyshire, this was an interesting occasion for me, given my fairly limited knowledge of Scots' dialect. Fortunately, my co-judge Helen Howden was able to help translate and we were both very impressed with the effort the children had put into learning the poems, and there were some very dramatic recitations. One of the poems I was familiar with, was Robert Burns' 'To a mouse' and the much quoted line 'the best laid plans of mice and men, gang aft agly'.



*"The best-laid schemes o' Mice an' Men
Gang aft agley,
An' lea'e us nought but grief an' pain,
For promis'd joy!"*

It can be very frustrating when our plans go astray, and sometimes it leave us feeling bereft and disappointed, not knowing which way to turn or how to go forward. It is at times like these we really have to remind ourselves of the promise of God to Jeremiah 29:11-15

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. ¹² Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. ¹³ When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart.

So often our human plans are focused on our immediate self-interest, and we have no way of seeing beyond the immediate future. In contrast, the plans that God has for us go beyond what we can comprehend and they may only make sense to us in retrospect, because the ways of God are different to the ways of humanity. As we read in Isaiah 55

*For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

During the events of Holy Week, the actions of Jesus must have been confusing for his disciples. Jesus did not hide from the authorities that were seeking to kill him but made himself available when the appointed time came. His obedience to God allowed the fulfilment of the ultimate plan of God for humankind in order to restore our relationship with God. Jesus promises us life-giving water that will sustain us and refresh us forever, if only we believe and trust in him.

This Eastertime, take time to reflect on the abundance of life we have in God, if only we let him direct our plans. Our celebration of Jesus' death and resurrection reminds us that nothing is impossible for God. It reminds us that we can trust God. That no matter what life throws at us, he knows the future and knows what is best for us. Therefore, we can place our all worries, needs and wants, anxieties in his hands. This frees us up to listen to **His** plans for us, rather than **our** plans for us, so that they don't 'gang aft agly', but lead us to the joy that can only be found in the presence of the Lord.

Your Minister,

Rev Rachel Wilson

Dates for your diary.....

Easter Services:

14th April	Palm Sunday	9.30am SOUTHDEAN	11.00am RUBERSLAW DENHOLM
18th April	Maundy Thursday	2-15pm DENHOLM PRIMARY SCHOOL SERVICE in Denholm Church	
18th April	Maundy Thursday	7.00pm RUBERSLAW DENHOLM Communion	
19th April	Good Friday	7.00pm RUBERSLAW MINTO	
20th April	"Black Saturday"	2.00pm - 4.00pm Denholm Church will be open for reflection & prayer	
21st April	Easter Sunday	Easter Dawn Service – SUMMIT OF RUBERSLAW – 7am	
21st April	Easter Sunday	9.30 am HOBKIRK	11.00am RUBERSLAW DENHOLM:
		Family Service & Communion	Family Service

Special Services:

28th April	10.00am HOBKIRK United Service	3.00pm Lambing Service at Gospelhall
9th June	10.00am BEDRULE United Service: Stained glass window dedication	

Changes to our Facebook page

Our minister Rachel has asked if the Ruberslaw Facebook page could be expanded to cover the whole of the linked parishes. The Communications group deemed this to be a good idea, so

we have changed the name to 'Hobkirk and Southdean with Ruberslaw' so that both parishes are covered. Rachel has also been made an administrator for the page so with the wider coverage, we look forward to more sharing of ideas and comments and particularly photos of relevant events and other happenings!

WHAT IS YOUR COLLECTION SPENT ON?

At this time of year it is important for Treasurers to be looking forward and planning what money is required to keep our church going. Here in Ruberslaw we are very fortunate that with regular giving and the help of our fund raising activities we meet all of our obligations.

- 60% of regular giving & fund raising contributes to the National Ministry & Mission & Wider Work – paying for Ministers and Outreach Work.
- 35% is spent on keeping our three churches and manse in good order.
- 5% goes towards the local expenses – administration, newsletter & pulpit supply.

During a vacancy we pay reduced National Ministry & Mission contributions, so now that we thankfully have a Minister in place our contribution will increase also like everyone we have to pay higher Council Tax for the Manse and the running costs of the church have increased too so balancing the books becomes more challenging for us all.

I would like to thank everyone that gives to the work of the church financially and by offering of their time and talents, it is very much appreciated.

If you have any specific questions please do not hesitate to speak to Christine Rodger.

Ruberslaw Parish Church

Song & Story



All-Age Worship



Denholm Church

4.00 - 4.30pm

Last Sundays of the Month during Term-Time
28 April, 26 May, 30 June 2019

For more details contact: Rev Rachel Wilson 01450 870874

Christian Aid Week 2019

Christian Aid Week 2019 is between the 12th and 18th May.

This year, the focus is on making childbirth safe for all mums and babies, particularly in Sierra Leone, which is the world's most dangerous place to give birth. Ten women die every day from giving birth. Help us give Christian Aid the tools to support them and reduce mortality in childbirth.

There will be house-to-house collections in Denholm, Bedrule and Minto, so look out for the red envelopes. If you miss the

GUILD NEWS

Ruberslaw Guild

At our March meeting we welcomed Mr John Sharp, Director of the Boys' Brigade for Scotland. Our Guild members and visitors all enjoyed John's illustrated presentation of the history, aims and programmes of the BB to link with the Guild project, "The Boys' Brigade – Faith in Young People".

He was enthusiastic and encouraging promoting the value of youth groups in the development of young people who are the future. Where else offers lots of opportunities, fun, friendship and life skills? Raising awareness and money by the Guild will make a difference and help our young folk to walk "One Journey, Many Roads."

The offering of £40.00 will be donated to the Guild project in addition to the £173.00 already donated this session.

The final Guild meeting of this session will be the AGM on 16th April when members – and any friends who wish to come along – are asked to bring along a photograph relating to journeys.

Hobkirk and Southdean Guild

In February Anne Livesey hosted a soup lunch with all home-made soups and breads. The marvellous sum of £200 was raised for projects.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 17th April at 7.30 at Southdean Hall when Nancy McNicol will give us a talk on "A Teacher's Journey". Then on Saturday 18th May, 11am – 12 noon, we have our ever popular Annual Coffee Morning in the Laidlaw Hall Bonchester Bridge in aid of church funds. The gardeners among us are already busy sowing and propagating plants in readiness for the plant stall and the cooks will be busy getting ready for the home-baking stall.

Finally, Wednesday 17th July is our Guild trip to the Edinburgh Botanic Gardens. We are hoping for better weather as when we went last September it was the day of that great storm and the Gardens were closed!

Thanks to the Interim Moderator!

On behalf of the congregations of Hobkirk & Southdean & Ruberslaw, I would like to express our sincere thanks to Rev Alistair Cook who acted as Interim Moderator during the vacancy. The role of IM is a fairly onerous task, as it involves much of the responsibilities of a Parish Minister (or making sure someone else is taking responsibility for these tasks) as well as overseeing the intricacies of the Vacancy Procedure and advising / supporting applicants. When an Interim Moderator is also a Parish Minister, as in Alistair's case, all these duties are performed over and above the work required of them in their own parish. Despite this, Alistair offered me a great deal of support during the application process, and I understand offered a similar level of support to the Kirk Sessions, which was appreciated by all concerned. Fortunately, the vacancy period was relatively short, and God willing, will not be occurring again for sometime to come!

Rev Rachel Wilson.

collection then you can drop your envelopes at Denholm Post Office.

In order to do the collection we are looking for collectors for Denholm. This entails dropping off envelopes door-to-door, then returning the next day or a few days later.

You don't have to handle the money, just give the filled envelopes to Shirley Passmore who does all the money stuff! If you can help, please speak to Shirley or phone her on 01450 870604.

News from Southdean

Southdean is finally connected (at least as far as Chesters Village) to super-fast broadband. This is enormously beneficial to the businesses and individual households reliant on digital connection. We hope the service will be extended further down the valley soon.

The community is looking forward to the Easter afternoon tea, Easter egg hunt and egg-rolling, which will take place on 21 April at Southdean Hall. The Easter egg hunt will start at 1.30 p.m and afternoon tea will run from 2 pm to 4 pm.

The Hall continues to show its regular programme of films including recently released ones such as, 'The Bookshop' and 'The Wife.' They remain as popular as ever and consideration will be given to establishing a DVD library from which people can rent a DVD for £1 from the stock the hall has built up.

Ruberslaw Worship Group

The latest Café Church was held on Sunday 10th February when, for the first time, we were joined by a number of our friends from the Hobkirk and Southdean congregation. As always the opportunity for sharing tea, coffee and biscuits and a time of fellowship was much appreciated.

The theme of the day was the Transfiguration. Mhairi and Nancy supplied the activities – which are always enjoyed - and the Transfiguration story was brought to life by Rachel and Graeme, assisted by members of the Worship group. As always there was plenty of singing – accompanied by Ann Witherington.

The comments from Hobkirk & Southdean members were very encouraging – and they will hopefully continue to join in future Café Churches – or perhaps have a go themselves.

The Worship Group is already looking forward to the next Café Church in May, as well as preparing for leading worship as required.

Many Ruberslaw hands make light work!

Much of the work that goes into the smooth running of our churches goes on in the background – and we tend only to notice if things don't happen!

Many of us enjoy the tea and coffee after the early services – but it's not always easy to fill the rota of organisers. All that is required is to set out the mugs, make the tea and coffee, provide some biscuits and wash up afterwards. Home-baking is NOT a requirement – although it is always appreciated! If you have never been involved before, you might like to offer help with one of the regular organisers in order to learn the ropes. Please speak to Alison Henderson if you would like to be involved.

Similarly, the churches require cleaning – something else which is only noticed if it doesn't happen! Each of the churches only requires cleaning every 3 weeks – but the more people on the rota, the fewer times anyone has to do it. Again, Alison is the contact.

Ruth Milligan organises the flower rota. Please contact her if you would be interested in providing the flowers for the church one Sunday per year. Perhaps you would like to use it as a way of commemorating a loved one or marking a special date in the year.

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

In this issue, we learn about Hobkirk and Southdean Elder, Roger Curtis:

Roger was born in Canterbury, Kent, and moved to Bonchester Bridge when his parents moved up to take over at Easter Weens in 1977. He went to school at Rossall in Lancashire and during the holidays was involved in helping on the farm.



After school he joined The Royal Naval College at Dartmouth and following passing out in 1987, took up an appointment as the Navigating Officer of a small minesweeper based in Rosyth, by then the last wooden ship in the Royal Navy. Other jobs in navigation followed, with time at sea spent in the Middle East, East Africa, the West Indies, South America, the United States and Canada; and in typical vein one of which was the last steam powered ship in the Navy.

He married Alison Wild from St Boswells in 1992 and they initially lived in Berwickshire, later restoring a property in Jedburgh. Possibly inspired by this adventure, he left the Royal Navy and worked all over Scotland in a construction company on the repair of historic buildings and ruins. Due to the frequent isolation this often obliged improvisation and the falling back on traditional techniques and local materials, skills that came in good stead when he joined Historic Scotland in 2006. He currently works in Edinburgh as a Chartered Surveyor for what is now Historic Environment Scotland managing a research team looking at a range of historic topics including early construction technology and energy efficiency.

Roger has been an Elder for four years, and was able to get some volunteer repairs done during a working party with young people at Hobkirk and Souden Kirk. Military links are maintained through service in the Reserve Forces and a recent appointment to the newly formed Cultural Property Protection cadre in the Army; a role similar to that depicted in the recent film 'Monuments Men'; but any resemblance to George Clooney is co-incidental! A recent but ongoing project has been the gathering of memories of people and places in Rulewater, seeking to continue his great-great grandfather's narrative of 1907. All contributions to this are welcome.

He and his family now live at Easter Weens, focussing on the garden and the chickens.

† TIME TOGETHER †
DENHOLM CHURCH HALL
2-3PM
2ND TUESDAYS
14 MAY, 11 JUNE 2019

A Time of Reflection,
Refreshment & Fellowship
All Welcome
Further details: Rev Rachel Wilson
01450 870874

NEXT NEWSLETTER
Late Summer 2019 Issue
Copy Deadline: 4th August
Target Issue Date: 11th August