Royal Connections!

Our local communities have enjoyed royal connections over recent weeks, and images tell the story:

On Sunday 17th April we welcomed to a United Service in Denholm Church the Right Rev. Dr Angus Morrison, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. Angus is a chaplain to the Queen and wore his bright red cassock when he presented Mrs Alison Henderson, session clerk of the Ruberslaw congregation, with a long service certificate. Following the service, the Moderator and his wife, Mrs Marion Morrison were entertained to Sunday lunch at the Auld Cross Keys in Denholm.

Then, on 21st April, a bonfire on Bonchester Hill took its place among a series of beacons lit across the Borders to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen’s 90th birthday.

Many locals walked or drove up the hill to join Simon Shirley-Bevan and John Curtis sing ‘God Save the Queen’ and ‘Happy Birthday to You’ before watching them light the magnificent beacon and celebrating with a glass or two of their favourite tipple!

Thanks to all concerned with the organisation of this event. Happy Birthday, Your Majesty!

Visit our web page at www.hobkirkwithruberslaw.org and like us at www.facebook.com/ruberslawchurch
A Message from your Minister…..

Dear Friends,

Summer is a beautiful time in the countryside around, and reminds us of Jesus’s words recorded in Matthew’s Gospel: ‘Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.’ (Matthew 6, 28/29 from the Authorised Version.)

Christina Rossetti in her writing of ‘Consider the Lilies of the Field’ takes Jesus’s thoughts further by reminding us of the sermon in all of the natural world:

Flowers preach to us if we will but hear.  
The rose saith in the dewy morn:  
I am most fair;  
Yet all my loveliness is born  
Upon a thorn.  
The lilies say: Behold how we  
Preach without words of purity.  
The violets whisper from the shade: 

Men scent our fragrance on the air  
Yet take no heed  
Of humble lessons we would read.  
The merest grass  
Alongside the roadside where we pass  
Tells of his love who sends the dew,  
Who sends the rain and sunshine too.

Whether you stay at home or travel over these summer months, may the world of nature be an inspiration to you!

With warm good wishes,

Douglas

SUMMER SERVICES

During the Summer our services follow the Calendar of Services, with the following addition and alteration:

Wednesday 29 June at 9.30am in Denholm Church: End-of-term Service for Denholm School taking the theme of the Queen’s 90th Birthday.

Sunday 10 July at 6.30pm on Denholm Green: Open Air Service with Hawick Salvation Army Band

Sunday 28 August: Our congregations are invited by all the churches in Hawick to share in an ‘Open Air’ Service in Trinity Gardens, Hawick – next to Trinity Church – at 11am, and the advertised services at 9.30am at Hobkirk and 11am at Minto will not take place to allow members to accept the invitation.

William Laidlaw Memorial Hall

As ever, the Hall is available for use by the community for a range of activities! Regular events at the moment are:

Monday mornings 10.30am -11.30am Keep Fit – A dance based aerobic gentle exercise session for all. Finishes with a cup of tea and a blether!

Monday evenings 8.00 -10.30pm Indoor bowling – every week through the winter months

Wednesday evenings 8.00pm to 10.00pm Badminton. Every week all abilities welcome.

The programme for the rest of the year will be finalized shortly, so keep an eye on the Hall notice board!

The Hall is managed by a small group of dedicated supporters and helpers, but we are always on the lookout for additional members of our team or ideas for events.

With the “mothballing” of Hobkirk School, we have been given a table tennis table which was won by the children at the school. If anyone has any thoughts about how to put it to use in the Hall, or maybe start a table tennis club, please feel free to suggest ideas.

The Hall is also available to hire for parties, meetings and other events, at very reasonable rates. In addition, chairs and tables and a variety of kitchen equipment can be hired.

For more information contact Gerry or Clare Morrison (01450 860758) who will be delighted to help.

A Huge Thank-you

The amount raised this year in Denholm and district has exceeded all expectations and a huge thank-you is due to organiser Shirley Passmore, to all collectors and donors and to all who served and supported Lenten Lunches. The Christian Aid Week collection and the Lenten Lunches raised a staggering £1339! – money which has now been sent to support the most fragile people in the world.

SERVICE ON RUBERSLAW

As part of the Hawick Walking Festival a service was held on top of Ruberslaw on Sunday 29 May – and is pictured in our photograph. The service was led by Douglas Nicol and Helen Howden, and walkers from many different parts of the country, and one from Italy, were treated to music from the Hawick Scout Band.
Cafe Church

All those who attended the Ruberslaw Café Church in Denholm Village Hall on Sunday 29th May enjoyed pre-worship refreshments. The adults chatted in a café-style setting and the children had an opportunity to have fun and play.

Folks moved from this setting to a ‘worship area’ within the hall where the focus was on the theme ‘for the good of us all’.

The story of Jesus’s life told through the singing of a hymn with an affirming chorus opened the worship:

‘And He’s here when we call Him, 
Bringing health, love and laughter 
To life now and ever after, 
For the good of us all.’

Stories reflecting the theme of giving money, time and dedication for the good of us all, hymns and prayers to support it and a shared fellowship produced an alternative, informal worship appreciated by all.

A Hungarian blessing concluded the worship:

**BLESSING:** (Hungarian)

Where there is belief, there is love
Where there is love, there is peace,
Where there is peace there is grace
Where there is grace, there is God
Where there is God, there is no want.

Café Church events provide alternative, informal worship for all ages. If you have been to one of these and thought it was not for you, maybe try again? No two follow the same format! There is variety. If you haven’t been to any of these, the next Café Church is on Sunday 30th October 2016 at 11am in Denholm Village Hall. All are most welcome.

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WELL SUPPORTED LAMBING SERVICE

The 2016 Lambing Service was held this year at Falside Farm on Sunday 1st May, courtesy of Jennie and Les Pole. The weather dictated an indoor venue, but Jennie and family had arranged for a perfect scene as can be seen in our photograph.

DATA PROTECTION ACT

The Data Protection Act requires that any congregation holding personal information, such as address and phone number, of members must be given the permission of members to hold that information, and throughout this year all members are being asked to sign a form giving such permission.

Some of you will already have been asked and others will receive the request later in the year. If you have already responded – thanks! If you have not yet been invited, please respond as soon as you receive a form.

If for any reason, any member does not get a Data Protection form before the end of 2016, please have a word with the Minister or appropriate Session Clerk.

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GUILD NEWS

**Ruberslaw Guild**

Ruberslaw Guild brought the 2015/16 session to a close with the AGM when Dorothy Douglas gave an update on our current Guild project: “Feed the Minds- breaking the cycle of FGM”, which is supporting work in the Kuria district of Kenya. To date the Guild nationally has raised over £31,000 towards this cause. Ruberslaw Guild was able to contribute £175 to the project this year and in addition £150 was donated to Church funds. Many thanks go to all who supported the coffee mornings.

The planning group is currently working on the syllabus for the 2016/17 session when the theme will be “Go in Joy”. It is hoped that the programme will provide plenty of opportunities for enJOYment! Look out for more information in the next issue of Parish News.

Meantime we hope everyone has a good summer – and remember:

**We are BOLD! We are STRONG! We are the GUILD!**

**Hobkirck and Southdean Guild**

Our last meeting before our summer break was a talk by our local vet Andrew Robinson, whom many of us know. The talk was much enjoyed by all and a lot of veterinary related chat followed.

We shall be looking forward to our annual outing in September which is to Carlisle Cathedral. In October we shall be having our annual dedication service at Southdean and in November an open meeting is planned along with Ruberslaw Guild when we shall be having a speaker to tell us of the work of the “Street Pastors” which is an exciting new initiative!

But throughout the summer members and friends will still be busy with church flowers and cleaning and of course coffee and home baking after the services at the start of the months.

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**1st Denholm Boys’ Brigade**

Boys’ Brigade ended for summer on 31st March with a presentation and prize giving evening which was well attended and supported by all who help, and parents and families. Ann Witherington provided music for fun and games and a very happy evening was had by all.

We plan to take a day out to Mabie Farm Park in August for which information will be sent out at a later date.

On 12th June from 2 to 4pm, all Hawick and Denholm B.B. Companies are invited to attend a party in Wilton Park, Hawick, in the area by the bandstand. This is to commemorate our Queen’s 90th Birthday. The Queen is Patron for Boys’ Brigade and boys attending are requested to wear their uniforms as an official photograph will be taken to mark the occasion. Parents and friends are also invited to attend. Please bring your own picnic and transport and enjoy a happy day for a very special anniversary.

**1st Denholm Boys’ Brigade wish you all a very happy summer!**
News from Southdean

The extension to Southdean Hall was finally completed in mid-April with a new wood-burning stove and a freshly decorated Scott Room as well as the disabled entrance, hard standing and shower room. The extension was officially opened on 28 April by Maria Termaat, a local lady who is herself a wheelchair-user.

On 7 May, Denholm Drama Group performed ‘Sudden Death at Thornbury Manor,’ a murder-mystery play in which the audience were invited to guess the identity of the murderer from a varied cast of characters. The show was presented in Southdean Hall, as a radio play set in the 1950s and the audience enjoyed a delicious supper during the interval.

The Southdean Community was delighted to hear of the success of Isla Glen of Southdean Lodge, who won a major award in the Rotary District 1020 (South of Scotland) Young Writer Competition, held in Waterstone’s, Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow on 14 May where she received the award. The annual competition, organised by the Rotary Club of Jedburgh, is designed to showcase writing talent in young people. Schools in the Jedburgh area take part and Isla won the local heat. She was presented with her prize of £50 for this on 9 May at Jedburgh Grammar School. Her entry was judged to be of such good quality however, that she went forward to South of Scotland District level - hence the second award ceremony in Glasgow. Her entry will now go forward to the Great Britain final. The Club and the Southdean Community hope this will encourage Isla to develop her talent further and we look forward to hearing about her future success. Well done Isla!

On 7 June the Southdean S.W.I. group welcomed a visiting speaker who gave a talk and demonstration on scarves and accessories in the hall. The meeting was well supported and enjoyed by all who attended.

On Sunday 26 June, a new first for Southdean will take place. This will be the Southdean Open Gardens Day when seven gardens in the Southdean area will be open for anyone to explore and enjoy. Cream teas will be available at the hall, with plants and gardening books on sale. We hope the sun will shine for that weekend so as to show off the gardens at their best!

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL MAY FAIR!

The sun shone on Denholm Green on Saturday 28th May, and helped make a great success of the Denholm May Fair, Big Car Boot Sale, and Border Bogie Challenge. The Fair is an opportunity for local organisations and charities to raise funds, and Ruberslaw congregation raised over £800 at various activities. Warm thanks to all who organised and supported the event.

The Rainbow’s End

The cold haar, wind-driven forty miles from sea
Has lifted, the May day sun is warm –
A week late.
I sit and watch the sparkle of the dewdrops
Left on the grass by the departing mist.
They have sparkled countless times for me before
But today
At just the angle they turn to burnished beetles –
Chameleon beetles now gold now blue
Now red now emerald-green.

Michael Braithwaite

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

I was born and brought up in Denholm, and educated at Denholm Junior Secondary (as it was then). During my mid to late teenage years I was involved in many sports - rugby, long distance running with the Teviotdale Harriers, golf, fishing and badminton where I met Ruth, my wife to be, when she came to the village as district nurse/midwife. We played as a couple, and even won one or two medals. And fifty years later for some reason we’re still together!

After leaving school I joined the Hawick textile engineering company, George Woodcock and Sons as Design Draughtsman. This took me to many interesting countries over the years. However, latterly I became Works Manager, and by this time I had become more and more involved in art. I was regularly illustrating work for D.C.Thomson(Dundee), The Scots Magazine and the Fireside Book.

Now a decision had to be made! Should I continue down the career road, or take a chance and change direction completely. Well, back in 1993 I made that change, and here I am now 23 years later and have had no regrets. It has been so nice to be able to work from home, and to be more or less my own boss.

Another passion has been music and (choir) singing. I have been with the Roxburgh Singers for well over 30 years, and was also President of the Hawick Music Club. So music has played a large part in my life.

Finally, between us Ruth and I have clocked up a vast number of years as Elder and Organist at Denholm Church.

American Visitors

Denholm Church has recently hosted morning visits by two groups of American ladies, touring Scotland with the author, Liz Curtis Higgs. Each party spent time with members of the church and the wider community in the church where, after a rousing singing of “Great is Thy Faithfulness”, there were two short presentations. The first covered the history of Denholm Church and the ladies were particularly interested in the banners in the chancel which illustrate that history. Helen Howden then gave an illustrated talk about growing up in the village.

Afterwards there was an opportunity to chat over a cup of tea or coffee with home-baking and to take a walk around the village with the aid of a specially produced map. Fortunately the sun shone on both occasions so that the village was looking its best. The visitors were fulsome in their praise of the hospitality they received and the villagers involved enjoyed the opportunity to share their experiences of living in Denholm.

NEXT NEWSLETTER
Autumn 2016 Issue
Copy Deadline: 14th August 2016
Target Issue Date: 21st August 2016

Produced by Hobkirk and Southdean with Ruberslaw Churches and edited by Alan Dowler-Smith for the information of all congregation members and other interested people on church life in the linked charges. If you have any comments or contributions, please send them to Alan at Old Foddertie, Boucheridge Bridge, Hawick TD9 8JF or e-mail oldfoddertie@gmail.com