

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: 54 Summer 2019
Ruberslaw Parish Church of Scotland: Charity No. SC034629

New window for Bedrule Church

On Sunday 9th June 2019 members of Ruberslaw Church were joined by members of their linked congregation of Hobkirk & Southdean and members of the Turnbull family, both local and from America in a special service, led by Rev Douglas Nicol, to dedicate a newly installed stained glass window in Bedrule Church.

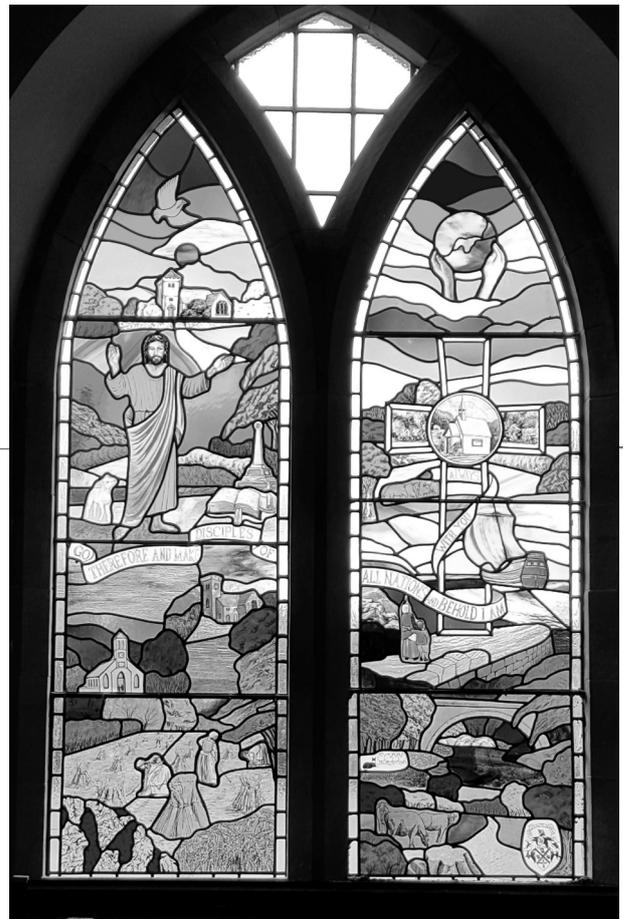
The window was the very generous gift of Wally and Betty Turnbull of North Carolina in commemoration of the close links between Bedrule Church and the Turnbull families who have spread throughout the world and particularly North Carolina, USA.

The window was designed by local artist, Sandy Milligan in consultation with Wally Turnbull, and executed by The Stained Glass Studio in Eskbank.

The inspiration for the design was Jesus' commandment to his disciples in Matthew 28, "to go, and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

The black-and-white photos here do not do the window justice! Go along to Bedrule Church and have a look at this fantastic piece of art work for yourself!

The full story of the window is on pages 2 and 3.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOBKIRK AND SOUTHDEAN

RUBERSLAW

Due to our Minister's absence through illness, we have decided to hold over announcements until the next issue of 'Parish News'

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

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

A Message from your Interim Moderator.....

During Rachel's absence, I have become your Interim Moderator. Let us all hope and pray that Rachel will be back among you soon. I am very grateful to Professor Auld, the Worship Group and my friend Stuart Kelly for taking on the lion's share of pulpit supply. We couldn't have done it without them.

There is great joy in the Presbytery at the moment, as we are inducting two new ministers to Kelso Country Churches and Cheviot Churches. This takes place at the end of August. Helen Howden has now found two ministers for this presbytery as an Interim Moderator; I think we need to employ her full-time!

As I write this, I am looking out of the study window at the rain that looks not unlike what I imagine Noah saw! This is the forecast for the weekend - how typical! However, September brings with it my preparations for Christmas! Some of the great people I trained with, still get together once a year at Crieff Hydro. We share a lodge, and we eat and pray together, and talk about what's going on in our lives and ministries. It works well and we all enjoy getting away for a few days from our very busy parishes, and I do my Christmas planning!

I have always maintained that Christians should drink and eat together; it's important to share meals as it's always a good way to get to know each other. Which brings me to our shared Communion - Wilton is thoroughly looking forward to welcoming you and our sister church of Teviothead to our September Communion. You may think that a 'shared' Communion is a modern phenomenon, but it's not. A Communion Season or Holy Fair developed in Scotland in the eighteenth century, where people would preach (often for hours at a time) and at the end of the week, everyone shared in Communion. One of the reasons this happened was due to a lack of ministers. I can't help feeling the irony of that...! The Kirk's General Assembly discouraged these large gatherings (often there were several parishes together), but the fairs continued for many, many years. I suspect the General Assembly would commend this practice these days! Do please come and join us, and there will be tea and coffee served in the hall afterwards, a chance to catch up with old friends and new.

Hopefully the weather will improve and we can enjoy the rest of Summer!

Kind regards,

Reverend Lisa-Jane Rankin

Dates for your diary.....

25th August: United service at Bedrule at 10.00 am led by the Worship Group

8th September : Minto 9.30 am and Hobkirk 11.00 am. Both services will take the form of a Songs of Praise

15th September: Shared Communion, 11.00 am Wilton Parish Church

Transport will be available from Denholm Church at 10.30 am

Bedrule's New Stained Glass Window - the story!

Scots have a long tradition of serving as missionaries taking the gospel message to far-flung nations such as China, India, Lebanon, Palestine and Haiti.

Many other Scots left their home-land, either by eviction or seeking a better life and took with them their Christian faith and values. Among them were many members of the Turnbull families who left the Rulewater Valley near Bedrule and settled in North Carolina, USA, in areas which resembled their homeland, and frequently gave their new communities familiar names. The window therefore depicts elements of landscape similarity and contrast between the Borders and North Carolina.

The left-hand panel includes rural imagery relating to our lovely Ruberslaw parish and our three united churches. The base of the right-hand panel details the lovely Rule Water and the road bridge over it which allows access to and from Bedrule Church.

The top part of the right-hand panel depicts the Scottish emigrants leaving for the New World and above it, imagery of North Carolina, with a typical small white wooden church, pigs rather than the sheep of the Borderland; and the Blue Ridge Mountains.

The top central quadrant depicts the familiar image of William (turn ye bull), Turnbull.



Designer Sandy Milligan with the window

(contd on page 3)

Bedrule's New Stained Glass Window

(from page 2)

The final window is a wonderful addition to the "cathedral in miniature" which is Bedrule Church and has come about through the generosity in terms of money, time and effort of many people.

Thanks must go initially to Wally Turnbull who first had the inspiration for this project and who, along with his wife, Betty, provided the finance.



Members of the Turnbull Clan at the dedication service

Sandy Milligan has contributed untold hours, not only in producing the design to his own exacting standards, but in liaising with stained-glass studios and the Church of Scotland Committee on Church Art and Architecture. He also had the daunting task of bringing the project in on budget and to a demanding time-scale. The resulting window is a testament to his dedication and perseverance.

Thanks must also go to the steering committee of Rev Douglas Nicol, our previous minister who was heavily involved in the early stages of the project, Alison Henderson (Session Clerk of Ruberslaw) and Maureen King. Jim Smith, Jedburgh Presbytery Fabric & Glebes Committee Convenor, was very supportive in getting the final design approved and Maurice Jackson of The Stained Glass Studio who brought the whole idea finally to fruition.

It is hoped that the window will be an inspiration to future generations who worship in this beautiful place.

Ruberslaw Worship Group

The Worship Group has been privileged to lead several services during Rachel's sick leave. They would like to thank the congregations for their support and encouragement on these occasions.

The Café Church held on 21st July in Denholm Village Hall took a light-hearted view of the Church around the world with the help of a game which was enjoyed by all. We have also enjoyed having members of Hobkirk & Southdean congregation joining us for the last two Cafe Churches and hope that they will continue to do so.

GUILD NEWS

Ruberslaw Guild

On Saturday 7th September a group of Ruberslaw Guild members will travel to the Caird Hall in Dundee to attend the annual Gathering of the Guild which will launch the second year of the One Journey, Many Roads strategy. The theme for 2019-20 is Companions on the Road. This will also mark the beginning of Guild Week which members use to promote the Guild and the work that it does.

Ruberslaw Guild's first meeting of the session will be on Tuesday 17th September at 7.00pm in Denholm Church Hall. At this meeting we will be considering the project we will be supporting this session which is Malawi Fruits: Growing the Future which supports young farmers in Malawi and builds on the theme of our project of last year which helped to support the Boys' Brigade through the Faith in Young People project.

It is also hoped to have a speaker to tell us more about food banks: how they are organised and what kind of support they require. Members are asked to bring along an item for a food bank. Anyone who is interested in hearing more about this topic, or in joining the Guild, will be made very welcome.

Hobkirk and Southdean Guild

Our Coffee Morning in May raised the marvellous sum of £500.

We are now looking forward to getting together again for our Dedication Service on Wednesday 9th October at 7.00pm at Southdean Church.

Then on Wednesday 20th November at 7.30pm it is our Open Meeting when Adele Richardson is coming to give an illustrated talk on Yellowstone National Park.

At the end of November we shall again be hosting an afternoon of carols with the Salvation Army at Bonchester Care Home. This event is always much enjoyed by residents and staff.

Members and friends have not been idle! There is always flowers for the church, cleaning and providing coffee and home baking for the first service in the month!

Friends are always most welcome to come along to any of our events. Call Christian Curtis on 01450 860635 or Beatrice Martin on 01835862347.

The next Café Church is scheduled for 20th October and in the meantime the Worship Group will continue their work of preparing services for future use. Anyone who is interested in joining the group and helping this work will be made most welcome. Speak to one of the Worship Group and come along to the next meeting.

The Worship Group are: Cath Douglas, Alison Henderson, Helen Howden, Mhairi Mitchell, Christine Rodger and Nancy Smith.

News from Southdean

Improvements to Southdean Hall continue under the active and committed Hall Committee.

An induction loop is now available for anyone with hearing difficulties and new display boards are in place to provide information on forthcoming events.

The Hall also has a new digital display screen, which is activated through a tablet device and which can provide news, information and almost else which is accessible through apps. It is hoped that the Hall can become a digital hub with broadband and internet links, enabling residents to access the technology if they are receiving a limited broadband signal and need to use the new facilities for internet shopping or to access services.

Southdean Show is eagerly anticipated on Saturday 17 August. As usual there will be various games and competitions plus sales tables in the marquee and refreshments of various kinds. An industrial schedule is available (contact committee on 01450 860 267) and this covers all the possible competitions for both children and adults. Entries will be displayed in the hall where teas and coffees will be available.

HOW THE STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE DEPARTMENT SPEND OUR REGULAR GIVING

Hobkirk & Southdean with Ruberslaw sends about 60% of our regular giving to 121 George Street (the headquarters of the Church of Scotland). This contribution is then used to provide over 720 ministers and parish workers in communities throughout Scotland and further afield and assists with training and recruitment costs.

Our contribution also goes towards support work:

- Resourcing congregations for Christian education and outreach
- Furthering the caring work to people in need through Crossreach
- Assisting partners around the world on our Christian journey
- Offering the Church's opinion in public debate
- Providing administration, financial & legal advice
- Planning the General Assembly and ensure Moderator represents the Church.

As you can see our contribution is used in a variety of ways and ensures that a diverse ministry is maintained and that the work of God is shared in many ways and places.

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

In this issue, we learn about Ruberslaw Elder, Wendy Mclean:

Little did I think when I was given my first hockey stick at the age of ten that it would lead to fifty years of amazing involvement in the sport culminating in four Olympic Games.

Hockey at school was my passion - nothing was better than being out on the pitch. College hockey led to district and national representation with matches being played at Murrayfield, Hampden and Wembley!

I was fortunate to be selected for a tour of South Africa and Rhodesia in 1958 - three months in all, travelling out to Cape Town by boat, which took two weeks! Our hosts were kind and welcoming but apartheid loomed large and we were uncomfortable. It was very different in 1995 when I led a GB team seeking qualification for the Atlanta Olympics but there were still undercurrents and our group was advised strongly on safety issues.

The non-playing side of the game really took off after we moved to the Borders in 1972 when I started umpiring for Melrose and getting more and more involved in the administration of the women's game

As President of the Association for six years in the 1980's, I represented Scotland on British, European and Olympic Committees, meeting many people from different countries at home and abroad. Travelling to foreign countries was often wonderful but sometimes only seeing an airport, hotel and hockey pitch!

I have a very strong memory of Canada at the World Championship in 1979 when I was managing the Scottish team. I was called down to the office from dinner and when I went back up to the huge refectory, the happy noise of five hundred women — players, umpires, officials of all colours, creeds and cultures — was overpowering. I realised then how truly valuable sport is in bringing the youth of the world together.

I have felt privileged to have been part of a worldwide organisation. It was hard work, challenging but immensely satisfying but only possible with the support of my long-suffering family.

And it all started with the purchase of what was a pre-war, rather horrid stick in 1946 but I loved it!

Boys' Brigade

Boys' Brigade will resume at the end of September. After the school holidays, we hope to have an outing with full information to be sent out in due course. Sincere thanks to the kind person who left a donation for us at Denholm Church! There was a Brigade stall at the May Fair to sell marmalade for our chosen charity, "Mary's Meals" which raised £25-50 and we received a very kind letter from the founder thanking us for our donation and a lovely poster for the Brigade board in the Church Hall.



NEXT NEWSLETTER

Winter 2019 Issue

Copy Deadline: 17th November
Target Issue Date: 24th November