

THE PARISH OF BOWDEN & MELROSE

March, April, May, 2013

BOWDEN & MELROSE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Church Office

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Scottish Charity No SCO 06480

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February 2013

Dear friends

As many of you will know I am at present on study leave in South Africa staying with a good friend James Gray who is the minister of the United Church in Hermanus in the Cape. Each year ministers are allowed two weeks study leave in addition to holidays, leave which can be accumulated up to a maximum of twelve weeks which is my present entitlement. I therefore decided to accept the invitation from James to return to Hermanus for a period of reading and to participate in the life of the church here. I would like to thank the Rev. Bruce McNicol who is offering pastoral cover in my absence as well as conducting worship on two Sundays as is the Rev. John Shields, formerly minister of Channelkirk and Lauder.

I have just returned from worshipping in the United Church having opted for the 9.30 service rather than the 8.00a.m. In a modern building seating around 300 both services were full which requires people to sit at the front! Dress is very relaxed as you might expect in the temperature even at that time of the morning. The worship is broadly similar to our own although with a more relaxed feeling difficult to achieve in our more traditional buildings. The singing of the hymns, led on organ and piano, was enthusiastic although there is no choir. As I am sure was the case in Bowden and Melrose the theme was the temptations or testing of Jesus in the Judean desert, the traditional readings for the first Sunday in Lent. The congregation clearly enjoyed the worship and found it encouraging and uplifting with the full church clearly being a contributory factor. However it has to be kept in mind that the United Church (comprising Presbyterian, Congregational, Methodist and Baptist members) is the only such church in Hermanus, a town of around 50,000. Compare this to the number of Church of Scotland churches in the Borders resulting in small congregations in many places. While there is understandably a desire to keep rural churches open perhaps there are lessons to be learned in towns and cities throughout Scotland.

Our present structure which requires the whole of Scotland to be served by a parish church and minister is under great strain both financially and in terms of the number of ministers. This is both shaping congregational life and worship as well as parish ministry. This was well illustrated in our annual returns when it was reported that last year I conducted 9 baptisms, 8 weddings and almost 60 funerals. There are clearly challenges ahead but we should be thankful that in many ways we remain a relatively strong congregation making a significant contribution to the wider work of the Church.

Finally we welcome Yvonne Young supported by her husband Alan as our Church Officers and could I also express my thanks to those ladies who have volunteered to help with Church flowers as such help was much needed and is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Alistair Bennett

An Invitation to Holy Communion

Last Sunday March, April and May

9.30a.m.

Bowden Kirk

Sunday 9th June

11.00a.m.

Melrose Parish Church

Calendar of Events

Friday 1 st March	2.30p.m.	World Day of Prayer Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
Sunday 3 rd March <i>Third Sunday in Lent</i>	9.30a.m. 11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden Morning Worship, Melrose <i>Rev. Bruce McNicol</i>
Thursday 7 th March	2.30p.m.	Guild: "Welcome to Spring" <i>Jim Letham, Choirmaster</i>
Sunday 10 th March <i>Fourth Sunday in Lent</i>	9.30a.m. 11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden Morning Worship, Melrose <i>Rev. John Shields</i>
Friday 15 th March	7.30p.m.	Melrose Music Society <i>Kosmos String Trio</i>
Sunday 17 th March <i>Passion Sunday</i>	9.30a.m. 11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden Morning Worship, Melrose
Monday 18 th March	T.B.A	SB Community Orchestra
Wednesday 20 th March	11.00a.m.	Bowden Community Cafe
Thursday 21 st March	2.30p.m.	Guild: " <i>Dietrich Bonhoeffer</i> " <i>Rev. Alistair Bennett</i>
Sunday 24 th March <i>Palm Sunday</i>	9.30a.m. 10.00a.m. 11.00a.m. 3.00p.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden Family Service, Melrose Morning Worship, Melrose Melrose Music Society <i>John Bryden plays Schubert</i>
Monday 25 th – 26 th March	10.30a.m.	Morning Prayers in Holy Week
Wednesday 27 th March	11.45a.m. 12.15p.m.	Mid-Week Worship in the Chapel Mid-Week Lunch
Thursday 28 th March	9.30a.m. 7.00p.m.	Melrose Primary School Service Worship for Maundy Thursday Sacrament of Holy Communion
Friday 29 th March	7.00p.m.	Worship for Good Friday
Sunday 31 st March <i>Easter Sunday</i>	9.30a.m. 11.00a.m.	Easter Worship, Bowden <i>Sacrament of Holy Communion</i> Easter Worship, Melrose

Sunday 7 th April	9.30a.m. 11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden Morning Worship, Melrose
Thursday 11 th April	2.30p.m.	Guild: " <i>Danish Connections</i> " <i>Nancy McNicol</i>
Sunday 14 th April	9.30a.m. 11.00a.m. 3.00p.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden <i>Sacrament of Baptism</i> Morning Worship, Melrose Melrose Music Society <i>John Bryden plays Schubert</i>
Wednesday 17 th April	11.00a.m.	Bowden Community Cafe
Sunday 21 st April	9.30a.m. 10.00a.m. 11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden Family Service, Melrose Morning Worship, Melrose
Wednesday 24 th April	11.45a.m. 12.15p.m.	Mid-week Worship in the Chapel Mid-week Lunch
Thursday 25 th April	2.30p.m.	Guild: " <i>Visit to Galapagos</i> " <i>John and Val Miller</i>
Sunday 28 th April	9.30a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden <i>Sacrament of Holy Communion</i>
Monday 29 th April	11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Melrose Melrose Music Society
Sunday 5 th May	9.30a.m. 11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden Morning Worship, Melrose
Thursday 9 th May		Guild Outing
Sunday 12 th May	9.30a.m. 11.00a.m. 7.30p.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden Morning Worship, Melrose Eildon Singers
Wednesday 15 th May	11.00a.m.	Bowden Community Cafe
Saturday 18 th May	10.00a.m.	Christian Aid Coffee Morning Melrose Corn Exchange
Sunday 19 th May	9.30a.m. 10.00a.m. 11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden Family Service, Melrose Morning Worship, Melrose
Wednesday 22 nd May	11.45a.m. 12.15p.m.	Mid-week Worship in the Chapel Mid-week Lunch
Sunday 26 th May	9.30a.m. 11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden <i>Sacrament of Holy Communion</i> Morning Worship, Melrose <i>Sacrament of Baptism</i>
Sunday 2 nd June	9.30a.m. 11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden Morning Worship, Melrose
Sunday 9 th June	9.30a.m. 11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden Morning Worship, Melrose <i>Sacrament of Holy Communion</i>

Opportunity to see India & Nepal

INDIA and NEPAL

31st October - 19th November 2013

Kolkata-Kathmandu-Kalimpong

Plus two nights in Darjeeling (7,000 ft)

A wonderful travelling experience

'Life-enhancing - Perhaps even life-changing'

Good Hotels throughout

Estimated cost £2,200 includes everything
except flights UK-Kolkata & Kolkata-Kathmandu

Non-profit-making: any surplus refunded

Enquiries to and details from **David Peters 822428**
or **Rev. J G Webster 01770 700747**

GUILD NEWS – February 2013.

The Guild ladies had a very happy Christmas celebration lunch at the Hoebridge. On the same occasion we celebrated the 125th Anniversary of the Guild movement in Scotland, and Vivien Robinson cut the cake, which we enjoyed along with our coffee.

Our meetings in January and February have been very well attended, and we have also welcomed some visitors to these meetings.

On 1st March we celebrate the World Day of Prayer with our Catholic and Scottish Episcopal friends at Holy Trinity Church at 2.15pm. Do come along. The service this year has been created by French leaders.

Thursday 7th March is our main fund raising event for the year. At 2.30pm we welcome Jim Letham who will give a talk "Welcome to Spring" accompanied by music and followed by a special afternoon tea. There will be a cake and candy stall etc. Tickets for this event cost £3.00 each, which can be purchased after morning Church, or from members of the Guild committee. The funds we raise at this event will go towards our Guild projects. Do come and hear Jim Letham, and enjoy your tea.

Rev. Alistair Bennett is speaking to us on 21st March, the title of his talk being "Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Pastor, poet and martyr." An interesting and very different afternoon.

Our brief AGM on 11th April, will be followed by a presentation by Val and John Miller of their experiences in visiting the Galapagos Islands.

The final meeting of the season is on 25th April, when Nancy McNicol will speak on "Danish Connections."

Our season draws to a close with a visit to Teviot Smokery for high tea on Thursday 9th May, when we hope sunshine will smile on us as we enjoy an outing together.

Over the summer the Guild committee will be putting on their thinking caps to create an interesting and varied programme for the coming year. We have welcomed a number of new members to our Group over the past 12 months, and would be delighted to have others coming along to join us.

Elizabeth Fraser (Guild President).

MID-WEEK LUNCH

Future dates:

Wednesday, 27 th March	Margaret's Team
Wednesday 24 th April	Ruth/Veronica's Team
Wednesday 29 th May	Cath's Team

12. 15 – 1.30p.m. lunch £3.00

There is a short Ecumenical Service at 11.45a.m. in the Chapel prior to the lunch for any who would like to attend.

Pat Mackenzie

The Tale of the "Golden Rose"

or "How we won our Gold".....the equivalent of a gold at Chelsea
After winning "Beautiful Scotland's" "Best Large Village" category last year, the Royal Horticultural Society invited us to participate in the finals of "Britain in Bloom 2012".

We had been invited before, in 2005, when we won a Silver-Gilt award, and in 2008, when we declined, as our numbers were quite low at that point.

This time, however, we jumped at the chance to promote our town nation-wide. Our volunteer numbers had grown in the last two years, so we felt able for the challenge.

Firstly, we had to research and design the floral displays and continue with our sustainable planting throughout the town. Then we had to make sure that all our planting was in harmony with the bio-diversity so loved by the RHS. We had to show how our community participated in our work, either by donating funds, attending events or simply by hard graft. The schools and nurseries were on board, as were the Horticultural College and the Countryside Ranger. Milestone, Lowood and Floors Castle garden centres were also behind us. And donations were coming in from the people of Melrose. With all that backing and a lot of (back-breaking!) work, we managed to raise Melrose to a standard described by the RHS judges as "outstanding".

The judging took place on the morning after one of this summer's torrential downpours. We were up at 6.00a.m. tidying up the fallen leaves and blooms. By

the time Val and Owen set off with the judges the sun was out and everywhere looked fabulous. But just in case, we had brought our wellies for the judges as the ground was still so wet underfoot! They told us that they were very impressed with what had been done, so our hopes were high!

Forward to October 6th, when John and Val, Vivien, Owen and Pam set out for the Awards Ceremony on Guernsey. The ceremony, in the form of a dinner, took place in the Beau Sejour centre in St. Peter Port, and Val and Pam volunteered to go on stage to receive our award –mainly because Matt Baker of “Countryfile” was presenting it! We were all extremely nervous, and could hardly believe it when they announced “It’s a gold medal for Melrose!”, even although it was what we had dreamed of hearing. Matt Baker came forward with the certificate saying how fabulous it was, and Val and Pam had a very cheesy photograph taken with him! He was very interested in how we organised our planting when Pam chatted with him later and Val invited him to Melrose if ever “Countryfile” was in the area. In his address, Matt said “You are all winners, but you are that and so much more”. After a well-earned bottle of champagne, the group ended up being fog-bound on Guernsey for another two days!

Unforgettable, in more ways than one!

We have organised new signs to be erected at the two main entrances to the town, advertising the fact that we won Gold. We hope these will be put in place early in the New Year. (They are up now!).

But we could not do what we do without the support of all our volunteers, our waterers, local business support, donations from the public and even the people who stop and tell us how much they appreciate our efforts.
Thank you all!

Pam Rowlands

CHRISTIAN AID CAMPAIGN 2013

Christian Aid week this year is **12th – 18th May** and as always is a very important week in the life of the Church. This year Christian Aid will be playing a major role in a nationwide campaign against hunger to be known as the IF Campaign (Enough Food for Everyone IF.....”). If you would like to become involved in Christian Aid and help during the week or organise a specific fundraising event then please contact the Church Office – 823339 or speak to Mr. Bennett. As ever we do need more organisers and volunteers, particularly with the House-to-House collections so do please try and help. Despite the economic downturn, Christian Aid Week 2012 was another fantastic year for supporters in Scotland, with a wide range of events and door-to-door collections across the country bringing in just over £1.65m. Your efforts played a massive part in making this happen – so thank you on behalf of Christian Aid and their Partners.

Our Christian Aid Coffee Morning is on Saturday 18th May in the Corn Exchange from 10.00 – 12.00 noon. Please come along and join us for coffee, cakes and usual stalls.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2012

As anyone who has studied the annual statement of accounts will know they are lengthier and more complicated, to comply with the requirements of the charity regulator. Below therefore, is a very much abbreviated report of our financial situation at the end of 2012.

Ordinary congregational income amounted to £132,199 with a further £7,030 being donated to restricted funds, e.g. the Organ fund. Special Project funds etc. Ordinary expenditure for the year amounted to £136,717 giving a deficit on the General Fund of £4,518. We would like to acknowledge a legacy received from Miss Winifred Scott. Total funds held at the end of the year amounted to £212,064 with the main funds as follows:

Fabric Fund	£30,360
Reserve Fund	£79,979
General Fund	£38,484
Organ Fund	£17,288

Other smaller funds make up the balance. In addition funds are held on behalf of the congregation by the Church of Scotland Trustees. These are held to be used for fabric purposes and at the year end were valued at £74,241 following payment for Fabric Expenses.

Our biggest item of expenditure is our allocation to the Ministries and Mission Fund and the following information regarding our 2013 allocation was received from the Church's Stewardship and Finance Committee. The information below shows how your congregation's contribution is used to support Parish Ministries, Mission and Renewal, general support and services provided for congregations and the councils of the General Assembly. The cost of ministry comprises your minister's stipend (£31,035) plus employer's national insurance and contributions to the Church's pension and housing funds.

In 2013 our Contribution to Ministries and Mission will be:

Bowden and Melrose **£79,001**

Parish Ministries (86%) **£67,940**

The cost of ministry in your parish £39,985

Contribution to the cost in other parishes and training: **£28,045**

The remaining 14% goes towards the wider work at home

And abroad as well as providing financial, legal, and other

Services, and meeting the costs of the General Assembly and

Moderator.

I hope that this helps you to understand Ministries and Mission Contributions.

As will be seen from the above, our contribution almost covers the entire cost of ministry in another parish requiring support.

Alastair O'Neil
Treasurer

PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms

23rd December Finnian Angus Peter Cameron, Kirk House, Bowden
20th January Mack William Oliver, 27 St. Dunstons Park, Melrose
10th February Clara Shirley Bryce, Reediehill Farm, Auchtermuchty

Funerals

24th November Andrew Biggar, Magdalene Hall, St. Boswells
30th November A. Stanley Mayer, 5 Dean Road, Newstead, Melrose

4th December John (Swannie) Haldane, Queen's House, Kelso
20th December Ewan Cameron, Ashtree Cottage, Blainslie, Galashiels

3rd January Mrs. Doreen Gray, 2 Broomlands House, Kelso
10th January Thomas Leitch, Kaimes, Ormiston Grove, Melrose
18th January Ian Lamont, Kingsknowes, Galashiels
24th January Mrs. Martha (Pat) Whitely, 5 Quarrydene, Melrose
25th January Mrs. Margaret Donald, The Quest, Huntly Road, Melrose
31st January Miss Wendy McMichan, 8 Dick Road, Bowden

5th February Ian Macmillan, 6 Millar House, High Cross Avenue, Melrose
11th February Miss Helen Gibson, Corbielinn, Tweedmount Road, Melrose
22nd February Mrs. Lynn Inglis, 11 Townhead Way, Newstead

New Members

By Certificate of Transference

Mr. and Mrs. Martin Neilson, Autumn Cottage, 2 Big Well Wynd, Newstead, Melrose

Elders on duty – Melrose

March 3rd	11.00a.m.	Roger Wardman	Ian Forsyth
	10th 11.00a.m.	David Peters	Hamish Carruthers
	17th 11.00a.m.	Esther Crawford	Allan Cumming
	24th 11.00a.m.	Elizabeth Fraser	John Maguire
	28th 7.00p.m.	Ewan Rintoul	Gilmour Forrest
	29th 7.00p.m.	Donald Gordon	John Butcher
	31st 11.00a.m	Alastair Matthew	Hilary Thomson
April 7th	11.00a.m.	John Pollitt	Cameron Rusby
	14th 11.00a.m.	James McCulloch	Anne Cochrane
	21st 11.00a.m.	John Henderson	Russell Sanderson
	28th 11.00a.m.	Robin Cochrane	William Windram

May 5 th	11.00a.m.	Moreen Gordon	Mac Brown
12 th	11.00a.m.	Veronica Bailey	Alec Arbuckle
19 th	11.00a.m.	Ogilvie Mathieson	George Bunyan
26 th	11.00a.m.	John Renton	Jim Thom

June 2 nd	11.00a.m.	Robbie Brown	Robin Sloan
	9 th	Holy Communion	

Elders on Duty – Bowden

March 3 rd	9.30a.m.	Gilmour Forrest	Robbie Brown
	10 th 9.30a.m.	John Pollitt	Grant Rennie
	17 th 9.30a.m.	Alec Arbuckle	John Henderson
	24 th 9.30a.m.	Robin Cochrane	John Gaddie
	31 st 9.30a.m.	Irene Armstrong	Walter Riddell-Carre
	Communion	Roger Wardman	Richard Gordon

April 7 th	9.30a.m.	Jim Thom	John Renton
	14 th 9.30a.m.	John Crawford	Mac Brown
	21 st 9.30a.m.	David Peters	Laing Speirs
	28 th 9.30a.m.	Irene Armstrong	Ian Forsyth
	Communion	Ogilvie Mathieson	Ian Wilson

May 5 th	9.30a.m.	Allan Cumming	Helen Chisholm
	12 th 9.30a.m.	Jack Crichton	Muriel Mackenzie
	19 th 9.30a.m.	Alastair O'Neil	Hilary Thomson
	26 th 9.30a.m.	Irene Armstrong	Russell Sanderson
	Communion	John Gaddie	Malcolm Morrison

June 2 nd	9.30a.m.	Moreen Gordon	Alison Bacon
	9 th 9.30a.m.	John Maguire	Angus McLay

Beadle Duty – Bowden

March	Jim Noble	April	Liz Sanderson
May	Bill Wilkie	June	Hans Schmidt

Elders unable to undertake duty on the date allocated are personally Responsible for arranging a substitute under advice to the office.

DOOR DUTY ROTA

March 3rd	Edith Scott	Lorna Masson
10th	Kathleen Henderson	Sheila Millar
17th	Irene Thom	Wilma Graham
24th	Val Miller	John Miller
31st	Allan Redhead	Eileen Redhead
April 7th	Jean Watson	Hilary Ford
14th	Ogilvie Dickson	Flora Dickson
21st	Gail Creamer	Tommy Wilson
28th	Pam Rowlands	Eleanor Connochie
May 5th	Wilma Graham	Liz Mitchell
12th	Donald Macdonald	Claire MacDonald
19th	Jill Howard	Ruth Macdonnell
26th	Edith Scott	Lorna Masson
June 2nd	Kathleen Henderson	Sheila Millar
Communion 9th	Irene Thom	Wilma Graham

If you are unable to undertake your allocated duty could you please try to arrange for another rota member to cover - failing which let us know at the office, 823339.