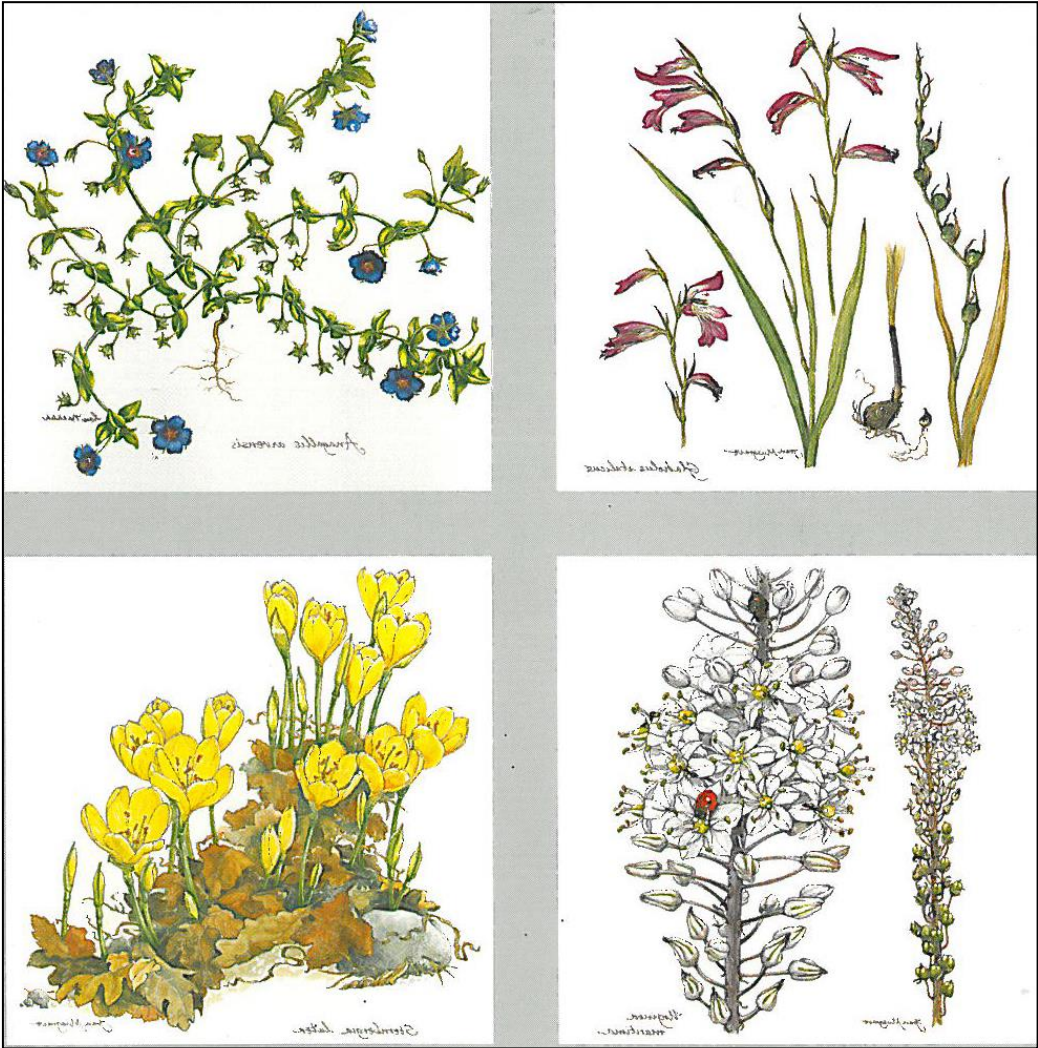


THE PARISH OF BOWDEN & MELROSE



JUNE, JULY, AUGUST, 2013

BOWDEN & MELROSE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

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May 2013

Dear Friends,

As I write this near the end of May the weather has shown little sign of getting warmer. However as is usually the case this month, Melrose, the surrounding villages and countryside are beginning to look their best as blossom appears and the trees come into leaf. The countryside is colourful again and we are privileged to live in this place while patiently awaiting blue skies and a little sun. Of course ours is not the only countryside being transformed and included below is an article taken from the newsletter of Al-Shurooq school. So often we associate Palestine with conflict and violence and it is good to read of another perspective on the land. The front cover of our magazine features just a few of the flowers now decorating this once arid land and painted by Joan Musgrave, wife of Clarence who was formerly minister of St. Andrew's, Jerusalem. Also in their newsletter they report that twelve of their children, aged 8 – 12 years, have joined the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music, in a three year project that aims at introducing visually impaired children to music. Next month sees the annual holiday for the children to Galilee, which again we are delighted to fund as otherwise it would not take place.

Daily we seem to hear so much bad news that it is good to report happier stories and continuing in that vein we have a wonderful article from Claire Marshall, daughter of our members Owen and Pam Rowlands, recounting the procedure which has given her the gift of hearing.

Also included in the magazine is a brief article on "Safeguarding" – now a required part of the congregation's life. Robin Sloan was recently appointed as our Safeguarding Coordinator and our thanks to Robin and also Greta Leitch who previously held the post.

We also take this opportunity to acknowledge the work involved in organising our Melrose Festival and offer our best wishes to all who participate in a week which allows us to celebrate together as a community.

Yours sincerely,

Alistair Bennett

An Invitation to Holy Communion

Last Sunday June, July and August

9.30a.m.

Bowden Kirk

Sunday 9th June

11.00a.m.

Melrose Parish Church

Calendar of Events

Sunday 2 nd June	9.30a.m. 11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden Morning Worship, Melrose
Sunday 9 th June	9.30a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden Morning Worship, Melrose <i>Sacrament of Holy Communion</i>
Sunday 16 th June	9.30a.m. 11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden Morning Worship, Melrose <i>Kirkin' of the Melrosian</i>
Sunday 16 th June – Saturday 22 nd June		Melrose Festival
Wednesday 19 th June	11.00a.m.	Bowden Community Cafe
Sunday 23 rd June	9.30a.m. 11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden Morning Worship, Melrose
Wednesday 26 th June	11.45a.m. 12.15p.m.	Mid-Week Worship in the Chapel Mid-Week Lunch
Sunday 30 th June	9.30a.m. 11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden <i>Sacrament of Holy Communion</i> Morning Worship, Melrose
Sunday 7 th July	9.30a.m. 11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden Morning Worship, Melrose
Sunday 14 th July	9.30a.m. 11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden Morning Worship, Melrose
Wednesday 17 th July	11.00a.m.	Bowden Community Cafe
Sunday 21 st July	9.30a.m. 11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden Morning Worship, Melrose
Wednesday 24 th July	11.45a.m. 12.15p.m.	Mid-week Worship in the Chapel Mid-week Lunch
Sunday 28 th July	9.30a.m. 11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden <i>Sacrament of Holy Communion</i> Morning Worship, Melrose
Saturday 3 rd August	2.00p.m.	Bowden Fete <i>Bowden Village Hall</i>
Sunday 4 th August	9.30a.m. 11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden Morning Worship, Melrose
Sunday 11 th August	9.30a.m. 11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden Morning Worship, Melrose
Saturday 17 th August	10.00a.m. - 4.00p.m.	Melrose Music Society <i>John Bryden plays Bach</i>
Sunday 18 th August	9.30a.m. 11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden Morning Worship, Melrose
Wednesday 21 st August	11.00a.m.	Bowden Community Cafe
Sunday 25 th August	9.30a.m. 11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden <i>Sacrament of Holy Communion</i> Morning Worship, Melrose
Wednesday 28 th August	11.45a.m. 12.15p.m.	Mid-week Worship in the Chapel Mid-week Lunch

Sunday 1 st September	9.30a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden
	10.00a.m.	Family Service, Melrose
	11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Melrose
Sunday 8 th September	9.30a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden
	11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Melrose

MID-WEEK LUNCH

Future dates:

Wednesday, 26 th June	Margaret's Team
Wednesday 24 th July	Ruth/Veronica's Team
Wednesday 28 th August	Kath'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

ANNUAL CHURCH FETE

The annual Church Fete will be held on Saturday 3rd August from 2.00 – 4.00p.m. in Bowden Village Hall. Stalls will include books, bottle stall, bric-a-brac, cake and candy, cards and plants. Hoping for a sunny day and your support!

GUILD NEWS May 2013.

The Guild has met regularly during March and April, and on a number of occasions has had the pleasure of having visitors – both ladies and gents – to our meetings.

Three of our senior members, namely Noreen Barr, Sheena Barron and Isobel Harvie, received certificates 10 years ago marking their 50 years as members of the Guild, and so on this their 60th anniversary, each of them received chocolates, flowers and a card of best wishes from the present Guild. Over 150 years service to the Guild between them!

Our Guild fundraiser in March, with Jim Letham demonstrating not only his piano but also voice skills, was much enjoyed, and raised £451 to augment our Guild funds to be distributed to charities. Many thanks to all.

Rev. Alistair Bennett's talk on the life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer was fascinating and well received. In complete contrast our AGM meeting was augmented with beautiful pictures of the Galapagos Islands and their extraordinary livestock, thanks to Val and John Miller. We wound up our meetings for the season with a delightful talk by Nancy McNicol about her "Danish Connections" – a much enjoyed afternoon.

To complete our year, 23 members had a lovely afternoon over at Teviot Smokery where we all tucked into a very delicious high tea. It was a most successful afternoon, and thanks to the drivers for getting all our members there for such a happy event.

The Committee is now settling down to the task of conjuring up what we hope will be an interesting, informative and enjoyable series of afternoons for the coming year.

Elizabeth Fraser, President, Bowden and Melrose Guild

SOUND SYSTEM: MELROSE CHURCH

Following complaints and comments by members of the Kirk Session, the congregation and the wider public, a survey was carried out by the same firm that installed the original system.

Yes, we did spend a sum on the initial installation in 2006, some £2400 to be exact. Yes, we did hold back on some of the recommendations to limit the cost and with hindsight perhaps this was not the best decision. The general opinion was that this was a difficult Church to get good sound enhancement in any event.

We had another look at the whole situation in 2009 and this time had the benefit of the Church of Scottish sound expert. Both sets of experts came up with the recommendations to have either speakers on all the central columns or a cluster of speakers (like a football with speakers on all sides) perhaps hanging from the front chandelier. Then the suggested cost was in the region of £5000/6000. This was not taken any further and put on the "back burner".

Now however the recommendation is to enhance the system with four new speakers, an updated lectern mic and a new mic (head phone type) for the Minister and updates on the amplifier system. The new speakers will have a sound delay wired in from the amplifier and will cover up to about one third of the nave. They will be above the Vestry Door and the next window and the matching windows on the south side and be in addition to the two existing speakers giving a total of six speakers.

The estimated cost for this update is £4350.00 plus vat.

Following a discussion with the Treasurer and the Minister it has been left to me to provide an article for the next Magazine and to devise a short questionnaire for the Congregation to express their views on where they sit, what kind of reception they get, and would they like some improvement to take place.

We are conducting a questionnaire to ingather the views of the Congregation and would like your assistance in this matter. Over the next few weeks please take and complete the form as often as you wish.

Melrose Church Doors

Also on the agenda of the Fabric Committee for some time has been the replacement of the church doors at Melrose. The doors have regularly to be filled and repainted but their condition has meant that their replacement would be required at some stage. This also has been postponed because of the cost involved and other priorities. Now however, thanks to a very generous donation, the doors at the front of the church and Gattonside porch will be replaced this summer. The new doors are in European oak and feature an attractive design. The donor wishes to remain anonymous but as a congregation we express our sincere thanks.

Alastair Matthew Fabric Convener.

Safeguarding

“Safeguarding” has been for some time an essential and permanent part of the Church’s life with every congregation required to have a Safeguarding Coordinator. Our own Safeguarding Coordinator is Robin Sloan. The Church’s safeguarding mission statement is to “*Ensure a Safe Church for All*”. This means preventing harm and abuse of children, or adults at risk, and ensuring that if harm does occur, the Church takes a timely and appropriate response. The Church’s key safeguarding message is:

“If harm or abuse is suspected or witnessed, or it is reported to you, you must immediately report it to your Safeguarding Coordinator.”

The Church is presently embarked upon implementing the government’s policy of ensuring that all paid staff and volunteers join the PVG (Protecting Vulnerable Groups) Scheme over the next 3 years. Safeguarding Coordinators are required to ensure that all such staff and volunteers working with children and protected adults (e.g. pastoral care visitors) who have never had a Disclosure Scotland check, join the PVG Scheme.

My Medical “Miracle”.

I was born deaf and my parents were told I would never attend a “normal” school, nor be able to hold down a “normal” job. There was no treatment available for my type of profound deafness. I have a very small amount of residual hearing which was magnified by traditional hearing aids, but I relied almost totally on lip-reading. However, thanks to the efforts of my parents who refused to give up and send me to board at a school for the deaf, and a certain Director of Education at that time, I attended school locally and college in Edinburgh, and now I run my own business, have two beautiful, hearing children, and have just had a cochlear implant!

Cochlear implants were very new 20 years ago, and were deemed unsuitable for me when I enquired. But I recently found out that some of my friends had had one, so I applied to be put on the list to see if I was a suitable candidate now, and was accepted this time! Shortly after, I had my operation in Crosshouse Hospital, Kilmarnock, which is the only centre in Scotland . The operation consisted of an incision behind the ear to place a receiver between the scalp and the skull, which linked to a tube into the ear canal, bypassing the damaged nerve ends in the cochlea. This tube contains several electrodes. Behind my ear I wear a processor which receives sound and transfers it digitally to the receiver, which in turn transfers it to the electrodes, and then to my brain! My brain then has to unscramble the information...and that has been the hard part! It is receiving information it has never had before!

After the operation I was not allowed to wear a hearing aid and was completely without sound for 4 weeks. I felt very disorientated, not being able to hear a single thing, as if I were in a sort of darkness, and slightly off-balance. However, with help from my children, parents, and friends, I got through it. After the 4 weeks were up, my implant was switched on. I thought - hoped - to be able to hear for the first time, but, disappointment. All I could hear were clicks and whistles. My brain had no idea what was happening and I realised it had to get used to all the new information it was picking up. It did not recognise the everyday sounds, either! This would take months, perhaps more.

After several visits to Kilmarnock and the amazing team there, lots of hearing tests, and my processor being retuned every time, I can now hear many everyday sounds...birds singing, water running, footsteps, kettle boiling, but best of all, people’s

voices. I can identify the different accents of my friends and clients, but especially wonderful is being able to hear my children's voices for the very first time. I know I still have a long way to go....it has only been 6 months, but I feel I have experienced a small miracle. I would urge anyone in my situation to go ahead and have an implant...it can be the beginning of a new life.

Claire Marshall

Springtime in Palestine

Spring has come again to Palestine. Hills and valleys that but yesterday were bare are clothed in green velvet. Where the dust lay deep barley and wild grasses hold dominion, tempting horses to browse, and their riders to wait and dream of springtime in other lands.

Spring has worked her will and raised beauty out of the dust. The land has blossomed, so that it seems an idle fancy that the red tide of war ever flowed over it. Death maybe lies hidden beneath the poppies and the yellow flowers, but the smoke and uproar of battle have rolled away, and Palestine is responsive to spring under a tranquil sky.

Palestine has been called the land of wild flowers, and no one who has seen it in Spring is likely to deny it the right to that title. It is a land of blossoms and birds, pleasant to drift in. If you haven't witnessed Spring in Palestine, you haven't witnessed Palestine at all.

(from the quarterly letter of the Al-Shurooq School for blind children)

Dr. David Livingstone 1813 - 1873 – a personal perspective

When I was 10 years of age I found three little books at home which had originally belonged to either my father or my uncle. They had been published in the 1920's in a series called, *The New Missionary Series*. The titles were simply, *William Carey*, *Robert Moffat* and *David Livingstone*. I still have them. (See photograph 1). I read them then and have returned to them at irregular intervals ever since. I was fascinated by all three and that interest will undoubtedly have been one factor influencing my decision, about 60 years, ago to offer to serve Christ in Africa.

Times moves on and its now 1992 and we are visiting our son and his wife in Zambia. Imagine our excitement when walking along a path within earshot of the Victoria Falls, we came round a corner and there beside the little path was a larger than life-size statue of David Livingstone on the top of a six foot plinth. (see photograph 2). In 1996 we went to live and work in Malawi. We found that the oldest Synod of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian is called Livingstonia and in Blantyre (Malawi's largest city) there is the David Livingstone Museum because David Livingstone (DL) remains well known and precious in the memories of large numbers of Malawian Christians. One of the greatest of these, Rev. Silas Ncozana writes, "It must have dawned upon him (Livingstone) that his mission was similar to that of Abraham who was asked by God to leave Ur and go to the unknown land that God would show him. So, in obedience Livingstone left his comfort zone"! Ncozana also wrote, "Westerners who came after Livingstone had no regard for the humanness of Africans as seen from their subjugation and treatment of them". These two quotations show just how much Dr Ncozana respects Livingstone while at the same time being highly critical of many other Europeans who went to Africa in the 18th and 19th centuries.

While African countries have sought to obliterate the marks of colonialism including European place names, such is the respect in which DL is held this has not happened in Malawi or Zambia , the two countries where his influence is most felt. The names Nyasaland and Northern Rhodesia have long since disappeared but Blantyre and Livingstonia are unchanged.

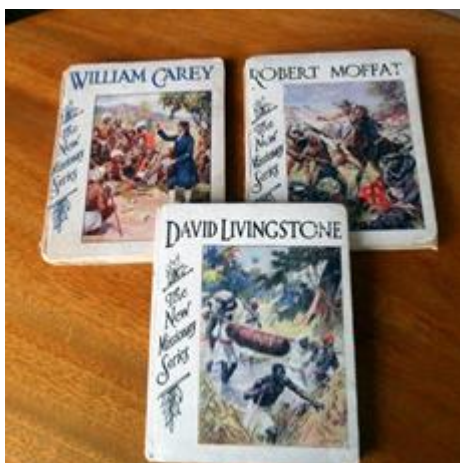
Among Church historians and theologians, DL remains both revered and controversial. This is because, while all of them recognise his achievements, there are different views on what is the proper business of missionaries. DL undoubtedly practised medicine to the benefit of the people of Central Africa; he also explored and mapped much of the country through which he made his long arduous journeys. So he was explorer, scientist, developer, anti-slavery advocate, and he promoted commerce. He was also a married man with a family and he undoubtedly subjected them to extraordinary hardship which many today would not accept as appropriate. He is also a very modern figure as he saw clearly the need for Africa to develop and obliterate the evils of “ poverty, ignorance and disease” identified by President Jomo Kenyatta in the 1960’s.

Contemporary missionaries still wrestle to identify the proper work of Christian mission and perhaps the importance of DL for many of us is that he remains a Christian who was known much more by his deeds than his words.

Early in his missionary career DL met and married the eldest daughter of Robert Moffat who was a senior missionary working for many years in South Africa (he was a Scot from East Lothian). David and Mary had six children of whom five survived to adulthood, and sadly Mary Livingstone died of malaria aged only 41. Our perspective upon this is that the great great granddaughter of one of these children is now the God-mother of one our granddaughters!

Come to Malawi and travel in the footsteps of David Livingstone!

Richard and Moreen Gordon



CHRISTIAN AID CAMPAIGN 2013

Thanks to all who assisted in Christian Aid Week with this year's campaign. The contribution of door-to-door collectors and all who helped at the coffee morning on a very wet Saturday is much appreciated. The coffee morning raised £497 and at the time of going to print the door-to-door collection had raised £3223.

LOCAL EVENTS

Gattonside Gardens

A number of gardens in Gattonside will be open under 'Scotland's Gardens' on Saturday 29th June from 2.00 – 6.00pm. There will be a plant stall and teas in the Village Hall.

For further information, please contact Eleanor Palmer (01896 822271) or email e@eleanor.plus.com.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL BOOKSHOP

Time to spring-clean your bookshelves? Donations of books on any topic, in saleable condition are welcomed for the Bookshop event in August. These can be given to or collected by Val Miller (82-2758) or Dorothy Cameron (82-2787).

The Café

Worried about your memory? Come along to our free café where you can get friendly informal advice from Specialist Nurses, Doctors, Advocacy, Benefits, Occupational Therapy, Social Work and Alzheimer Scotland. The café is held on the last Wednesday of every month, and started on the 29th May in St. Peter's Church, Galashiels, 2.00 – 4.00p.m.

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PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms

10 th March	Marek John Lukasz Bogus, Hillview, Manse Court, Galashiels
7 th April	Benjamin Thomas Jesse Bodhill, 33 Larkhall Rise, London
14 th April	Anna Ursula Maclay, Whitelee Steading, Newtown St. Boswells

Funerals

22 nd March	Edwin (Ted) Hunter, 18 Ormiston Grove, Melrose
26 th March	Dr. Isobel (Quita) Barber, Northfield, Dean Road, Newstead
4 th April	Tom Smal, 8 Haining Drive, Tweedbank,
11 th April	Eric Morrall, Oak Lea, Bongate, Jedburgh
2 nd May	William Telfer, 11 Park Avenue, Newtown St. Boswells
10 th May	James McGlasson, Riverside Healthcare Centre, Selkirk (formerly Wester Housebyres and Priorwood Court)
13 th May	Mrs. Nancy Hogg, Anchorage, High Cross Avenue, Melrose
22 nd May	Sean Archibald, 3 Manor Hill Cottages, Makerstoun
24 th May	Alan Bertram, 24 Buccleuch Chase, St. Boswells

Weddings

11 th May	Caterina Romanoni and George Juer, Flat B, 23 Alma Road, London
18 th May	Ruth Christie and Andrew Mackie, 10/8 Meadow Place, Edinburgh
25 th May	Charlotte Boyd and Steven Penny, 17A Lower Fairmead Road, Yeovil, Somerset

Elders on duty – Melrose

June 2 nd	11.00a.m.	Jim Thom	Gilmour Forrest
9 th	11.00a.m.	Holy Communion	
16 th	11.00a.m.	Murray Thom	Elsa Barker
23 rd	11.00a.m.	John Butcher	Owen Rowlands
30 th	11.00a.m.	Richard Gordon	Ishbel Gordon
July 7 th	11.00a.m.	Richard Hill	Jim Letham
14 th	11.00a.m.	John Gaddie	Robert Fraser
21 st	11.00a.m.	Ian Purves	Walter Riddell-Carre
28 th	11.00a.m.	Alastair O'Neil	John Crawford
Aug 4 th	11.00a.m.	Ewan Rintoul	Malcolm Morrison
11 th	11.00a.m.	Helen Chisholm	Greta Leitch
18 th	11.00a.m.	Irene Armstrong	Gilmour Forrest
25 th	11.00a.m.	Jack Crichton	Martin Baird
Sept 1 st	11.00a.m.	Ian Wilson	Roger Wardman
8 th	11.00a.m.	Ian Forsyth	David Peters

Elders on Duty – Bowden

June 2 nd	9.30a.m.	Moreen Gordon	Alison Bacon
9 th	9.30a.m.	John Maguire	Angus McLay
16 th	9.30a.m.	Robin Sloan	Pat Schmidt
23 rd	9.30a.m.	Alastair Matthew	Anne Cochrane
30 th	9.30a.m.	Irene Armstrong	Owen Rowlands
Communion		William Windram	Ian Purves
July 7 th	9.30a.m.	Laing Speirs	Martin Baird
14 th	9.30a.m.	James McCulloch	John Henderson
21 st	9.30a.m.	Gilmour Forrest	John Pollitt
28 th	9.30a.m.	Irene Armstrong	Murray Thom
Communion		Ishbel Gordon	Richard Gordon
Aug 4 th	9.30a.m.	Grant Rennie	Alec Arbuckle
11 th	9.30a.m.	Robbie Brown	Robin Cochrane
18 th	9.30a.m.	Roger Wardman	John Renton
25 th	9.30a.m.	Irene Armstrong	John Gaddie
Communion		Walter Riddell-Carre	David Peters

Sept 1 st	9.30a.m.	Esther Crawford	Jim Thom
8 th	9.30a.m.	Ogilvie Mathieson	Allan Cumming

Beadle Duty – Bowden

June	Hans Schmidt	July	Jim Noble
August	Liz Sanderson	Sept.	Bill Wilkie

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

DOOR DUTY ROTA

June 2nd	Kathleen Henderson	Sheila Millar
Holy Communion 9th	Irene Thom	Wilma Graham
16th	Gillian Arbuckle	Tommy Wilson
23th	Sheila Butcher	Judi Bennett
30th	Meg Robbie	Lyn Bryce
July 7th	Gail Creamer	Eleanor Palmer
14th	Elizabeth Fraser	Hilary Ford
21st	Allan Redhead	Eileen Redhead
28th	John McLaren	Kath McLaren
Aug 4th	Flora Dickson	Ogilvie Dickson
11th	Sheila Millar	Jean Watson
18th	Colin Armstrong	Eleanor Connachie
25th	John Miller	Val Miller
Sept 1st	Alastair Wright	Barbara Wright
8th	Edith Scott	Lorna Masson

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.