

***THE PARISH OF
BOWDEN & MELROSE***



***December 2016,
January & February 2017***

BOWDEN & MELROSE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Church Office

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From the Interim Moderator

November 2016.

I was asked recently by the Presbytery's Prayer Co-ordinator if there were any topics I would like added to the this month's prayer list. After continuing to commend the Nominating Committee I asked if she would insert a sentence giving thanks for the continuing work and support of the members of the congregation.

Too often a congregation dips when there is no minister. The motivation sags and the impetus flags. I have to say to you how impressed I have been with your continuing support and attendance. There is such a good spirit within this congregation. You have every reason be proud of yourselves! But of the continuing witness you are giving to the community about what it means to be part of the church of Jesus Christ, and how important this church is to the communities you serve. Well done!

There is no better time to do this than at Christmas. People, who rarely attend, are drawn by an invisible thread to worship; to bow, metaphorically, before the manger as they sense a mystery they do not fully understand. They come and realise there is more to life than they can see and feel and touch. The incarnation captures their imagination in a way they do not always fully grasp. It is good for other Christ-seekers to welcome them and stand beside them to give thanks and praise to Almighty God. Whenever seed is cast upon the ground, the parable tells us, some of it, not all, takes root and produces a harvest of whatever quantity.

Your Nominating Committee continues to work hard on your behalf as they worship and listen, debate, discuss and pray. I am sure you will all find their labours on your behalf have been worthwhile in the end.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a most peaceful New Year.

David Arnott

An Invitation to Holy Communion

Last Sunday in January and February

9.30a.m.

Bowden Kirk

Calendar of Events

Services will be conducted by Rev. Bruce McNicol unless otherwise stated.

Sunday 4 th December <i>2nd in Advent</i>	9.30a.m. 10.00a.m. 11.00a.m. 2.30p.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden Family Service and Gift Service Morning Worship, Melrose Very Rev. David Arnott Melrose Music Society <i>Paul Chamberlain and Michael Haywood</i>
Tuesday 6 th December Thursday 8 th December	10.30a.m. 7.00p.m.	Priorwood Court Coffee Morning Guild Christmas Outing, Abbotsford Darnick Carol Singing
Sunday 11 th December <i>3rd in Advent</i>	9.30a.m. 11.00a.m. 7.30p.m. 2.15p.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden Morning Worship, Melrose Eildon Singers Concert Guild Carol Service at Innerleithen Church
Wednesday 14 th December	10.00a.m. 11.45a.m. 12.15p.m.	St. Mary's School Carol Service Mid-Week Worship in the Chapel Christmas Lunch
Sunday 18 th December <i>4th in Advent</i>	9.30a.m. 11.00a.m. 6.30p.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden Morning Worship, Melrose Bowden Carol Singing
Tuesday 20 th December Wednesday 21 st December Thursday 22 nd December	2.00p.m. 11.00a.m. 9.30a.m.	Songs of Praise, St John's Bowden Community Café Melrose PS Christmas Service
Saturday 24 th December <i>Christmas Eve</i>	6.00p.m. 11.15p.m.	Christingle Service, Melrose Watchnight Service, Bowden Rev Marion Dodd
Sunday 25 th December <i>Christmas Day</i>	11.15p.m. 9.30a.m. 11.00a.m.	Watchnight Service, Melrose Family Worship, Bowden Family Worship, Melrose
Sunday 1 st January	9.30a.m. 11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden Morning Worship, Melrose
Sunday 8 th January	9.30a.m. 11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden Morning Worship, Melrose
Tuesday 10 th January Friday 13 th January	10.30a.m. 7.30p.m.	Priorwood Court Coffee Morning Melrose Music Society <i>Bernard d'Ascoli – Piano from Darkness to Light</i>
Sunday 15 th January	9.30a.m. 11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden Very Rev David Arnott Morning Worship, Melrose Very Rev David Arnott
Tuesday 17 th January Wednesday 18 th January Thursday 19 th January Sunday 22 nd January	2.00p.m. 11.00a.m. 2.30p.m. 9.30a.m.	Songs of Praise, St John's Bowden Community Café Guild – Marie Curie Morning Worship, Bowden
Wednesday 27 th January	11.00a.m. 11.45a.m. 12.15p.m.	Morning Worship, Melrose Mid-week Worship in the Chapel Mid-week Lunch
Sunday 29 th January	9.30a.m. 11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden <i>Sacrament of Holy Communion</i> Morning Worship, Melrose

Thursday 2 nd February	2.30p.m.	Guild - Man Sheds
Sunday 5 th February	9.30a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden
	10.00a.m.	Family Service, Melrose
	11.00a.m.	Very Rev David Arnott Morning Worship, Melrose
Sunday 12 th February	9.30a.m.	Very Rev David Arnott Morning Worship, Bowden
	11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Melrose
Tuesday 14 th February	10.30a.m.	Priorwood Coffee Morning
Wednesday 15 th February	11.00a.m.	Bowden Community Café
Thursday 16 th February	2.30p.m.	Guild – <i>Approaching Old Age with Exercise</i> <i>Dorothy Dobson</i>
Sunday 19 th February	9.30a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden
	11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Melrose
Tuesday 21 st February	2.00p.m.	Songs of Praise, St John's
Wednesday 24 th February	11.45a.m.	Mid-week Worship in the Chapel
	12.15p.m.	Mid-week Lunch
Friday 24 th February	7.30p.m.	Melrose Music Society <i>Ruisi String Quartet</i>
Sunday 26 th February	9.30a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden <i>Sacrament of Holy Communion</i>
	11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Melrose
Thursday 2 nd March	2.30p.m.	Guild – <i>Sailing for the Disabled</i> <i>Barbara Wright</i>
Friday 3 rd March	2.30p.m.	World Day Of Prayer Melrose Parish Church
Saturday 4 th March	10.00a.m.	Coffee Morning, Bowden

Bowden Watchnight Service

This will be comprised of readings and carols and will commence at 11.15pm on Saturday 24th December at Bowden Kirk and will be led by the Rev. Marion Dodd.

Mid-Week Community Lunch

Christmas is coming and so is our Christmas Lunch on **Wednesday 14th December**. Tickets are available from the Church Office, payable on the day.

Future dates:	14th December	Margaret's Team
	25th January	Ruth's Team
	22nd February	Kath's Team

There is a short Ecumenical Service before the lunches at 11.45 in the Chapel for any who would like to attend.

Volunteers Needed Urgently!!!

We urgently require volunteers to help with the Community Lunches, which involves helpers at the tables; providers of food and most importantly, TEAM LEADERS.

The situation is becoming quite difficult and we can only give it six months – i.e. until June '17 to rectify the situation. Please contact the Church office if you would like to become involved or need further information.

Veronica Bailey

Presentation to Jim Marshall

It was a unique occasion in the life of the congregation on the evening of Tuesday 4th October when members gathered to express appreciation and thanks to Jim Marshall, our organist, for his outstanding contribution to the music in Melrose Parish Church for 50 years.

Jim was presented with a large framed photograph of himself at the organ, together with a cheque, by our former minister, Rev. Alistair Bennett.



Jim's wife, Irene, received a basket of flowers from Judi Bennett.

There was a Wine and Savouries Buffet and a relaxed happy atmosphere prevailed at what was a very successful function. Thanks are due to those who contributed to the Presentation Fund and to Elsa Barker and all who were involved with the buffet arrangements.

Ewan Rintoul
Session Clerk



Jim's acknowledgement is noted below:

"May I express my sincere thanks to Ewan Rintoul for arranging the event on 4th October to celebrate my tenure of fifty years as Organist - and also to the members of the congregation for their generous contributions. It was made even more special to have Alistair Bennett making the presentation. My wife, Irene, would also like to express her thanks for the beautiful flowers and the kindness and hospitality shown to her during the evening."

Fabric Committee

With the retirement of Alastair Matthew, we have at least one vacancy on the Fabric Committee. Dealing with the maintenance and upkeep of three valuable (and historic) properties, this is a very worthwhile role. If you might be interested, please phone Colin Armstrong on 01835 823591 for further information or to become a member.

Try Praying !

On Friday 3rd March 2017 at 2.30pm our church looks forward to holding the service for the Worldwide Day of Prayer in our chapel, followed by tea and fellowship. This brings together all three Melrose churches and gives a lovely feeling of unity both locally and internationally. In spirit we join with Christians right around the world as we all meet on the same day, from the rising of the sun in the east to its setting in the west, for the same service of prayer and praise.

Some will meet under a hot sky, others on a chilly day, some in the open air, some in lofty cathedrals, others in humble dwellings.....all our prayers arising to God as a cloud of sweet incense.

Every year a new country writes the service. This year it has been beautifully composed by the Christian women of The Philippines around the theme "Am I being unfair to you?". So each year we have an insight into the language, the culture, the joys and the sorrows of Christians from a different part of the world and their hopes and aspirations for the future.

Leading up to the service in March we meet with others from Holy Trinity and High Cross churches and over coffee read through the Bible texts that have been chosen and share our thoughts and experiences. The first meeting will be in the Upper Room on **Thursday 12th January 2017 at 10.30am** and if you are free to join in, you will be most welcome.

Liz Mitchell (822475)

Bowden and Melrose News

Remembrance Sunday

A well-attended parade and large congregation observed Remembrance Sunday in Melrose in addition to the services and acts of remembrance which took place in Gattonside, Bowden, Newstead and Darnick. The offering at Bowden and Melrose was for the work of Poppy Scotland and amounted to £723.65. The Primary 7 pupils at Melrose Primary School made poppies which were included in a display in the church. Afterwards, the poppies were offered to members of the congregation in exchange for a donation to Poppy Scotland and this totalled £69.05, enabling us to contribute a combined total of £792.70 to Poppy Scotland.

Fairtrade

You might have noticed the monthly Traidcraft stall after church service in Melrose; you may even have bought something fairly traded. The cookies and chocolate sell well.

The stall provides an opportunity to buy from a small range of Fairtrade food and cards. These products really do make a difference to coffee growers in Malawi and Peru, sugar workers in Mauritius and ladies who stitch the cards in Bangladesh.

There are some common myths about Fairtrade. The producers are paid a premium to use for the local facilities- health, education and transport. This does not necessarily make the products more expensive. All major supermarkets now have Fairtrade own-label tea and coffee ranges, for example.

Another myth is that only a small percentage of the price paid goes back to the producers. This myth is based on the misunderstanding that Fairtrade farmers receive a percentage of the retail price you pay for a product in a shop. But this is not the case. The price you pay as a consumer is determined entirely by the retailer.

The way Fairtrade works is that producer organisations receive a Fairtrade price for their product when they sell to the next person in the supply chain (usually an exporter or importer). This is intended to ensure that farmers can at least cover their costs no matter how low the world price for their commodity falls.

Christmas cards supporting Christian Aid will be on sale after the services in Melrose during December. Please SHOW YOU CARE at Christmas.

Jenni Young

Priorwood Court

The monthly coffee mornings organised by our Pastoral Care Group are being much appreciated. These are open to non-residents and take place at 10.30 on the second Tuesday of each month. However, in order to accommodate other events, this has been changed to the first Tuesday (6th) for December *only*.

Bowden Community Café

Bowden Community Café continues to run on a monthly basis every third Wednesday of the month at 11am in the hall. Forthcoming dates are Wednesdays 21st December; 18th January 2017; 15th February 2017.

Carol Singing at Bowden

The annual Carol Singing event at Bowden Village Hall will take place on Sunday 18th December at 6.30pm. It will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the hall. It will be led by Rev. Bruce McNicol and will be accompanied by the St Boswells Silver Band (followed by mince pies and mulled wine in the Village Hall).

Advanced Notice

The annual Church Coffee Morning in aid of the Church's Special Projects will be held in Bowden Village hall on Saturday, March 4th 2017 from 10-12noon. Any help and donations for the raffle will be gratefully accepted.

Guild Report

The Guild has enjoyed a busy Autumn term, with a very welcome Dedication Service conducted by Rev. Bruce McNicol, at which we shared Communion together. Our chosen charity for this year is "Care for the Family". Our original speaker for our first fundraiser in November was unable to come, but we welcomed Rev. Elspeth Harley, who introduced the theme of "Celebration of Creation." The Guild members are looking forward to their Christmas lunch together on 8th December, when we are gathering at Abbotsford for our festive meal.

19th January 2017 starts our Spring term, with a talk by **Caroline Green about Marie Curie**. On **2nd February** we are looking forward to a talk by a **team member of Men's Sheds!** This might well appeal to our male members of the congregation, so do come along and find out more.

Thursday 16th February, sees us all gently flexing our muscles with a talk by **Dorothy Dobson called "Approaching Old Age with Exercise/Pleasantly"**. This sounds fun for all!

"Sailing for the Disabled" is our talk on 2nd March, when Barbara Wright will be our Speaker.

Into March, when the next Church Magazine will be out, we gather for **World Day of Prayer at 2.30pm on Friday 3rd March**. This year, our Church is hosting this service, so do come along and give it support.

In a change to our printed syllabus, our meeting on **16th March**, we will welcome **Donald Gordon** to talk on **Trimontium and the Romans**.

Our second fundraiser will now take place on **30th March, with a musical afternoon led by Jim Letham**. Again, bring as many extra folk as you can muster to what will be an entertaining afternoon to benefit "Care for the Family."

As ever, we would be delighted to welcome folk (men and women) to any or all of our meetings. As you can see from the above, our meetings are very varied.
Elizabeth Fraser, Guild President.

Harvest Thanksgiving

The Service of Harvest Thanksgiving was celebrated on 9th October in both Bowden and Melrose, followed by a very successful and enjoyable lunch in the church hall. Thanks to Elsa Barker and her team who organise the lunch and all who contributed in any way. A retiring offering was taken on behalf of Christian Aid to support the crisis in Malawi.



Christian Aid

Following the crisis in Malawi, the Christian Aid Group decided to have a retiring collection at the Harvest Thanksgiving Services. The donations totalled £1,029.50 most of which was gift aided so the total will rise when the tax is claimed. The Group wish to thank all those who responded so generously.

Monksford Golf Day 2016

Once again, we had a good day at Monksford for our fund-raiser in aid of the Special Projects fund. Although the sun waited until almost the end of the event to make an appearance, the wind made for some interesting conditions. The winning team was captained by Esther Crawford, along with Sheila Hogg, Rob Moffat and Ronnie Garrett.



Grateful thanks go to Paul and Clare Rooney for allowing the use of their course and to their Green staff for their help on the day; Michael J. Crawford Partnership for sponsoring the first prize of a four-ball over Gullane's Number 2 Course and Callum Chisholm for providing the prizes for the

Longest Drive (won by Esther Crawford in the Ladies' Section) and Nearest The Pin (Grant Hogg).



The prizes were awarded during a short social evening after the event. Although entries were down



on previous years, we received two donations from prospective competitors who were unable to play, as well as the Green Fees so almost £600 was raised.



PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms

20th November Ruaridh Stuart Michael Ovens, I Polworth Avenue, St Boswells

Weddings

27th August Sarah Craig & Chris Mozumdar, 20 Fraser Avenue, Hawick

10th September Andrew Buchan & Tracy Hurley, 49 Dingleton Apartments, Melrose

Funerals

7th October Mrs Christine Riddell-Webster, Houndshall, Midlem

25th November Mr John Pattison, St John's, High Cross Avenue formerly Leacroft, Gattonside

Elders on duty – Melrose

Dec	4 th	11.00a.m.	Elsa Barker	Roger Wardman
	11 th	11.00a.m.	Jim Letham	Walter Riddell-Carre
	18 th	11.00a.m.	Richard Hill	Malcolm Morrison
	24 th	6.00p.m.	Martin Baird	Robbie Brown
		11.15p.m.	Ian Forsyth	Ian Wilson
		Elizabeth Fraser	Hamish Carruthers	
25 th	11.00a.m.	Hilary Thomson	Robert Fraser	
Jan	1 st	11.00a.m.	Gilmour Forrest	Donald Gordon
	8 th	11.00a.m.	Allan Cumming	Ewan Rintoul
	15 th	11.00a.m.	John Crawford	Helen Chisholm
	22 nd	11.00a.m.	David Peters	Alastair Matthew
	29 th	11.00a.m.	William Windram	Esther Crawford
Feb	5 th	11.00a.m.	Robin Cochrane	John Pollitt
	12 th	11.00a.m.	Ishbel Gordon	John Henderson
	19 th	11.00a.m.	Irene Armstrong	Colin Armstrong
	26 th	11.00a.m.	Ogilvie Mathieson	Jim Thom
Mar	5 th	11.00a.m.	Mac Brown	Veronica Bailey
	12 th	11.00a.m.	John Gaddie	Robin Sloan

Elders on Duty – Bowden

Dec	4 th	9.30a.m.	Ian Purves	Owen Rowlands
	11 th	9.30a.m.	Colin Armstrong	Gilmour Forrest
	18 th	9.30a.m.	Helen Chisholm	John Henderson
	24 th	11.15p.m.	Irene Armstrong	John Gaddie
	25 th	9.30a.m.	Russell Sanderson	Angus McLay
Jan	1 st	9.30a.m.	Ian Forsyth	Malcolm Morrison
	8 th	9.30a.m.	Esther Crawford	Jim McCulloch
	15 th	9.30a.m.	Murray Thom	William Windram
	22 nd	9.30a.m.	Ishbel Gordon	Richard Gordon
	29 th	9.30a.m.	Irene Armstrong	Walter Riddell-Carre
	Communion		John Gaddie	Allan Cumming

Feb	5 th	9.30a.m.	Ogilvie Mathieson	Moreen Gordon
	12 th	9.30a.m.	Roger Wardman	Jim Thom
	19 th	9.30a.m.	Robin Cochrane	Alastair O'Neil
	26 th	9.30a.m.	Irene Armstrong	Russell Sanderson
		Communion	Malcolm Morrison	Ian Purves
Mar	5 th	9.30a.m.	Robbie Brown	Alison Bacon
	12 th	9.30a.m.	John Pollitt	Colin Armstrong

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Beadle Duty – Bowden

Dec	Liz Sanderson	Jan	Bill Wilkie
Feb	Hans Schmidt	Mar	Ken Swinton

Elders unable to undertake duty on the date allocated are personally responsible for arranging a substitute.

They are asked to advise the office of the change by first thing on the previous Friday morning so that the names on the Orders of Service are accurate.

DOOR DUTY ROTA

Dec 4 th	Eleanor Johnstone	Tommy Wilson
11 th	John Miller	Val Miller
18 th	Liz Mitchell	Hilary Ford
Christingle Service 24 th	Sheena Henderson	Kerry Clark
25 th	Sheila Millar	
Jan 1 st	Eleanor Connochie	Lyn Bryce
8 th	Meg Robbie	Gillian Arbuckle
15 th	Oliver Eade	Yvonne Eade
22 nd	Kath McLaren	John McLaren
29 th	Gail Creamer	Lorna Hutchison
Feb 5 th	Eleanor Palmer	Margaret Lang
12 th	Kathleen Henderson	Emma King
19 th	Ian Millar	Christine Yuill
26 th	Sarah Mozumdar	Wendy Scott
Mar 5 th	Margaret Lang	Helen Rennie
12 th	Gill Howard	Ruth MacDonnell

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.



Patience Nyathi and Itayi Mpofo were married on 12th August.



Sarah Craig & Chris Mozumdar were married on 27th August.

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