

THE PARISH OF BOWDEN & MELROSE



***December 2015,
January & February 2016***

BOWDEN & MELROSE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Church Office

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November 2015

Dear Friends,

As I write this at the end of November the “Christian Year” has come to an end and we look forward to a new year with the beginning of Advent. A commentary on the scripture readings for the first Sunday in Advent begins as follows:

“The year opens with promises and prayers, promises of the coming reign of God and prayers that the people of God will be ready for that reign. The texts set a tone of hopeful expectation, but not without trepidation in view of the awesome events to come. The Old Testament reading is an announcement that the ancient promise of a messiah, a descendant of King David, will be fulfilled and Jerusalem will dwell secure. The Gospel reading points to signs in the heavens that indicate that the kingdom of God is near.”

Both passages need to be understood in their context. The reading from the prophet Jeremiah tells of a time when the city and nation have been destroyed, there is no king in the line of David on the throne in Jerusalem, and the people live in exile as refugees in Babylon. The verses from the Gospel of Luke are written at a time when Jerusalem has again been destroyed but state that shortly (within this generation) the Son of man will come in a cloud with power and glory. With this statement Luke joins many other early Christians in the belief that they were living in the period between God’s punishment of Jerusalem and God’s judgement of the nations.

There are still those today who look for God’s presence in the world through what are called apocalyptic events and are quick to interpret disasters and catastrophes, natural or man-made as signs of that presence ushering in his reign. The civil war in Syria, the rise of Isis, the increasing instability of the region and the recent terrorist atrocities in Paris, Beirut, Bagdad and other parts of the world as well as the blowing up of a Russian airliner are all interpreted in this context.

And it is difficult in the face of all the above events and their effect on so many human lives to talk of Advent as a time of hope – hope for a greater peace in our world. However Advent is such a season and a time when we increasingly focus on the nature of God’s presence in our world and in our lives and find it not in portrayals of awesome power but mysteriously in the vulnerability and poverty of Christ’s birth.

In the midst of our Christmas preparations – services of worship, concerts, lunches and parties – as well as on Christmas Day itself – we do well to ask, “What would the reign of God look like, what are the ways of Christ?” and hopefully conclude not times of violent upheaval with peoples set against each other, but a constant striving for a greater peace and justice in our world.

I hope you are able to be part of our Advent and Christmas celebrations and services of worship and wish you peace in your own lives at this time.

Yours sincerely

Alistair Bennett

An Invitation to Holy Communion

Last Sunday in December and January

9.30a.m.

Bowden Kirk

Calendar of Events

Thursday 3 rd December		Guild Christmas Lunch
Sunday 6 th December	9.30a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden
2 nd in Advent		Rev. Bruce McNicol
	11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Melrose
		Rev. Bruce McNicol
Tuesday 8 th December	7.30p.m.	Kirk Session
Friday 11 th December	10.00a.m.	St. Mary's School Carol Service
	7.00p.m.	Darnick Carol Singing
Saturday 12 th December	2.30p.m.	Melrose Music Society
		<i>Alexander Ullman - Piano</i>
Sunday 13 th December	9.30a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden
3 rd in Advent		<i>Rev. Bruce McNicol</i>
	10.00a.m.	Family Service and Gift Service
	11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Melrose
	7.30p.m.	Eildon Singers Concert
Wednesday 16 th December	11.00a.m.	Bowden Community Café
	11.45a.m.	Mid-Week Worship in the Chapel
	12.15p.m.	Christmas Lunch
Friday 18 th December	9.30a.m.	Melrose PS Christmas Service
Sunday 20 th December	9.30a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden
4 th in Advent	11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Melrose
	6.30p.m.	Bowden Carol Singing
Sunday 20 th	7.30p.m.	Waverley Consort
		"Handel's Messiah"
Thursday 24 th December	6.00p.m.	Christingle Service, Melrose
Christmas Eve	11.15p.m.	Watchnight Service, Bowden
	11.15p.m.	Watchnight Service, Melrose
Friday 25 th December	9.30a.m.	Family Worship, Bowden
Christmas Day	11.00a.m.	Family Worship, Melrose
Sunday 27 th December	9.30a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden
		<i>Sacrament of Holy Communion</i>
	11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Melrose
		<i>Sacrament of Baptism</i>
Sunday 3 rd January	9.30a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden
	11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Melrose
Sunday 10 th January	9.30a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden
	10.00a.m.	Family Service, Melrose
	11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Melrose

Sunday 10 th January	2.30p.m.	Melrose Music Society <i>Aurea String Quartet</i>
Sunday 17 th January	9.30a.m. 11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden Morning Worship, Melrose
Wednesday 20 th January	11.00a.m.	Bowden Community Café
Thursday 21 st January	2.30p.m.	Guild
Saturday 23 rd January	2.30p.m.	Melrose Music Society <i>Ferio Saxophone Quartet</i>
<i>Sunday 24th January</i>	<i>9.30a.m.</i> <i>11.00a.m.</i>	<i>Morning Worship, Bowden</i> <i>Morning Worship, Melrose</i>
Wednesday 27 th January	11.45a.m. 12.15p.m.	Mid-week Worship in the Chapel Mid-week Lunch
Sunday 31 st January	9.30a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden <i>Sacrament of Holy Communion</i>
Thursday 4 th February	11.00a.m. 2.30p.m.	Morning Worship, Melrose Guild: <i>Walking Coast to Coast – Val Steel</i>
Sunday 7 th February	9.30a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden <i>Rev. Bruce McNicol</i>
	10.00a.m.	Family Service, Melrose
Friday 12 th February	11.00a.m. 7.30p.m.	Morning Worship, Melrose Melrose Music Society <i>Dante Quartet with Daniel Tong</i>
Sunday 14 th February	9.30a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden <i>Rev Bruce McNicol</i>
	11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Melrose <i>Rev. Bruce McNicol</i>
Wednesday 17 th February	11.00a.m.	Bowden Community Café
Thursday 18 th February	2.30p.m.	Guild: <i>Channelkirk Talks – Henry Borthwick</i>
Sunday 21 st February	9.30a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden <i>Very Rev. David Arnott</i>
	11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Melrose <i>Very Rev. David Arnott</i>
Wednesday 24 th February	11.45a.m. 12.15p.m.	Mid-week Worship in the Chapel Mid-week Lunch
Sunday 28 th February	9.30a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden <i>Very Rev. Dr. Finlay Macdonald</i>
	11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Melrose <i>Very Rev. Dr. Finlay Macdonald</i>
Thursday 3 rd March	2.30p.m.	Guild <i>Liberty – Caroline Penman</i>
Sunday 7 th March	9.30a.m. 10.00a.m. 11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden Family Service, Melrose Morning Worship, Melrose

Mid-week Lunch

Future dates:

Christmas is coming and so is our Christmas Lunch on **Wednesday 16th December**. Tickets from the Church Office, payable on the day.

Future dates;	16th December	Kath's Team
	27th January	Ruth/Veronica's Team
	24th February	Margaret's Team

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

Helpers?

Any new volunteers for the monthly lunches would be welcome, even if you are not available at lunchtime could you contribute a traybake or pot of soup?

Veronica Bailey

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 the Earl Haig Fund and amounted to £857.85.

Traidcraft Christmas Sale

We had a very successful Christmas Sale in early November selling over £2000 of cards, paper, gifts and food, and will be supporting Traidcraft Exchange, the charity arm of Traidcraft, with a donation towards their campaigning work.

Christmas cards supporting Christian Aid will still be on sale after the morning service on the 6th December.

You may have heard that Melrose and District has become a Fairtrade Town so you will be able to look out for the Fairtrade mark in various shops and premises in the near future.

We have been raising awareness of the difference buying Fairtrade can mean to the producers and encouraging local workplaces and community organisations to support Fairtrade and use Fairtrade products whenever possible.

Thank you to all who continue to support the Traidcraft Fairtrade Stall after morning service on the first Sunday of the month.

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.

Bowden Community Café

The next dates for your Diary for the Bowden Community Café (always the third Wednesday in the month)

Wednesday Dec 16th; Wednesday Jan 20th; Wednesday Feb 17th.

World Day of Prayer

The World Day of Prayer will be held **on Friday 4th March, 2016**. There are three preparatory meetings held, to which everyone is invited, to all or as many as they feel they can attend. The first of these meetings is to be held on **Tuesday, 1st of December at 10.00a.m** in **Holy Trinity Church**.

Carol Singing

There will be opportunities for carol singing in **Darnick on Friday 11th December at 7.00p.m.** with the Salvation Army Band, in **Melrose Square on Saturday 12th December at 6.30p.m.** and in **Bowden Village Hall on Sunday December 20th at 6.30p.m.** with the St. Boswells Silver Band (followed by mince pies and mulled wine in the Village Hall)

Church Coffee Morning

The annual Coffee Morning in aid of the Church's Special Projects will be held in Bowden Village Hall on Saturday **6th February from 10-12noon**. Donations for Cake and Candy and the Raffle will be gratefully accepted.

Guild News

GUILD NEWS at November 2015.

The Guild meetings have been bowling along this term with many interesting afternoons, and fellowship together. Our first fundraiser for this season will have taken place, before this goes to print. We are very much looking forward to Jim Marshall, our Church Organist, taking us through some of the intricacies of the church organ, before tea and fellowship. Our fundraiser for this year is "Street Pastors", and we will be holding another fundraiser (open to all) on Thursday 17th March at 2.30 pm, when Jim Letham, our Choir Master, will introduce us to many pieces of music, unfamiliar and familiar. Put this date in your diaries, an event not to be missed.

This Autumn term comes to a happy conclusion with our Christmas meal on December 3rd, when we are meeting for lunch at the Hoebridge, Gattonside.

Following the break for Christmas celebrations, we will resume in earnest on Thursday 21st January, at 2.30pm when everyone is welcome to come, members, congregation and friends. At present the Speaker is not confirmed, but it will no doubt be an interesting afternoon.

Thursday 4th February our talk will be "Walking Coast to Coast" with one of our Committee, Val Steel. Come and do the walk while enjoying a seat in the hall!

18th February we welcome Henry Borthwick speaking about the history of Channelkirk.

A completely different speaker on 3rd March when Caroline Penman will demonstrate wearing and purchasing scarves, to augment being smartly dressed!

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER takes place on Friday 4th March, this year celebrated at Holy Trinity Church at 2.15 pm. There will be three preparatory meetings prior to this event, and everyone is invited to come to any or all of these, the first meeting being on Tuesday 1st December at Holy Trinity at 10 am.

The Guild Presbyterian Council AGM and Holy Communion will take place on Monday 7th March at 2.30 pm at Newlands Church. This is a fair distance from central Borders, but if anyone is interested in going please let Elizabeth Fraser know.

As mentioned above, our second fundraiser will be on 17th March, when we look forward to a musical afternoon with Jim Letham – do come along – it is bound to be fun, and at the same time raise more funds for "Street Pastors."

7th April (following Easter week), Malcolm Ross is coming to speak about “Time spent in Israel”.

We wind up our season on 21st April with our “brief” AGM, followed by a talk from Dr. Malcolm Lindsay about butterflies. This will be a lovely welcome to Spring.

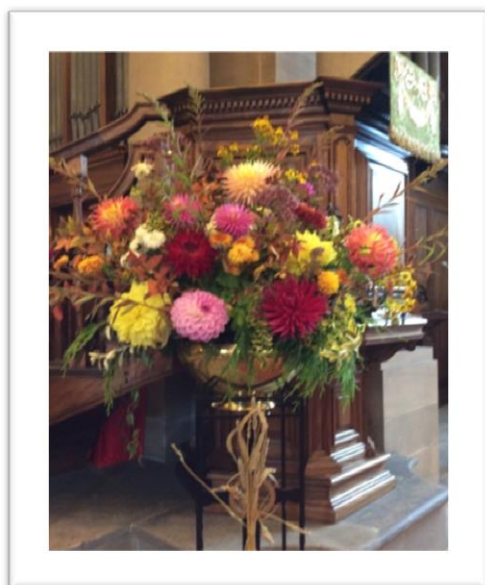
We look forward to meeting with our members, congregation and friends at any or all of these meetings. Do come along.

On 19th November our first fundraiser for this year was held. Thanks to Jim Marshall, our church organist, who gave an entertaining and tuneful talk and demonstration of the church organ, the sum of £281.20p was raised for “Street Pastors.” Many thanks to all who gave so generously.

Elizabeth Fraser, President

Harvest Thanksgiving

As in recent years the Service of Harvest Thanksgiving was 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. There was also a very welcome boost to the Food Bank which continues to be much needed.



Christian Aid

As reported in the last edition of the magazine the Christian Aid Group comprising members from our own congregation, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church and St. Cuthbert's Roman Catholic Church decided to respond to the refugee crisis in Syria and surrounding countries by providing Christian Aid Appeal envelopes and inviting a response in the weeks leading up to our services of Harvest Thanksgiving. The sum raised was £2034.15 in addition to the amount Christian Aid will recover in tax through Gift Aid donations. The Group wish to thank all those who responded so generously.

A Day's Pilgrimage to Old Melrose

In early October a group of over forty spend a day in the Melrose area exploring and learning about the importance of Old Melrose to the early Christian community of this region and how this site and the wider area has been the focus of pilgrimage over the ensuing centuries.

The days event was organised by the Scottish Pilgrim Routes Forum (SPRF) and was split between a guided walk from Newstead to the 7th century monastic site of Old Melrose before re-convening at Melrose Parish Church hall for lunch and then an afternoon session of presentations and discussion that considered present day faith tourism and pilgrimage. The group were granted access by Mr Younger of Old Melrose to walk round the complete monastic site and over the Chapelknowe, learning about the early Abbots Etta and St Boisil and the story of Cuthbert who arrived on this site in 651 AD. Cuthbert then 10 years later became the Prior of Old Melrose before setting off to the Holy Island where he became Prior and then the Bishop of Lindisfarne. After his death St Cuthbert's body was returned for a time to Old Melrose and in 1080 a chapel on the Chapelknowe was dedicated to St Cuthbert and this remained a place of pilgrimage well into the 14th century.



In the afternoon there were presentations from Rev Graham Booth a warden of the St Aidan & Hilda Community on the Holy Island and from Vyv Wood-Gee a countryside and access consultant with years of experience related to present day cultural, historical and pilgrimage walking throughout Scotland and Europe.

SPRF members and non-members coming from across most parts of Scotland and had a very successful gathering on what was a bright and sunny autumn day. The church hall facilities were ideal for the second part of the day and sincere thanks have to be passed on to the congregation for their willingness and the welcome extended to this gathering. SPRF is a Scottish Charity and more information on its activities can be found on www.sprf.org.uk.

John Henderson

Monksford Golf Day 2015

Autumn's arrival saw the return of the Monksford Golf competition, held to raise funds for our Special Projects with the added bonus of a social event later. Numbers of entrants were down a little on previous years due to holiday commitments but it remained a well-supported occasion and over £800 was realised.

As there were several lady competitors, the format was altered to make the event more inclusive and it was decided to drop the challenge of the longest drive and choose a second Par 3 hole for nearest the pin. However, the positioning of the flags on the greens meant that it was a test to land the ball on the green, far less near the hole but Keith Swinton and Colin Hanley rose admirably to the challenge. As this Texas Scramble competition is played as a shotgun start, the teams walk across the course to their designated tee so that everyone starts at once. It reduces the length of time needed for the event and enables everyone to finish around the same time. A member of one team (who shall remain nameless) was admiring the lovely views as they walked along a fairway in reverse. He failed to realise that what appeared to be a small hillock as he approached the rise opened up into a bunker on the far side. His electric trolley headed over the lip, closely followed by the owner who lost his balance as the trolley took off. A quick response from a fellow team mate wasn't sufficient to stop the fall but fortunately, no one was hurt and it created a great deal of amusement. As a result, an added award went to this player for the best entry into a bunker!

Prizes were awarded at a short gathering in the evening. The winning team with a very impressive score comprised of Gordon Chisholm, Keith Swinton, Grant Hogg and Simon Eaton Turner. Grateful thanks go to Paul and Clare Rooney for allowing the use of their course again and to their Green staff for their help on the day and to all those who took part. All the prizes were donated so we acknowledge the support given by James Henderson in the provision of a voucher to the winning team for The Townhouse; Chris Campbell for the windproof tops given to the winners of nearest the pin; and Ross Chisholm for the goodies for second highest team score. Special mention should also go to Alistair Bennett who attended a dedication service, officiated at a wedding and then managed to complete twelve holes of golf – a varied Saturday in the life of a minister. We look forward to next year's event.

Macmillan cancer support coffee morning

On Sunday 25th October, a large number of the congregation from Melrose Parish Church managed to raise an amazing £276.50 for Macmillan Cancer Support. Thank you to everyone who supported this fundraising after service coffee morning and purchased a few sweetie treats from the cake and candy stall.

The motivation to take part in Macmillan Cancer's Big Coffee Morning was to support one of my friends who sadly has terminal cancer. She, like many cancer sufferers and survivors are truly inspirational in the way they fight the disease. My friend and her daughter have received some outstanding support from Macmillan Cancer Support and I felt that holding a coffee morning was a way to make sure that this amazing support can be offered to even more persons going through this horrible disease.

My friend has bravely battled with various forms of cancer for nearly ten years. Her body is so tired from all the treatment, but she has been determined to make as many memories with her daughter as possible - they have travelled overseas, had weekend luxury breaks and enjoyed a mother and daughter photo shoot to name a few! My friends' teenage daughter understandably has struggled with her mum's illness and Macmillan Cancer Support has offered her weekly counselling which has enabled her to enjoy these memories with her mum; something which has meant the world to both of them. It is these forms of additional support that makes the work of Macmillan Cancer Support so invaluable to cancer sufferer and their families.

In addition to the money raised for the charity this was a special time for Gillian and myself being back at Melrose Parish and catching up with people from our time living in Melrose. It was also a great family effort with Sheena and Mum adding into the baking effort.

Since the coffee morning we have only heard how much the event was enjoyed by those who came and the photos taken clearly show that this was a happy and well supported event with participation from the very young through to the more senior members of the congregation.



Fun being had by all ages!



Thank you again for your support.
Elsbeth Henderson

PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms

9 th August	Sadie Emily Murray, Hillside, Dean Place, Newstead
25 th October	Florence Philippa Elizabeth Norman, No 2, 638 east 5th Av, Vancouver
15 th November	Hollie Olivia Catherine McLean, Orchard Neuk, Orchard Lane, Gattonside
22 nd November	Ivy Elizabeth Mathewson, 60 Reynolds Crescent, Elgin

Weddings

19 th September	Brynmor Thom and Susan Jack, 101 East Claremont Street, Edinburgh
26 th September	Nikki McRobbie and Angus Wilde , 25 Eildon View, Melrose
10 th October	Katie Whiteford and Barry Nelson . 12 Florabank Road, Haddington

Funerals

22 nd September	Mrs. Phyllis (Poppy) Simpson, 28 Priorswalk, Melrose
4 th November	Mrs. Jane Lammie Riverside Healthcare Centre, Selkirk (formerly Priorswalk and Morrow Gardens)
20 th November	Mrs. Jean Thomson, Yarrow, 6 Abbotsford Terrace, Darnick

Elders on duty – Melrose

Dec	6 th	11.00a.m.	Robbie Brown	Veronica Bailey
	13 th	11.00a.m.	Robin Sloan	John Gaddie
	20 th	11.00a.m.	Murray Thom	Moreen Gordon
	24 th	6.00p.m.	John Maguire	Martin Baird
			Richard Gordon	George Bunyan
			Elsa Barker	Pat Mackenzie
25 th	11.00a.m.	Owen Rowlands	Alastair O'Neil	
27 th	11.00a.m.	Jim Letham	Ishbel Gordon	
Jan	3 rd	11.00a.m.	Richard Hill	Ian Purves
	10 th	11.00a.m.	Robert Fraser	Roger Wardman
	17 th	11.00a.m.	Walter Riddell-Carre	Ewan Rintoul
	24 th	11.00a.m.	Malcolm Morrison	Helen Chisholm
	31 st	11.00a.m.	John Crawford	Greta Leitch
Feb	7 th	11.00a.m.	Ian Forsyth	Ian Wilson
	14 th	11.00a.m.	David Peters	Hilary Thomson
	21 st	11.00a.m.	Irene Armstrong	Jack Crichton
	28 th	11.00a.m.	Allan Cumming	Elizabeth Fraser
Mar	6 th	11.00a.m.	Gilmour Forrest	Hamish Carruthers
	13 th	11.00a.m.	William Windram	Esther Crawford

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Elders on Duty – Bowden

Dec	6 th	9.30a.m.	Ian Forsyth	John Maguire
	13 th	9.30a.m.	Pat Mackenzie	Ian Purves
	20 th	9.30a.m.	Mac Brown	Owen Rowlands

	24 th	11.15p.m.	John Gaddie	Russell Sanderson
	25 th	9.30a.m.	Malcolm Morrison	Alison Bacon
	27 th	9.30a.m.	Irene Armstrong	Alan Cumming
		Communion	Murray Thom	Walter Riddell-Carre
Jan	3 rd	9.30a.m.	Helen Chisholm	Alastair Matthew
	10 th	9.30a.m.	John Henderson	Grant Rennie
	17 th	9.30a.m.	Ian Wilson	Gilmour Forrest
	24 th	9.30a.m.	Alastair O'Neil	Angus McLay
	31 st	9.30a.m.	Irene Armstrong	John Gaddie
		Communion	Esther Crawford	William Windram
Feb	7 th	9.30a.m.	James McCulloch	Richard Gordon
	14 th	9.30a.m.	Ishbel Gordon	Pat Schmidt
	21 st	9.30a.m.	Walter Riddell-Carre	Anne Cochrane
	28 th	9.30a.m.	Irene Armstrong	Moreen Gordon
			Russell Sanderson	Roger Wardman
Mar	6 th	9.30a.m.	Ogilvie Mathieson	John Pollitt
	13 th	9.30a.m.	Robbie Brown	Jim Thom

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Beadle Duty – Bowden

Dec	Liz Sanderson	Jan	Bill Wilkie
Feb	Hans Schmidt	Mar	Jim Noble

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

DOOR DUTY ROTA

Dec 6 th	Barbara Wright	Alistair Wright
13 th	Jean Watson	Gill Howard
20 th	Irene Thom	Gillian Arbuckle
Watchnight Service 24 th	Tony Taylor
27 th	Ruth MacDonnell	Sheila Miller
Jan 3 rd	Val Miller	John Miller
10 th	Lorna Masson	Edith Scott
17 th	Eleanor Connochie	Eleanor Palmer
24 th	Kath McLaren	John McLaren
31 st	Yvonne Eade	Oliver Eade
Feb 7 th	Hilary Ford	Margaret Lang
14 th	Kerry Clark	Gail Creamer
21 st	Colin Armstrong	Liz Mitchell
28 th	Sarah Craig	Wendy Scott
Mar 6 th	Meg Robbie	Lyn Bryce
13 th	Margaret Lang	Christine Yuill

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.