

BOWDEN & MELROSE **CHURCH MAGAZINE**



Charlie and Evelyn Renton

WINTER 2019/20

BOWDEN & MELROSE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

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Dear Friends,

Last Christmas at Messy Church we did a 'scratch nativity'. No casting, no rehearsals, no idea what might happen...just a selection of costumes for the children to dress up in and a story for them to listen to and be a part of. There were so many children that we had to improvise with tinsel 'borrowed' from the Christmas tree for angels, tea towels from the kitchen for shepherds. It was chaotic and exciting and memorable as together we re-told and re-enacted the Christmas story.

I'm sure you will have your own memories of being in a nativity play... Perhaps you had one of the starring roles – Mary or Joseph; or one of the glamorous roles – a glittery angel or a king with his treasure; or maybe one of the less sought after parts – an innkeeper shouting 'no room' or the back end of the donkey. Whatever, remember that palpable sense of excitement as you prepared, costumes were made, songs were learned, lines were practised! Remember that thrill, as you rehearsed the play... and then the big day itself when proud parents, grandparents and friends arrived to watch the Christmas story unfold, once more! We were part of the story. We were characters participating in the sheer wonder of it all.

Sadly, as we grow up, it can get harder (for some reason) to feel a part of it. We lose the joy and amazement and excitement. Perhaps it's over-familiarity with the story that clouds the imagination. If we're not careful, or indeed if we're too careful, we can turn the greatest story ever told into the same old story or a set of dry propositions, instead of the flesh-and-blood opening scenes of a plot that is set to run and run.

But we are still very much a part of the story of Christmas. Let's remind ourselves of some familiar words...

To us a child is born. **To us** a son is given.
Good news of great joy that will be **for all** the people.
He is called Immanuel – God **with us**.

To us, for all, with us - powerful, connecting, relation-forming words. The ways and means of us entering into, and accepting the invitation to participate in, something intriguingly and powerfully and necessarily beyond ourselves – the incarnation, God born among us.

We are all part of the story. God is excited to share the gift of Jesus, his son, with us. This is the good news of great joy that is the message of our Christmas story. Good news that we must tell out to the world around us.

Lord God,
Help us this year
to hear the great story of Christmas
speaking to us as though for the first time.
May words that we know of old take on new meaning
so that the joy given to Mary,
the glad tidings told to the shepherds,
and the Christ-child visited by the wise men,
become Good News for us,
Good News for all.
Amen

With every blessing for Christmas to you and yours

Rosie

An Invitation to Holy Communion

Last Sunday in December, January and February

9.30a.m.

Bowden Kirk

Sunday 24th November

11.00a.m.

Sunday 23rd February

11.00a.m.

Melrose Parish Church

Calendar of Events

Thursday 14 th November	2.30p.m.	Guild – Rev. Haisley & Mrs Jill Moore “More Stained Glass and Humble Bricks”
Saturday 17 th November	7.30p.m.	Melrose Music Society
Wednesday 27 th November	11.45a.m.	Mid-Week Worship in the Chapel
	12.15p.m.	Mid-Week Community Lunch
Thursday 28 th November	2.30p.m.	Guild – Our project – “India. Free to Live”
Sunday 1 st December	9.30a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden
<i>1st in Advent</i>	11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Melrose
Thursday 5 th December	7.00 p.m.	St Mary’s School Concert in Bowden Kirk
Saturday 7 th December	3.00p.m.	Melrose Music Society
Sunday 8 th December	9.30a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden
<i>2nd in Advent</i>	11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Melrose
	3.00-5.00p.m.	Christmas Messy Church
Tuesday 10 th December	10.30a.m.	Priorwood Court Get Together
Thursday 12 th December	7.00p.m.	Health in Harmony Concert, Melrose Church
Friday 13 th December	9.00a.m.	St. Mary’s School Carol Service
Sunday 15 th December	9.30a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden
		<i>Rev. Bruce McNicol</i>
<i>3rd in Advent</i>	10.00a.m.	Family Service
	11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Melrose
		<i>Rev. Bruce McNicol</i>
	6.30p.m.	Bowden Carol Singing
	7.30p.m.	Eildon Singers Concert, Melrose Church
Wednesday 18 th December	11.00a.m.	Bowden Community Café
	11.45a.m.	Mid-Week Worship in the Chapel
	12.15p.m.	Mid-Week Christmas Community Lunch
Thursday 19 th December	9.30a.m.	Melrose Primary School Christmas Service
Sunday 22 nd December	9.30a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden
	11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Melrose
Office Closed 24 th – December – 3 rd January		
<i>Tuesday 24th December</i>	6.00p.m.	Christingle Service, Melrose
<i>Christmas Eve</i>	11.15p.m.	Watchnight Service, Bowden
	11.15p.m.	Watchnight Service, Melrose
Wednesday 25 th December	9.30a.m.	Family Worship, Bowden
<i>Christmas Day</i>	11.00a.m.	Family Worship, Melrose
Sunday 29 th December	9.30a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden
		<i>Sacrament of Holy Communion</i>
	11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Melrose

2019

Sunday 5 th January	9.30a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden
	11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Melrose
Thursday 9 th January	2.30p.m.	Guild – “Beyond the Parish Pump” J. Wood
Sunday 12 th January	9.30a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden
	10.00a.m.	Family Service
	11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Melrose
Tuesday 14 th January	10.30a.m.	Priorwood Court Get Together
Wednesday 15 th January	11.00a.m.	Bowden Community Café
Saturday 18 th January	7.30p.m.	Melrose Music Society
Sunday 19 th January	9.30a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden
	11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Melrose
Wednesday 22 nd January	11.45a.m.	Mid-week Worship in the Chapel
	12.15p.m.	Mid-week Lunch
Thursday 23 rd January	2.30p.m.	Guild –Project Fund-raiser, Musical event
Saturday 25 th January	7.30p.m.	Roxburgh Singers
Sunday 26 th January	9.30a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden
		<i>Sacrament of Holy Communion</i>
	11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Melrose
	3.00-5.00p.m.	Messy Church
Sunday 2 nd February	9.30a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden
	10.00a.m.	Family Service, Melrose
	11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Melrose
Thursday 6 th February	2.30p.m.	Guild – “History is not really bunk” G.Kilpatrick
Sunday 9 th February	9.30a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden
	11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Melrose
Tuesday 11 th February	10.30a.m.	Priorwood Court Get Together
Sunday 16 th February	9.30a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden
	11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Melrose
Wednesday 19 th February	11.00a.m.	Bowden Community Café
Thursday 20 th February	2.30p.m.	Guild – Flower Arranging Y.Young
Sunday 23 rd February	9.30a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden
		<i>Sacrament of Holy Communion</i>
	11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Melrose
		<i>Sacrament of Holy Communion</i>
Wednesday 26 th February	11.45a.m.	Mid-week Worship in the Chapel
	12.15p.m.	Mid-week Lunch
Sunday 1 st March	9.30a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden
	10.00a.m.	Family Service
	11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Melrose
	7.30p.m.	Melrose Music Society
Friday 6 th March	2.00p.m.	World Day of Prayer, Melrose Parish Church
Sunday 8 th March	9.30a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden
	11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Melrose
Sunday 15 th March	9.30a.m.	Morning Worship, Bowden
	11.00a.m.	Morning Worship, Melrose
	3.00-5.00p.m.	Messy Church

Harvest Thanksgiving

The Service of Harvest Thanksgiving was celebrated on 29th September in both Bowden Kirk and Melrose Parish Church in services for all the family. In Melrose, choir members sang the introit “Harvest” which was composed and directed by Jim Letham.



Now that the Kirk Session has formed into sub committees, the organisation of the Ploughmen’s Lunch fell under the remit of the Social Committee. This simple seated lunch format of bread, cheese, oatcakes and fruit cake was well received and several attendees were able to leave with surplus items to take home with them. Retiring offerings had been invited both on the preceding Sunday and the day itself in support of Christian Aid. Generous donations meant that a total of £686.33 was received, much of which was given under Gift Aid.



A very well attended Messy Church of October continued the theme with “Harvest: The Rich Farmer” from “Stories Jesus Told”. The children enjoyed listening to the story read to them and contributing their thoughts on the importance of sharing and being kind and helpful to others.

Part of this story relates to the farmer’s successes in the growing of corn and carrots and how he built his farm. Crafts on the day included making popcorn to (hopefully!) take home; creating carrots out of card and wool; iced and decorated sweetcorn shaped biscuits; Jenga to replicate the building tasks; making a “thank you” box.



The theme carried on to the food, where carrot shaped biscuits and carrot cake were greatly appreciated, in addition to the other tasty morsels. Many families also brought their Shoe Boxes to add to the collection.



Blythwood Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

The deadline for the appeal was 28th October and we sent off 70 boxes. Thank you to everyone who supported this year's appeal. The recipients are very appreciative of the boxes and also to realise that someone is thinking about them.

Traidcraft Craft Sale & Coffee Morning

Neither the weather nor the draw of the World Cup Rugby final could deter people from turning out to mark the 40th anniversary of Traidcraft Exchange. The hall was busy from start to finish and the Cake & Candy and handcrafted goods stalls proved to be very popular. Almost half the monies raised were from the sale of Traidcraft items. Thanks go to all who supported this event. The group is delighted to say that a total of £850 was raised.

St. Andrew's "Touch of Tartan" Ceilidh Saturday 23rd November

One of our new social events will take place later this month when we look forward to welcoming Roddy Johnston and Seonaid Lynn, who play the accordion and fiddle respectively. It will run from 7.00 – 10.00 p.m. in our church hall. This family-friendly Ceilidh offers refreshments at the interval including shortbread, tablet and ice-cream and attendees are asked to bring their own drinks, although juice will be provided.

Tickets are £8.00 for an adult (and accompanied children are admitted free) and can be purchased in advance by contacting the office or on the door on the night. We'll include an article about the evening in the next magazine.

2020 Church Calendar

Sales are going very well for next year's Church Calendar (£6.00 each) with its beautiful views showcasing our parish. There is still time to send these abroad and we have just received a limited extra print run. Purchases can be made from the Church Office or after morning service. This is an ideal way to help church finances.

Nativity Display

Last year, along with our friends from St Cuthbert's and Holy Trinity, we held a Nativity Set exhibition in Melrose Church. We have been asked to do it again.



The church will be open on Saturdays 7 and 14 December, 10.00am – 4.00pm for viewing. Those attending the many concerts and services in the church in the run up to Christmas will also get the opportunity to enjoy the display.

If you have a nativity set that you would be happy to lend us for a couple of weeks please let either Rosie or Helen know. Any sets we displayed last year



along with new additions will be welcomed. The display will be set up on Friday 6 December. These photos are of some of the sets exhibited last year.



Charity Coffee Morning

Bowden Village Hall is hosting a coffee morning on Saturday 7th December from 10-12noon in aid of the homeless charity Crisis. Any donations for the raffle and, of course your attendance, would be greatly appreciated.

Christmas Service and Community Lunch

Christmas is coming, and so is our Mid-Week Service and Christmas Lunch which will take place on **Wednesday 18th December**. It starts with the short service in the Chapel at 11.45 a.m. and the Lunch will follow at 12.15p.m. Tickets are available at the November Lunch (27th) and thereafter from the Church Office or after a Sunday service. The cost is £5.00 per ticket, payable on the day of the event. If you would like to come along and need transport, please contact the office and we will be pleased to make arrangements.

Mid-Week Service and Community Lunch

Future dates:

22nd January

26th February

Ruth's and Barbara's Team

Lorna's and Nancy's Team

Worship at 11.45a.m. in the Chapel will be followed by lunch at 12.15p.m. in the Church Hall. At £3.50, it's great value for soup, rolls and tray bakes and, of course, the company and chat. A warm welcome is extended to all.

Bowden Community Café

This continues to meet at 11am on the third Wednesday of each month (see calendar at front). Visitors from Melrose most welcome ('Border Weaver' bus timetable fits in perfectly).

Christingle Instructions



A Christingle is made up of an orange (representing the world) with a red ribbon around it (representing the blood of Jesus). Fruits and sweets are skewered on 4 cocktail sticks which are pushed into the orange representing the fruits of the earth and the four seasons. And finally a candle is pushed into the centre of the orange representing Christ, the light of the world. Your candle will be lit during the service. Please ensure that you bring a tinfoil plate for your Christingle to sit on so that any drips from the hot wax are caught. Our Christingle service will be held in Melrose Parish Church on Christmas Eve, beginning at 6.00p.m. and all will be made very welcome.

Carol Singing at Bowden

The annual Carol Singing event at Bowden Village Hall will be held on Sunday 15th December at 6.30pm led by the minister and followed by mince pies and mulled wine indoors. All welcome. Donations will go to local NHS charity 'The Difference'.

Church Calendar 2021

Although we have been overwhelmed by the large number of your excellent photo contributions sent in for the 2020 calendar, there are still some gaps in our 'library' for the 2021 calendar. Some cases where more contributions would be welcome are: Autumn Colour (hope it's not too late!); Cauldshiels Loch; Lowood Bridge; Tweedbank Pond; Tweed Railway Bridge; unusual aspects of Leaderfoot; Melrose Sevens action shots; Cricket Action shots?; Rhymer's Glen? Remember that it is much easier for any photo to be in Landscape aspect.

Priorwood Court

The monthly Get Togethers, organised by our Pastoral Care Group are well supported. Non-residents are warmly welcomed to these events, where the residents enjoy the chat and take place, beginning at 10.30 on the second Tuesday of each month. Dates for the next four months will be 10th December, 14th January and 11th February and 10th March.

Advance Notice!

Church Coffee Morning

Please make room in your diary for the annual Church Coffee Morning to be held in Bowden Village Hall on Saturday 1st February from 10-12noon. All proceeds will go towards our Special Projects Fund.

Guild News

As we start our new season our prayer is 'Inspire us Lord' as we seek to be companions on the road to those around us. So to give you a flavour of this year's events -- on Thursday 14th November at 2.30pm come and 'hear Haisley', then on Thursday 28th November also 2.30pm we have insights of India with Dr Pam Cairns followed by our Christmas Lunch on Thursday 5th December at the Kingsknowes Hotel. You are most welcome to join us for lunch and feel free to bring a friend.....the more the merrier!

(More details if desired from Shelagh Westwood on 822344 or Daphne Pratt on 753426.)

Go Guild !

Remembrance Sundays from the Past

Clearing someone's house can be a very challenging and difficult task for the family but some of the items discovered can have huge interest and spark memories from the past. This has happened recently when the family of the late Betty Brown discovered a Log Book of the 2nd Melrose Guide Company. Presumably this fell into Betty's possession along with other items when she became Guide Leader in the town. This log book begins in May 1937 and ends at Easter, 1940.

The entry for November 14th 1937 reads as follows:-

Armistice Sunday. United Service in the Old Parish Church at 3p.m.

Address by Mr Thomson.

Twenty-five guides, one recruit and Captain met in Melrose Square and marched to the Old Parish Church behind detachments of the British Legion, Boys Brigade and Boy Scouts.

Mrs. Davie, District Commissioner, met the Company at the Church door and we were shown to seats on the left of the Nave which had been reserved. Patrol Leaders H. Scott and N. MacDonald carried the wreath at the head of the Company and placed it against the Communion Table.

The wreath-bearers left the Church first and formed up facing the War Memorial, and when the various detachments had taken up their positions, the wreaths were laid and honoured. The Company then marched back to the Square and was dismissed.

and 13th November, 1938:

The Company assembled in the Market Square at 2.30 pm by kind invitation of the British Legion to join in their Parade Service of Remembrance

Mrs Davie, District Commissioner, joined us at the Church door: the Brownies had permission to go direct to their reserved pews in the Church.

Patrol Second Mary Lyall and Patrol Leader Betty Sharp carried the wreath and after the service, laid it on the War Memorial.

The wreath was in trefoil form, outlined in laurel leaves on a moss base, with the trefoil composed of poppies. The moss was collected and the work entirely done by the Company in their free time. The Bearers were elected by the Company.

A newspaper clipping reports:

The annual service of remembrance arranged by the local branch of the British Legion was held in Melrose Parish Church (Old) on Sunday afternoon when there was a large congregation, including the Provost, Magistrate and members of the Town Council. In addition to the British Legion, the parade in the Market Place – Rear-Admiral Malcolm Maxwell-Scott in command – comprised ex-Servicemen, and representatives of the various local youth organisations (Boys' Brigade and Lifeboys, Scouts and Cubs, Guides and Brownies), with Melrose Scout Pipe Band at the head. All the ministers of the town took part in the service – an impressive one – and in the unavoidable absence of General Sir Walter Maxwell-Scott, C.B., D.S.O., the Rev. Herbert Evans of Holy Trinity Church, gave the address. After the service a short ceremony took place at the Stone of Remembrance, where wreaths were laid by Mr Robert Davidson on behalf of the British Legion: James Thomson, B.B. and Lifeboys; James Davidson and John Mitchell, Scouts and Cubs; Betty Sharp, Girl Guides; and Betty Dodds and Chrissie Rankin, Brownies; followed by the "Last Post," a Lament, and "Reveille." The collection on behalf of the Earl Haig Fund (Scottish Branch) amounted to £14 13s 5d and 12th November 1939:

The Melrose Guide Company joined the Parade by Invitation of the British Legion to the Service of Remembrance in the Parish Church at 2.30 p.m.

The Company voted for the wreath bearers. P/L H. Scott, P/L M. Dodds and P/S E Galloway all received the same number of votes. It was decided that the youngest in rank should act as wreath bearer and that the Patrol Leaders should be her escort. The frame and greenery of the wreath was made for us this year at Olivers, Nurseryman in Darnick and the poppies were put in by the wreath bearer and escort.

We joined the Parade as it passed the School Lane, marching three abreast in the new army formation, after the Ex-Servicemen marched detachments from the 6th K.O.S.B. and Signallers stationed in Melrose.

The Parade formed up in a square round the War Memorial and the wreaths were laid before going into Church. After a short service an address was given by General Sir Walter Maxwell Scott, who later took the salute as the Parade returned to the Square.

N.B. It is impossible for 11 year old legs to keep in step: after the Salute the Guides broke off again at the School Lane and dismissed there.

PARISH REGISTER

Blessing

8th September Murdo Purves

Funerals

26th August Dr Patricia Arbuckle

3rd October Mrs Georgetta Galloway

29th October Mr Malcolm Wright

Bowden and Melrose Church

You are invited to our
'Touch of Tartan' Ceilidh
for all ages

in Melrose Church Hall
on Saturday 23rd November
from 7.00pm – 10.00pm

Live music

from Roddy Johnston (accordion)
and Seonaid Lynn (fiddle)



Tickets £8, children free

BYOB, juice provided. Tea, coffee, tablet,
shortbread and ice cream served at the interval.

Proceeds to our Special Projects Fund