

The Parish of Coldingham & St Abbs

Update



“Where is the baby born to be the King of the Jews? We saw His star when it came up in the east, and we have come to worship Him.”

Matthew 2 (v. 2)

Worship in Coldingham Priory December 2011 - February 2012

Dec	4	Rev Bruce Neill	
	11	Rev Ranald Wylie	
	18	Rev Bruce Neill	Christmas Family Service
	24	Rev Bruce Neill	Watchnight Service 11.30 p.m.
	25	Rev Bruce Neill	
Jan	1	Rev Bruce Neill	
	8	Rev Bruce Neill	
	15	Rev Bruce Neill	
	22	Rev Bruce Neill	
	29	Rev Bruce Neill	
Feb	5	Rev Bruce Neill	
	12	Rev Bruce Neill	
	19	Rev Bruce Neill	
	26	Rev Bruce Neill	

Children are always welcome in church and where possible will be accommodated with quiet activities at back of church. We also have some all-age worship services.

Coffee Sundays:

Usually 4th in month *and/or* Family Services
With Fairtrade Stall
Coffee served after the 10 am service
See inside back page for Coffee Rota and dates

Board Meetings: 7.15 pm RMH 7th December
7.15 pm RMH 1st February

Kirk Session Meeting: t.b.a.

Prayer Groups

2nd Saturday in month 8.30 am Eyemouth Parish Church Hall
3rd Monday in month 8.00pm in Eyemouth Session Room

What's On? When? Where?

Advent Meditations

At St Ebba's Parsonage, Eyemouth. Coffee from 10.30 a.m. and Meditation at 11.00 a.m.

Nov	30	Sheila Cox
Dec	7	Bruce Neill
	14	Norman Whyte
	21	Jennifer Edie

December 11th

10 am. We are again asking you if you would like to bring along gifts suitable for teenagers to be given to The Rock Trust – a charity that supports vulnerable young people; a representative from the Trust will be at our service to speak to us and collect our gifts, which could include hats, gloves, scarves, toiletries or household items suitable for packs that are given to the young people who are progressing to independent living. Gifts to be unwrapped but wrapping paper can be included separately.

6.30 pm Our annual ecumenical Candlelight Service with an Advent/Christmas theme

This year the Friends of the Priory are providing mulled wine and mince pies in the Village Hall after the service. All are warmly invited to this event.

Monthly Ecumenical Sunday Evening Worship

December 11th Coldingham Priory 6.30 p.m.

January 8th St Ebba's 6.30 p.m.

February t.b.a.

Bible Study Groups

2nd and 4th **Mondays** at 7.30pm in Eyemouth Parish church. All welcome. November 28th 'Christian response to environmental issues?' led by Richard Bond. December 12th 'A Christmas Celebration' Everyone welcome.

Thursdays: We meet weekly in term time in the home of one of our group. We are a lively collection of people who explore our faith and how to make it relevant in our times. If you wish to join us, please contact Alison. Tel: 018907 71233

'TELL ME THE OLD, OLD (CHRISTMAS) STORY'

Christmas is one of the most traditional times of the year and the way we celebrate Christmas remains, in essence, remarkably unchanged as year follows year. We do the same things, we eat the same food, we decorate our homes and streets in the same kind of way, we sing the same carols we have sung all our lives, we use the same words to greet our friends that we used last year and every other year that we can remember.

The amount that is spent on Christmas may have increased over the years, the date at which Christmas seems to make its impact felt in the shops seems to get earlier every year, there are always a few new Christmas songs around, but we don't think of them the way we think of 'real carols' like 'Away in a manger...' If someone says of Christmas, 'It's not the same as it used to be years ago', those words are usually spoken with regret.

Right at the heart of our celebration of Christmas is an ancient story about a woman called Mary and a man called Joseph who found themselves inconveniently in Bethlehem just at the time when Mary's baby was due to be born. Because they had been unable to find any proper accommodation they were allowed to shelter in a shed, or perhaps a cave, where the animals were penned at night. And there Mary gave birth to a son whom they named Jesus. They were visited by shepherds who had seen a vision of angels, and by Wise Men who had found them by following a star. That story has been told for nearly 2000 years. It has been the inspiration of painters, poets and composers. It has been a focus of devotion for Christians in generation after generation.

As we celebrate Christmas again we will hear and see this old, old story re-told time after time. Just because we are so comfortably familiar with the story we need to listen very carefully to its message about a God who loves us so much that he sent his Son into our world to show us what he is like, and to enable us to know him and love him now and forever. We can all be moved by the awe and wonder with which little children respond to Christmas. As grown-ups we too need to rediscover the wonder at the heart of the Christmas story, so that, just like shepherds and wise men centuries ago, we may worship the Christ Child who is our Saviour. In the words of a favourite carol – '*O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*'

Bruce Neill, Locum Minister

Church Family News

We remember in our prayers Peter Craig, Jeanette and Danny Lindsay, Ian and Shirley McQuarrie, Jack Miller, Nessie Walker, Kath and Pete Redden, Isobel Morrison, Peggy Robertson, Nan Dickson, Jenny Pike, Meg Gordon, Jean Morrison, Margaret Hutson, Adel Wood, Mary Thomson, Robin Maunder, Mary Wilson's daughter Susan, Allan Cowe.

We join in celebrating with Richard and Catherine Bond the arrival of their first grandchild.

Oddities from other church newsletters (courtesy David Philp)

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang "I will not pass this way again", giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

News from Presbytery, Board and Session

Most of the attention of Presbytery has been in sorting out the Presbytery Plan in order to operate with two less ministers following the cutback in the number of ministers that the Church of Scotland can support from the income it has. The table shows the linkages that have been proposed and accepted. Coldingham & St. Abbs and Eyemouth remain largely unchanged though there is strong encouragement that the church become more involved with Eyemouth High School. Coldingham Priory was originally not listed as an essential building but this has been changed so as not to inhibit the changes planned in order to create a disabled access. The original plan to close some buildings has been dropped but there will be a review of the use made of them.

The plan was agreed at the October meeting and it is hoped that it will be accepted by the Ministries Council at 121 George St. so that by the November meeting all vacancies can proceed. Until this happens we are not able to start the vacancy process. A start has been made in producing the Electoral Register. Those who are adherents and not on the Communion Roll will need to apply to the Session Clerk in writing if they wish to be on the Register.

Charges	Ministry	Mmbrs	Popn.
<u>Ayton</u> and <u>Burnmouth</u> Grantshouse and Houndwood (VH) and <u>Reston</u>	1 F.T. Minister	284	2,067
<u>Berwick St Andrews</u> <u>Wallace Green</u> <u>Lowick</u> (VH) with <u>Foulden</u> and <u>Mordington</u>	1 F.T. Minister	501	N/A
<u>Bonkyl</u> and <u>Preston</u> with <u>Duns</u> with <u>Edrom</u> : <u>Allanton</u> with <u>Langton</u> and <u>Lammermuir</u> (<u>Cranshaws</u> , <u>Gavinton</u> <u>Logformacus</u>)	1 F.T. Minister + 1OLM	842	4,120
<u>Chirnside</u> with <u>Hutton</u> and <u>Fishwick</u> and <u>Paxton</u> with <u>Fogo</u> and <u>Swinton</u> with <u>Ladykirk</u> with <u>Whitsome</u>	1 F.T. Minister + 1OLM	428	2,811
<u>Coldingham</u> & <u>St Abbs</u> with <u>Eyemouth</u>	1 F.T. Minister	275	4,504
<u>Coldstream</u> with <u>Eccles</u> with <u>Leithom</u>	1 F.T. Minister	546	1,464
<u>Gordon</u> with <u>Greenlaw</u> with <u>Ledgerwood</u> with <u>Westruther</u>	1 F.T. Minister	298	1,871

Only those on the Register will be able to vote on any issues relating to the vacancy. The Register will be available for public perusal at a date yet to be fixed, when people will be able to request their names to be added or deleted from the Register. A Church profile will be required to be prepared to give prospective candidates information on the life and work of the church.

Another challenge for the New Year will be a Stewardship Campaign. All Church of Scotland Churches are required by the General Assembly to run a Stewardship campaign

in order to promote regular committed giving. There are options on how this should be conducted and these are being finalised by the Kirk Session and Congregational Board. It will happen some time in 2012.

The Harvest service was well attended and the breakfast was much appreciated: thanks to Carol and her team. It was good to see the young families. Thanks to Eilidh for her recollections of her visit to Peru and Mark Bruce for the work of BCYT. It is hoped that this will encourage folk to commit a regular donation to BCYT—gift forms are available in the church.

On Sunday 18th October David Campbell and Heather Johnston were ordained as Elders and welcomed to the Kirk Session. We wish them every blessing in their service as Elders

Since the last Newsletter there has been little progress on the changes to the Priory as the Planners have still not given written agreement to our plans even though three months ago they gave verbal agreement. Since then the Officer has sent the plans back to the Community Council who fully support the plan and have never had any objection to it. At their recent meeting the Community Council agreed this latest submission and has made the Planners aware of this. Our thanks to them for dealing with this quickly.

Gordon Johnston

Young People's Page

Looking back

Great to see the Priory nearly full on Harvest Sunday for All Age worship; the congregation included six young families. Thank you to Angus, Lewis, Edward and Ross for taking part so well and a special welcome to Ross who has recently moved to the village and who has along with his Mum, Ailsa joined us on Sunday mornings. Thanks to all those who provided breakfast and the coffee after. Approximately £189 was raised and sent to BCYT.

Looking forward

Yes – you're right – to Christmas! Young people—I want *your* ideas for Christmas All-age worship on 18th December. I'm not sure looking at our group that a traditional Nativity would work! So how would *you* like us to put over the wonderful message of Christmas, the miracle of God taking human form as a baby and coming to earth to live as one of us? As the old carol says 'Love came down at Christmas.' This brings me to some poems you wrote recently on the theme of 'Love God and love your neighbour as yourself' and that I thought we would share with everyone. Thanks to Bobbie for helping out with our group.

Heather Johnston

Love is....

Looking after friends and
family
Remembering your God
by praying, going to church
and not ignoring him
Being friendly, kind and
helpful
and remembering to look
after yourself

by Emily

Love is.....

Pray
believe
care and
help
or make 'em a cup of tea!
Love your neighbour
as yourself
and that's how to be

by Edward

Love is.....

Christmastime, the time of love
When God came down from Heaven
above
He gave us love through his own Son
Our Saviour, Lord and three in one

by Ross

Love is...good

when you eat food
but love each other
and respect each other
don't shove each other
Love each other

by Lewis

Love is...

Going to church
Praying, hymns
sharing food
and food for yourself
clothes, warmth
cleanliness and health
community service
and helping your neighbour

by Angus

Crossreach Report

Thank you to all who gave orders and donations to Crossreach Christmas Catalogue. Once again we have proved what Christian givers are in our Church. We achieved £606 of orders and £89.75 of donations, making a great total of £695.75. Thanks also to Priscilla and Frances who helped behind the scene at the coffee afternoon. I could not manage without them.

Alison Halsall

Fund Raising Committee

The Committee would like to thank all those who generously donated goods, baked such delicious goodies, worked so enthusiastically and came to take part to make the Silent Auction such a success. The total now stands at £1,096.

Greta Philp

Gift Day

Another tribute to the generosity of those in our Parish with the Gift Day raising £645.

Robertson Memorial Hall

A tidying up exercise has been scheduled for the RMH after an inventory was taken of all the items presently in the hall. If you know of any item that resides in the RMH but does not belong to the Church, please let the Clerk know soon, in case he arranges to dispose of it!

David Campbell

Luckenbooth Project

It is expected that the Luckenbooth will make use of some of the excavated stone carvings and a few artefacts from the Priory to aid the presentation regarding our ancient place of worship. The Friends of the Priory and The Coldingham Society are expecting to help with the cost of conserving some of the artefacts.

READERS ROTA

Dec	4	M Henry	A Craig
	11	A Halsall	M Karsgaard
	18	A Robertson	G Johnston
	25	K Easton	D Campbell
Jan	1	M Wilson	B Carter
	8	J Morrison	J Walker
	15	A Milne	C Campbell
	22	J Carter	R Wylie
	29	E Malcolm	G Philp
Feb	5	M Henry	A Robertson
	12	A Halsall	M Karsgaard
	19	A Slack	G Johnston
	26	K Easton	D Campbell



Contact Greta on 71222

Coffee Rota

December 18th	Mairead Henry and Marianne Karsgaard
January 22nd	Rhona Goldie and Annabel Milne
February 26th	Jean Wilson and Susan Cowe

If unable to do your turn please contact Alison on 71233

Coldingham Priory Stewards Duty & Flower Rotas

Date		Door Duty		Flowers
Dec	4	M Henry	I Scott	M Wilson
	11	A Halsall	M Karsgaard	CHRISTMAS
	18	P Chisholm	G Johnston	CHRISTMAS
	25	K Easton	D Campbell	CHRISTMAS
Jan	1	M Wilson	D Philp	-
	8	J Morrison	J Walker	-
	15	A Milne	C Campbell	-
	22	J Carter	R Wylie	A Wood
	29	E Malcolm	G Philp	A Wylie
Feb	5	M Henry	I Scott	A Aitchison
	12	A Halsall	M Karsgaard	B Barnes
	19	P Chisholm	G Johnston	C Campbell
	26	K Easton	D Campbell	M Cockburn

**Please will door stewards try to be at the church 30 minutes prior to the service.
If you are unable to do your Stewards Duty or Flower Duty please make alternative
arrangements by changing dates with someone else.**

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*Views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Church or editors
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