

# The Parish of Coldingham & St Abbs

## Update

Issue 41 September - November 2011



**The land has produced its harvest;  
God, our God, has blessed us.  
God has blessed us;  
may all people everywhere honour him.**

*Psalm 67 (v. 6-7)*

### Worship in Coldingham Priory September 2011 - November 2011

Sept	4	Rev Bruce Neill
	11	Rev Duncan Murray
	18	Rev Bruce Neill
	25	To be arranged
Oct	2	Rev Bruce Neill All Age Worship
	9	Rev Bruce Neill Communion
	16	Rev Bruce Neill
	23	Rev Bruce Neill
	30	Rev Bruce Neill
Nov	6	Rev Bruce Neill
	13	Rev Bruce Neill
	20	Rev Bruce Neill
	27	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:(proposed)** 7.15 pm RMH 14th September  
7.15 pm RMH 7th December

**Kirk Session Meeting:** 7.15 pm RMH 5th October

## **What's On? When? Where?**

### **Bible Study Groups**

2nd and 4th **Mondays** resuming on 12th September at 7.30pm in Eyemouth Parish church. All 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. We restart the year on 1st. September. At the moment we are studying and discussing "Searching Issues" by Nicky Gumbel. If you wish to join us, please contact Alison. Tel: 018907 71233

### **Prayer Groups**

2nd Saturday in month 8.30 am Eyemouth Parish Church Hall

3rd Monday in month 8.00pm in Eyemouth Session Room

### **Monthly Ecumenical Sunday Evening Worship 6.30 pm**

September 11th Reston

October 9th EU Church, Eyemouth

November No service as it will be Remembrance Sunday.

### **Silent Auction**

Our new date for the Silent Auction is Saturday 15th October from 6-30 to 8-30. Please contact any of the names below for any further details.

*Carol, Greta, Jean, Marianne, Priscilla, David, Mary.*

### **September Dates**

Tuesday 6th: Presbytery meeting at Reston Church. Eyemouth, Coldingham and St. Abbs' congregations are cited to attend.

Thursday 8th: Presbytery Plan at Eyemouth Parish Church at 7pm.

Sunday 11th: Kirk Vacant Service

Tuesday 13th: Presbytery meeting on Stewardship.

Wednesday 14th: Joint meeting of the Kirk Sessions at Eyemouth.

### **October Dates**

Saturday 1st: Gift Day.

Sunday 2nd: Harvest service with continental breakfast in the church from 9-15am.

## **HARVEST TRADITIONS**

The custom of holding Harvest Thanksgiving Services is an old one and there is certainly something wonderful about a church decorated for the occasion. One is surrounded by the sights and smells of fruit, flowers and vegetables. It is reassuring to sing the traditional harvest hymns and to rejoice that -

All is safely gathered in,  
Ere the winter storms begin.

Over the years other ideas and other issues have clustered round the basic theme of giving thanks for the harvest of field, garden and orchard. My first parish was in West Fife, in a village where there was a strong tradition of coal mining and many of the men in the village either were, or had been, miners. At our Harvest services amidst the fruit, flowers and vegetable, and the corn sheaves, there was always in a prominent place, a lump of coal and a miner's lamp, symbols of the product of one of the traditional industries of the area. Similarly, in many fishing communities, there is an annual Harvest of the Sea Service.

During the time I was one of the chaplains at the Naval Base in Rosyth, we had a 'harvest thanksgiving' for the dockyard—a celebration of what the yard produced. We gave thanks for the skills and crafts which were involved in refitting ships, and the church was decorated with numerous items representing that work. Without losing its roots in the soil, Harvest Thanksgiving can provide an opportunity to acknowledge and give thanks for all honest human endeavour by which the very fabric of the world's life is sustained.

Then there is the whole question of whose harvest it is over which we are rejoicing. We can be quite selfish in our thinking about harvest. "We have food, we're OK, thank God." If our thinking about harvest gets no further than that, we will have failed to notice that we are giving thanks for what WE have, what God has given to US, in a world in which countless people are starving. Is it any wonder that the aid agencies, like Christian Aid, take the opportunity which harvest offers to remind us of this fact and to appeal to us to do something to make a difference to those in direct need?

The twin themes of gratitude and sharing are what our Harvest Festival should be about, and you are invited to join in the celebration.

**Bruce Neill**

### **Church Family News**

We remember in our prayers 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, Heather & Gordon Johnston, Margaret Hutson, Adel Wood, Mary Thomson, Alan Craig, Robin Maunder, Mary Wilson's daughter Susan, Allan Cowe, Norman Murray, the Battison family and any others known to us.

### **Rev Daniel G Lindsay**

On 31st August, Mr Lindsay retired as the minister in the charge of Coldingham and St Abbs with Eyemouth. It was in the summer of 1987 that the congregation of Coldingham and St Abbs was linked with Eyemouth and Mr Lindsay became our minister. Over the past 24 years he has faithfully been preacher and pastor and spiritual leader of this congregation. I know from comments made to me that there are many in the community and congregation who have been greatly blessed by his visits to them at home and in hospital. I know too that his forthright preaching and conduct of worship, always lightened with a touch of humour, has been appreciated by many, many people—and how we shall miss the stories of the inimitable Charlie!

We wish Mr and Mrs Lindsay every blessing as they move out of the manse into their new home, and we hope they will know how grateful we are to them both for all they have done for the congregation of Coldingham and St Abbs.

**Bruce Neill**

### **New Interim Moderator**

In February I was appointed Interim Moderator for the period of Mr Lindsay's compassionate leave and then sick leave. Now that Mr Lindsay has retired and the Charge is vacant, I am no longer allowed to be Interim Moderator because I am a member of the congregation. The new Interim Moderator is Rev Duncan Murray, who is the minister of Bonkyl and Preston linked with Chirnside linked with Edrom:Allanton. He will be responsible for all the administrative tasks of the minister in the Vacancy. In the meantime I will continue to conduct the services most Sundays and to provide some pastoral care for both congregations.

**Bruce Neill**

### **Berwickshire Christian Youth Trust**

Thank you for your support of the Berwickshire Christian Youth Trust. Mark Bruce( full time) and Stuart Otley (part time) and the team of volunteers continue to be encouraged and motivated by the practical, prayer and financial support the Trust receives from Churches and individuals across Berwickshire. The summer has been a busy and productive time for the team. As well as assemblies in schools, we've had the opportunity to hand out Bibles and the book 'It's your move' to school leavers and those moving up to secondary schools. There was a wonderful response to the request for churches and individuals to sponsor a book — thank you.

Fundraising is central to enabling us to continue our work. We are grateful to all those who came and spent money at the Silent Auction in Allanton recently. We do like to make fundraising fun and with this in mind we are staging another Ceilidh on Saturday September 10th, 7-30pm to 11-30pm in the Volunteer Hall in Duns. This is a great family event so please make a note in your diaries to come! Mark and Stuart and the team would value your support, in prayer, in person, or financially. If you'd like to commit to praying regularly for the work, and to receive the monthly prayer diary, or to receive your personal copy of the next newsletter, please contact us at the office in Duns (BCYT, Platform 1, Station Road, Duns TD11 3HS) or by email to [mark@bcyt.biz](mailto:mark@bcyt.biz) or [stuart@bcyt.biz](mailto:stuart@bcyt.biz)

### **Crossreach Report**

From September, the Crossreach Christmas catalogue will be available. As usual there will be at great selection of cards, gifts and calendars available at good prices. The annual coffee evening will now be an afternoon get-together from **2.00pm to 4.00pm on Thursday 14th October**. We have always been great supporters of the Social Arm of the Church of Scotland, so please come along. For a catalogue, see me at church or phone 71233.

**Alison Halsall**

### **From Another Church Newsletter (courtesy David Philp)**

“Ladies don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping round the house. Don't forget your husbands.”

## News from Presbytery, Board and Session

The Rev Dan Lindsay will officially retire from his ministry to this church on August 31<sup>st</sup> 2011. We would like to thank Danny for his ministry to the church here and the pastoral care he has given to the people in the parish of Coldingham and St Abbs when they have been going through difficult times in their lives. His ministry here started in 1987 and since then he has preached almost every Sunday in Coldingham and twice a month at St. Abbs until its closure a few years ago as well as Eyemouth. During that time he has baptised many of the local children, married many of them and has conducted many funerals all part of being the Parish Minister. During this time he has seen many changes in the church with fewer and fewer ministers being available and more and more duties to be undertaken. The last few months have been difficult for he and Jeanette, both suffering severe health problems. We would wish both he and Jeanette a very happy retirement as they enter this new phase in their lives and hope that they will enjoy being freed from the everyday pressures that ministry today brings. When the Charge becomes vacant then the Rev Duncan Murray will become our Interim Moderator. Duncan is minister at the Chirnside group of churches. On Sunday September 11<sup>th</sup> Duncan Murray, who, will by then be our interim moderator, will preach the Kirk Vacant Service

A joint Session meeting with Eyemouth has been arranged for 14<sup>th</sup> September to discuss the way forward in finding a new minister. The Session will be preparing electoral register of people allowed to vote on the call to a new minister when this has been agreed then it will be available for public inspection in the church.

The Presbytery plan in being progressed and until the Eyemouth Coldingham St Abbs situation is clarified we will not be granted permission to make the call for a new minister. A meeting in Eyemouth on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September has been arranged for the congregation to meet with members of the Presbytery committee, to put forward our situation within the context of this plan. The Church

is cited to be present at the next Presbytery meeting on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September at Reston Church to hear the vacancy being called and for an appreciation of Rev D Lindsay's ministry to be made.

David Campbell and Heather Johnston have accepted the invitation to join the Session.

Joint Session discussion will review the date and times of the short communions as these are not evenly spaced relative to the Morning Communion Services.

Our great thanks go to Rev Bruce Neill for the tremendous support he has given during the period of the Rev Dan Lindsay's sick leave.

At last we have been given assurance by Scottish Borders Council and Historic Scotland that they will agree to the plans we have submitted for the improvement of the Priory. These plans are to have a disabled access lift where the present toilet is situated entering through a door at ground level in the side of the porch with the lift rising to the church floor level. The church floor level will be brought forward into the porch to assist this and an opening in the side wall to where the toilet is at present will have to be made to give access from the lift to the church floor. The plan is for the toilet to be relocated to the rear of the church and the organ to be raised onto a support structure so that a meeting room can be made underneath along with a small kitchen facility. At the front of the church a new emergency exit will be created to steps on the outside in order to meet fire authority concerns over escape from the building. The heating system needs to be changed to accommodate this and underfloor systems are currently being investigated as possible solutions. This would give rise to better insulation to cut down running costs. Radiators at the walls raise many issues with distribution. The existing system is old and the switchgear in the cupboard by the door is antiquated and at the end of its life in terms of meeting current regulations so it is an opportune time to sort this out.

The government from 2012 is reducing the frequency bands that radio microphones can use and after next April it will be an offence to use these bands. Unfortunately our system falls within this restriction so we are sending the microphones and their receivers for modification as this is a fraction of the cost of replacing them; so for the next few weeks we will have a reduced sound system.

### **Young People's Page**

We hope you all had a good summer holiday and have now settled back into your new classes and for some of you, a new school. Angus and Lewis along with the rest of P7 of Coldingham Primary are now at Eyemouth High and we wish you all well!

On Sundays we continue to meet informally at the back of the church and once again it has been nice to welcome Emily and Andrew who have been on holiday at St. Abbs. We would also like to welcome Lucy who has recently moved into the village with her parents.

Over the next few weeks we will be thinking about our Harvest Thanksgiving All Age service which we will celebrate on 2nd October. As part of the service Mark Bruce from BYCT who is also a chaplain at Eyemouth High School will be coming along to tell us about BYCT and the visit he made to Peru in June along with several young people from Eyemouth High school. One of these was Eilidh Wilson from St Abbs and we hope she will be coming with him to tell us about her experiences and feelings during the visit. As usual we will bring gifts of any kind of produce which can be taken away for a donation to a yet to be chosen charity. There will be refreshments afterwards and we look forward to seeing you and your families.

**Heather Johnson**

### **Question Time (courtesy David Philp)**

Q. Which area of Palestine was especially wealthy?

A. Around Jordan. The banks were overflowing.

### **Christian Aid Week Success!**

Once again, the villages of Coldingham and St. Abbs, along with the surrounding area, have most generously contributed to the Christian Aid week collection in May. We have raised **£1331.17** which was a terrific contribution from such a small part of the country. Thank you very much to all who contributed. Kathy Galloway, head of Christian Aid Scotland, wrote to us expressing "her great pleasure" in receiving this from us and confirming that this will make a difference to many people supported by Christian Aid which believes in 'life before death'.

I would especially like to thank all of the collectors who so willingly gave of their time, patience and skills to manage their areas in the present climate of difficult economic conditions and changing social attitudes. These dedicated individuals were—Mary Wilson, Bruce Neill, Mary Thomson, Margaret Cockburn, Julie McMillan, Randal and Anne Wylie, Jean Morrison, Rosemary Scott, Janice Henry, Lynn Boggle, Alison Halsall, Jo Wright, Ernie Cox and David Smout.

An additional thank you must also go to Priscilla Chisholm, Adelaide Wood and Jimmy Robertson who counted and checked all of the money with speed and efficiency!

Although we didn't manage a coffee evening in May, due to illness, I hope this will be back on the agenda for next year as it is usually a lot of fun getting together and sharing our news.

Finally, if anyone has any new ideas for fundraising or approaching the challenge of supporting worldwide poverty in a different way, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Thank you for all your support.

**Audrey Robertson**

### **Summer Afternoon Teas**

We must give a big vote of thanks to Mairead Henry and her team of willing volunteers for the very successful afternoon teas in the village hall in July. It was a roaring success both as a social event for the village and as a fundraiser for the church. Everyone agreed that it should definitely be repeated. Well done all who helped and participated!

## READERS ROTA

Sept	4	J Morrison	J Walker
	11	A Milne	C Campbell
	18	J Carter	W Wylie
	25	E Malcolm	G Philp
Oct	2	M Henry	A Craig
	9	A Halsall	M Karsgaard
	16	A Robertson	G Johnston
	23	K Easton	D Campbell
	30	M Wilson	B Carter
Nov	6	J Morrison	J Walker
	13	A Milne	A Halsall
	20	J Carter	R Wylie
	27	E Malcolm	G Philp



### Coffee Rota

September 25th	Rosemary Scott and Alison Fullarton
October 2nd	Priscilla Chisholm and Marianne Karsgaard
October 23rd	Alison Halsall and Carol Campbell

*If unable to do your turn please contact Alison on 71233*

## Coldingham Priory Stewards Duty & Flower Rotas

Date	Duty	Flowers
Sept 4th	J MORRISON/ J WALKER	MRS G PHILP
Sept 11th	A MILNE/ C CAMPBELL	MISS I MORRISON
Sept 18th	J CARTER/ R WYLIE	MRS E MALCOLM
Sept 25th	E BARNES/ E MALCOLM	MRS A ROBERTSON
Oct 2nd	M HENRY/ I SCOTT	<b>HARVEST</b>
Oct 9th	A HALSALL/ M KARSGAARD	MRS P CHISHOLM
Oct 16th	P CHISHOLM/ G JOHNSTON	MRS P ROBERTSON
Oct 23rd	K EASTON/ D CAMPBELL	MRS R SCOTT
Oct 30th	M WILSON/ D PHILP	MR B BAILEY
Nov 6th	J MORRISON/ J WALKER	MRS M THOMSON
Nov 13th	A MILNE/ A HALSALL	<b>REMEMBRANCE</b>
Nov 20th	J CARTER/ R WYLIE	MRS J WILSON
Nov 27th	E BARNES/ E MALCOLM	MRS G PHILP

**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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please:*

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