



BLYTHSWOOD CARE Shoe Box Appeal 2023

Since our first Shoe Box Appeal in 1993 we have sent more than 2.5 million boxes – each one different, each one personal, each one an expression of your care and kindness towards a stranger in need. Filled with small, practical items such as toiletries, stationery, and clothing, the individually-wrapped boxes have been distributed in schools, hospitals, orphanages and care homes, and to households in very low income communities. Many have gone to people affected by the war in Ukraine. Thank you for your kindness and generosity. Your gift truly makes a difference.

Now is the time to start filling a shoebox for someone in need. Boxes will be picked up from Hawick and Jedburgh on 24th October 2023 so please hand them in to church no later than Sunday 22nd October. The leaflets showing what should be in each box will be available at churches from 17th September. Alternatively you can download the information from the internet (blythwood.org/shoeboxappeal)

If you have a problem finding a shoebox then you can contact Blythwood who have sourced some flat pack boxes you can use. Please don't use a box bigger than a normal shoebox size as this restricts the number of people who can receive a gift.

COFFEE MORNING – 21st OCTOBER

A coffee morning will be held on **Saturday 21st October in Denholm Church Hall** from 10am to raise funds to pay for the transport of the boxes and for the New Testament booklets which are inserted into every box. Please come along to help this very worthwhile cause.



Quiz Night

Friday 20 October, Denholm Church Hall, 7PM
£20 Table of Four

To enter a team contact:
Christine 01450 870054 or Laura 07707 331274

All proceeds to Ruberslaw Parish Church funds, SC034629

Hobkirk and Southdean with Ruberslaw

Parish News



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The Parish Newsletter of the linked charges of Hobkirk and Southdean with Ruberslaw
Hobkirk & Southdean Parish Church of Scotland: Charity No: SC012830 Ruberslaw Parish Church of Scotland: Charity No: SC034629

No : 66 Autumn 2023

Taking our Church Forward

The Kirk Sessions of Hobkirk & Southdean and Ruberslaw are currently working towards bringing together our two congregations in a union which, it is anticipated, will be finalised early next year. There are a number of decisions to be made about the future shape of the united charge in which we hope to make best and most efficient use of our resources in this modern age.

This is not a new experience for either of our congregations, Hobkirk and Southdean having already united and Ruberslaw being a union of the churches of Bedrule, Denholm and Minto. Both of these unions are long-standing and successful. And, of course, Hobkirk & Southdean and Ruberslaw have already been linked for quite a number of years and are well-known to each other. There will be challenges ahead, but there is a determination to find ways of continuing our role in providing spiritual support in the community.

Before the union is finalised the congregations will have an opportunity to vote and steps have been taken to review membership of the Communion Rolls in order to ensure that we have an accurate record.

Members who have not yet returned their Data Consent Form are asked to do so as soon as possible in order that the records can be finalised. Anyone who thinks that their name should be on the roll and has NOT RECEIVED a letter should contact the Minister or their District Elder. It is important that everyone who wishes to be on the roll, and therefore eligible to vote at congregational meetings, is able to do so.

This is an important time in the life of our congregation and it is hoped that members will be actively involved in this new stage of our life together with Christ.

Announcements

Ruberslaw:

Funerals: 3 August, **Mr Peter Manners**, (Minto)
21 August, **Mrs Margaret Scott** (Borders Crematorium)
31 August, **Mr Bill Henderson** (Denholm, Rev Douglas Nichol)

Wedding: 23 September, **Erin Craig and Marc Scott** (Bedrule, Rev Sheila Moir)

A Message from the Editor

Dear Friends

As many of you will be aware, our minister, Rachel has been on compassionate leave following the death of her father. Unfortunately she has also been unwell and has therefore been unable to supply her usual pastoral letter.

We send our condolences to Rachel and her family at this sad time and pray that she will soon be restored to good health.

In the meantime we are soldiering on and trying to keep up the work of the Church. We are particularly indebted to our Session Clerks, Laura and Fraser and all those who have been covering services during this period.

As the nights draw in and the colours of the trees change, shedding old growth, we are aware that Autumn is here and Winter approaches. Autumn reminds us of the impermanence of life and that change is inevitable. It is also the season of thanksgiving, a season to gather with family and friends to thank God for his many blessings.

We are reminded of the words in Psalm 67:

“The land has produced its harvest; God, our God has blessed us.

God has blessed us; may all people everywhere honour him.” (Good News Bible)

With all good wishes

Nancy Smith (Editor)



Rev. Rachel Wilson

Worship Group Report

As well as leading worship at the United service at Minto in August, we have been out with our own parishes this summer! Jedburgh Old & Trinity congregation, who hold their services in the Kenmore Halls, gave us a very warm welcome on two Sunday mornings, one in July and one in August. On both occasions we felt very comfortable with all communication, information and help prior to, during and after the services. We also enjoyed the after-service refreshments and chat.

Sunday services on 3rd and 24th September have been prepared for and led by our group.

The group hosted a Sunday Café on 10 September in Denholm Church Hall, which encouraged the telling of personal memories and stories. A lovely atmosphere ensued. Lots of great singing! Many voices! Many stories and memories shared.

Memories form the fabric of our soul. They strengthen our sense of identity and purpose and bond our relationships. Memories are special moments that tell our story.

The emphasis then moved to Jesus, the greatest storyteller of all, and his disciples. Before the gospels were composed, Jesus' first followers sustained his memory by sharing stories of his life, death and teachings, concluding that “memories are timeless treasures of the heart.”

The next Sunday Café is on 19 November in Denholm Church Hall at 10.15am. Come along and enjoy some informal worship over a cup of coffee or tea and a goodie. All are very welcome.

Cath Douglas

September 2023

Remembrance Sunday: 12th November 2023

There will be services taken at Minto Church at 9.30am and Hobkirk Church at 10.45am led by the Minister.

Wreath-laying services and Acts of Remembrance will take place at Bedrule War Memorial, Denholm War Memorial and Minto War Memorial at 10.50am, led by members of the Worship Group.

The Minister will lead wreath-laying and Acts of Remembrance at Bonchester Bridge War Memorial at 11.50am and at Chesters War Memorial at 12.05pm.

All members of the communities are encouraged to attend these events.



Otterburn commemorative service: Southdean Church

The united service on 13th August at Southdean church replaced the traditional annual event, previously held at old Souden Kirk, commemorating the Battle of Otterburn between the Scots, led by James, 2nd Earl of Douglas, and an English army led by Sir Henry Hotspur Percy and Ralph Percy. It is thought that the Scots army, on its way south, would have stopped at the wayside sanctuary and prayed for victory. Clive Bewley presented a potted history of the battle and concluded by reciting a short poem which described the day's events.

Harvest

The Harvest service will be a united service at **Hobkirk Church** on Sunday, 22nd October at 10.15am.

The offering will be for RSABI (formerly the Royal Scottish Agricultural Benevolent Institution), a charity which provides emotional, practical and financial help for individuals in Scottish agriculture.

Donations of arranged flowers to decorate the church will be accepted beforehand. Details on how to make contributions can be obtained by the Session Clerk: Fraser Beaton

Tea and coffee will be served after the service.

Ruberslaw Ways and Means Team

The team has been involved in a number of fund-raising events this summer.

Thank you to all who gave items, time on stall and bought from the Car Boot Sales that have been held on the Green this summer. These are always a fun time, regardless of the weather, and having a gazebo certainly made us popular in the rain.

Also thanks to those who supported us at the Flower Show Teas - talks are being held to see if we could have the teas nearer to the Village Hall in future to make us more visible and encourage more people to attend.

2024 Calendars (A5 size and weight that allows it to be posted 2nd class normal postage) and packs of 8 x Greetings Cards (local views and wildlife all photos taken by local folks) are available from Laura Miller, Christine Rodger, Rachel Wilson and at the three Churches.

Future Plans: 20th October a quiz night to be held in Denholm Church Hall at 7pm, teams of 4 for £20, tea & biscuits will be served.

2nd December - A festive lunch to be held in Denholm Church Hall - Soup, bread and festive fare will be on offer.

Guilds

Hobkirk & Southdean

The speaker at the August meeting was Adele Richardson who gave a beautifully illustrated talk about #threegranniescan – a group of friends who enjoy walking, mainly in the local area.

The talk was followed by a magnificent supper laid on by Guild members. There are, as yet, no details of future meetings.

Ruberslaw Guild

Ruberslaw Guild held its first meeting of the new session on Tuesday 19th September. Invitations had been issued to non-members who might be interested in joining. After tea and cake, Nancy gave a resume of the history of the Guild, making the point that it is not really the stuffy, old-fashioned organisation it is often perceived to be, but in fact, a forward-looking, innovative organisation which has always been at the forefront of the Church's work with the disadvantaged, both here in Scotland and abroad. Dorothy gave information about the current Guild projects, highlighting the project we will be supporting this year, which is Home for Good, a Christian charity dedicated to finding a home for every child who needs one. They work to inspire people to think about fostering and adoption. They also equip the Church to welcome these families and help support people on their journeys. There will be a fund-raiser in aid of this project later in the year.

The next Guild meeting will be on Tuesday 17th October at 2.30pm in Denholm Church Hall when it is hoped to have a speaker. Please look out for more information in the Church notices nearer the time.

Guild members should note that capitation fees (£15) for session 2023-24 are now due. For anyone wishing to join Guild, capitation fee is voluntary in the first year.



Senior Citizens' Christmas Party

The Senior Citizens' Christmas Party will be on Sunday 10th December in Denholm Church Hall. Please look out for posters giving further details and how to apply for a place.

This is a popular event with limited places available, so keep your eyes peeled.