

Diary: July

August

1		
2		Meditation Group, KO Vestry,3.30
3	10.30 Stichill	
4		
5	Meditation Group, KO Vestry,3.30	
6		
7		10.30 Stich. Garden Day in Mak.
8	KCC Barbecue, Stichill, 6pm	
9		Meditation Group, KO Vestry,3.30
10	10.30 Makerstoun	
11		
12	Meditation Group, KO Vestry,3.30	
13		
14		10.30 Makerstoun
15		
16		Meditation Group, KO Vestry,3.30
17	10.30 Smailholm	
18		
19	Meditation group, KO Vestry, 3.30	
20		
21		10.30 Smailholm
22		
23		Meditation Group, KO Vestry,3.30
24	10.30 Stichill	
25		
26	Meditation Group, KO Vestry,3.30	
27		
28		10.30 Stichill
29		
30		Meditation Group,KO Vestry,3.30
31	10.30 Roxburgh	

Kelso Country Churches



The Country Link

~~~~~July/August, 2016

From the counting house...



This seems to be a very eventful time in our parish and in the nation and world beyond.

On a beautiful summer's evening on the 21<sup>st</sup> of June, Kelso Country Churches welcomed members of Oxnam Church and Jedburgh Presbytery to Roxburgh where we held a service of linkage. The linkage will now be known as, "Kelso Country Churches linked with Oxnam" and we look forward to getting to know our new friends better.

Change is also very much the order of the day within our nation following the Referendum on 23<sup>rd</sup> June and the decision to leave the EU. As someone said that day, you know that it's an eventful time when the resignation of the Prime Minister is only the third item in the news!

Some of you will be adjusting to significant change in your personal or family lives – perhaps you are rejoicing in a happy event such as a new job, a wedding or other happy occasion. For others the change is not welcome, perhaps because of illness or a bereavement, and you are finding every day a challenge.

Through all the ups and downs we go through one thing that does not change is the presence and help of our ever-loving and faithful heavenly Father. He rejoices with us in our celebrations and supports us in our trials. As David says in his prayer in Psalm 139. "You hem me in – behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me...(wherever I am) Your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast".

We are very blessed indeed to have such a wonderful God to turn to. May you all know God's blessings this summer.

Liz Orr

## *Parish News and Updates*

**The Christian Aid Lunch**, together with donations from folk unable to be there, raised £259; a good result for a good cause.

**The Stichill Church Summer Fayre** was blessed with warm sunshine and a large gathering of folk from near and far who know that the first Saturday in June is the day they can meet up with friends old and new over a delicious afternoon tea, sample the delights of the various stalls, and buy their summer bedding plants. The final total raised was £1,520. Well done and thank you to everyone who helped make it possible.

**Sponsored Walk:** By the time you read this, some 'ramblers' in Stichill congregation will have completed a three and a half mile Sponsored Walk to raise funds to cover postage costs of the children's clothing we continue to send to the Raphael Centre in Grahamstown, South Africa. This has become a popular event in the summer diary, especially as there is always a delicious, and very welcome afternoon tea awaiting the walkers on their return.

Footnote: we received confirmation recently that the parcels sent off in March have all arrived safely. Another 17 parcels of beautiful baby and toddler clothes are on their way. Thanks once again to the people who donate the clothes. It is much appreciated.

### **Kid's Club news from Nita**

At Kid's Club recently we had only 3 meetings but they were busy meetings. Rosalind told the children about the parable of the talents illustrating it very well which helped the children to understand the meaning of the parable.

Jim Smith came to tell us all about his experiences of being a football referee. (Another string to this man's bow!) The children were all fascinated and thoroughly enjoyed seeing his kit, flags and whistles which he still keeps in his sports bag. We made fabric memo boards which the children all seemed pleased with. On the last afternoon we had great fun playing rounders in the Old Manse walled garden. Neither Rosalind, Lynda nor I were too sure of the rules which the children were playing under as they appeared "quite flexible". We thanked James Leeming for the opportunity to use the garden.

We look forward to planning our next programme starting in September.

**Isabel Amos** suffered a heart attack while visiting Edinburgh recently but received prompt treatment at ERI, and has made a steady recovery.

George keeps us informed of her progress and we send love and good wishes to them both.

2.

Interim Moderator: Rev. Charles Finnie  
☎01450 373181 e-mail: [charles.finnie@gmail.com](mailto:charles.finnie@gmail.com)

Session Clerk: James Smith ☎470 250  
e-mail: [jamesmith484@btinternet.com](mailto:jamesmith484@btinternet.com)

Treasurer: Liz Orr, ☎ 01573 450212  
e-mail: [lizzorrscott@btinternet.com](mailto:lizzorrscott@btinternet.com)

Magazine Editor: Sophia Duncan ☎225532  
e-mail [sophiaduncan@pobroadband.co.uk](mailto:sophiaduncan@pobroadband.co.uk)

Roll keeper: Joan Duncan ☎460 256  
e-mail: [joanduncan25@btinternet.com](mailto:joanduncan25@btinternet.com)

**KCC Church of Scotland Charity No. SC000958**

*You are invited to a*

**BARBECUE**

on Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> July

6pm - 9pm

in the Walled Garden

adjacent to Stichill Church

Fun for all the family

Tickets: £10 available from  
Sophia Duncan (01573 225532)

Children free

### Another date for your diary

An afternoon of Garden Walks in Makerstoun is being planned for Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> August. The ladies of Makerstoun are planning to serve Afternoon Tea. Details have yet to be arranged and will be advertised in church notices in due course.

Jedburgh Presbytery Missionary Partner, Colin Johnston has sent this letter to all churches in our Presbytery.

2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2016

Dear friends,

I just want to thank you for all your support over the years. It was over 20 years ago that I was appointed a Mission partner, and Jedburgh was one of my partner presbyteries. Over that time I hope I have been able to share something of the life, especially church life, both in Zambia and in Israel/Palestine. I have always enjoyed visiting the Borders on deputation and engaging with the various groups and schools, as well as congregations. Thanks especially for all the hospitality given to me and the prayers offered.

I have had a year of discerning what my future would hold, and on May 6<sup>th</sup> I will be embarking on another phase of my life. I am remaining with World Mission as a Mission Partner, but will now move to Egypt to work as International Affairs Co-ordinator at the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo. I will also be involved hopefully in the refugee project at St Andrew's Church (the old Church of Scotland church, now run by the Lutherans) and will also seek to strengthen relations between Scotland and the Synod of the Nile (the Presbyterian church in Egypt – 2<sup>nd</sup> biggest church after the Coptic Church.)

It will be very different from my work in Tiberius, and Cairo itself is a big, noisy, polluted city. However, I feel excited at the prospect of remaining in the Middle East, especially at a time when Christians are having it tough.

I will no longer be officially partnered with Jedburgh Presbytery, but if you or your congregation wish to keep in touch and receive my partner letters, that would be great. Please contact Nikki Skinner by email on [nskinner@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:nskinner@churchofscotland.org.uk) or phone 01312255722. I also hope to write a blog which you will be able to access on the internet. [www.colinincairo.wordpress.com](http://www.colinincairo.wordpress.com) Once again, thanks for your prayers and support and friendship over these years.

Peace and Blessings,

*Colin Johnson*

### *Preaching Plan for July/August 2016*

**July 3<sup>rd</sup>** : Stichill Jim Smith

“ 10<sup>th</sup>: Makerstoun Rev Marion Dodd

“ 17<sup>th</sup>: Smailholm Elizabeth Findlay

“ 24<sup>th</sup>: Stichill George Amos

“ 31<sup>st</sup>: Roxburgh David Harvey

**August 7<sup>th</sup>**: Stichill Rev John Shields

“ 14<sup>th</sup>: Makerstoun Rev John Shields

“ 21<sup>st</sup>: Smailholm Sophia Duncan

“ 28<sup>th</sup>: Stichill Elizabeth Findlay

**September 4<sup>th</sup>**: Roxburgh Rev Charles Finnie

During the summer months, our united services start at **10.30am**.

### *Our Church Family*

#### *Funerals*

24<sup>th</sup> May, in Makerstoun Kirk: Jean Wilson, dear wife of Jim Wilson, Haymount, Makerstoun.

3<sup>rd</sup> June, in Stichill Church: James (Jimmy) Cochrane, dear husband of Margaret Cochrane, Runningburn, Stichill.

It was with sadness that we heard of the sudden death of Anne Nicol, wife of Rev. Douglas Nicol, from Denholm, who was Interim Moderator to Kelso Country Churches for a brief time at the beginning of this year. Anne often shared worship in our churches at that time. Our sincere condolences go to Douglas and his family.

## An Evening with Angus Buchan

Angus Buchan is a tough, straightforward South African farmer of Scottish extraction, whose gentle but uncompromising faith has carried him through drought, financial crisis and family tragedy. Called by God to preach the gospel, he has found the Holy Spirit working through him in amazing miracles of provision, healing and changed lives. His wonderful autobiography, "Faith Like Potatoes", has been made into a film of the same name - you may have seen the film, and also some of his teaching programmes, on Television Freeview Channel 65 (TBNUK – the Christian channel). Angus has travelled widely over the years and this summer he is coming to the UK – his only Scottish date is here in the Borders on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> August at 7pm at the Volunteer Hall, St John St, Galashiels, TD1 3JX. Tickets can be ordered online at £5 each from Eventbrite, or via Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/angusbuchanborders> - where you can also find more information about Angus. His main website can be found at <http://angusbuchan.co.za/> which contains a wealth of inspiring material and resources.



### Prayer Time

*Lord Jesus Christ,*

*You call us to go out and proclaim the gospel,  
to make disciples of all nations,  
to demonstrate the reality of your love  
through word and deed.*

*We want to honour that calling  
but we are aware of the danger  
of doing more harm than good through our witness,  
of putting people off rather than drawing them to faith.  
So now we pray once more for your guidance in mission.*

*You have given us good news:  
Teach us to share it.*

*In your name we pray,  
Amen.*



shutterstock 80325388

## Nepal 'Build a House' Appeal Update

A Church of Scotland appeal to help rebuild Nepal following last year's earthquake has raised enough to build 300 homes – and money is still coming in.

The earthquake killed over 8000 people and left over 6 million families homeless. In some rural areas 90% of homes (which were built of mud and thatch) health centres and infrastructure, were destroyed, and thousands of families are still living in makeshift shelters fifteen months after the disaster.



The challenge went out to Presbyteries to each raise £500, which is enough to build one house in Nepal. The original target was £25,000 but at the General Assembly in May, it was announced that the total stood at over £150,000.

Malcolm Ramsay, a missionary partner based in Nepal, reported that it was not a question of if another big earthquake will come, but when. The new houses had to be designed and built to be earthquake resistant. Only 2% of rebuilding has been accomplished so far, but the United Mission to Nepal has already begun training stonemasons and building infrastructure and it is hoped that house building will start soon. As well as building houses, the money will be used to build bridges, footpaths and schools, so building up the community.

The UMN is providing temporary schools; seeds, tools, machinery and training for agriculture; blankets and mattresses for families to help through the cold winter; building roads and other infrastructure. The tremors are still happening in some parts of the country, and people are still frightened.

The campaign was launched after the Rev Ram Kumar Budhatoki told last year's General Assembly that the initial most devastating earthquake lasted 45 seconds – about the time it takes to sing one verse of hymn 198, "Let us build a house where love can dwell."

Quote: Count your blessings, not your crosses,  
Count your gains, not your losses.  
Count your joys instead of your woes,  
Count your friends instead of your foes,  
Count your health, not your wealth.

Old Proverb

# Light Relief

A mechanic was removing a cylinder head from the motor of a LS460 when he spotted a well-known cardiologist in his garage. The cardiologist was there waiting for the service manager to come and take a look at his car. The mechanic shouted across the garage, "Hello, Doc. come and take a look at this." The cardiologist, a bit surprised at the request, walked over to where the mechanic was working.

The mechanic wiped his hands on a rag and said, "So Doc, look at this engine. I opened its heart, took out the valves, repaired or replaced anything damaged, and then put everything back together again. When I finished, it worked just like new. So how is it that I earn about a quarter of what you earn in a year when we are basically doing the same work?" The cardiologist paused, leaned over, and whispered to the mechanic, "Try doing it with the engine running!"

## Here are some facts about the 1500's.

Poor homes had dirt floors. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt; hence the saying, 'dirt poor.' The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery when wet so they spread thresh (straw) on the floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they added more thresh until, when the door was opened, it would slip outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entrance-way...hence: a thresh hold.

Cooking was done in a big kettle hung over an open fire. Every day, the fire was lit and things were added to the pot, mostly vegetables as they didn't get much meat. They would eat the stew hot for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot overnight and then add to it next day... hence the rhyme; Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot, nine days old!



Sometimes they could obtain pork which made them feel quite special. When visitors came, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could, 'bring home the bacon.' They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around 'chewing the fat.'

Who said history was boring!!

## 'Father Joe' by Tony Hendra

This book is an autobiography not so much about Father Joe but an account of the life of Tony Hendra, a Catholic working class boy from St. Albans from the age of 14 in the 1950's, until the millennium.



His experience with Father Joe- a Benedictine monk cloistered at Quarr on the Isle of Wight - began when his erstwhile spiritual director wanted help to restore Tony's fall from grace .

Dom Joseph Warrillow is his monastic name but everyone calls him Father Joe. Hendra's description of him is " He is as close to a cartoon monk as you can imagine." There is nothing physically attractive about him, large ears, a bulbous nose, rubbery lips, irredeemably flat feet in thick black socks (that couldn't hide their knobbliness,) big floppy sandals; and knobbly knees that would win a contest" But Father Joe is a holy man, a saint exuding love and compassion.

Though still at school, Hendra spends the next few years in an intense religious commitment hoping to join the Abbey as a postulant when school is over. However, he wins a scholarship to Cambridge and is told by Father Joe he must take it up.

At Cambridge he encounters John Cleese and other luminaries of his ilk and his interest in a religious life wanes. Over the next years his life descends into sarcastic , iconoclastic script writing, drink and substance abuse and sexual licence both in the UK and USA.

But all the time Father Joe is a necessity in his life. He visits Quarr occasionally as his lifestyle drags him down, but Fr. Joe keeps writing to him lovingly and non condemnatory. When Hendra reaches the nadir of his life he comes back to Quarr, leaving his wife and family, wanting to become a postulant.

Father Joe, now a stooped old man in his 80s ,welcomes him" Dear Tony, we've known each other so long. You have been such a joy in my life," but lovingly refuses his request. He has to return to be a good husband and father...a role Father Joe knew all along was Tony's real vocation. His final visit to the monastery was as Fr. Joe was dying. "Don't think of it as going ,dear, more that God is coming".

Afterward Hendra discovered that he was not unique in receiving Fr. Joe's love and counsel. There were hundreds of others who thought of him as their special friend and counsellor too.

Not only did I enjoy this as a good read, but it was also spiritually uplifting. Father Joe 's advice to listen more and to love more is good.

I am pleased to report that progress is being made in our quest to find a minister to fill the Vacancy in Kelso Country Churches. The service of Linkage with Oxnam Church took place on 21<sup>st</sup> June in Roxburgh Church. Members of Presbytery and people from the two congregations were present for an uplifting service led by Rev Robin McHaffie.

At the same time as we were linking with Oxnam, our Linkage of eight years with Kelso Old and Sprouston was severed in name. We made many friends in the old Linkage and these friendships will hopefully continue. The next step in the procedure was to form a 'Vacancy Nominating Committee' which consists of six members from KCC and five from Oxnam. Our six were duly appointed at the joint service in Roxburgh Church last Sunday, and five people were appointed at a meeting in Oxnam Church on the same day.

The members of the team representing KCC are; James Smith, Oliver Stark, Kirsty Baird, Bert Duncan, Lynda Stark and David Harvey. Now, a date will be arranged when a convener and clerk will be chosen from the eleven and then get down to the business of searching for a minister.

The first task of the Nominating Committee will be to ascertain what kind of minister we would like to fill the post which will be advertised as three-quarters of a ministerial post (0.75 of a ministry.) We will then compile and print a new "Parish Profile" of the combined congregations and in this document, we hope to attract a minister or two to apply. Our Vacancy will probably be advertised in the "Ministers' Forum" which every minister will receive monthly, and also perhaps in the Church of Scotland magazine, 'Life and Work.'

When we have applicants for the post, it is then up to the Nominating Committee to meet with them, to hear them preach, and to interview them as well as answer questions about our rural parishes and congregations. If this is satisfactory, we would invite our first choice to preach to the congregations as Sole Nominee. The congregations would then be asked to vote aye or no, and of course, the prospective minister would have to say whether or not he/she still wishes to come.

The Kirk Session, Fabric Convener and a small group are looking after the interests of the manse and a list of necessary repairs and improvements will be carried out.

Patience is needed as there are four vacancies in Jedburgh Presbytery and another coming up in October, so be vigilant and welcoming; we never know who could be visiting us looking for a new charge.



**Have you heard the news?**



Our very own Session Clerk and much respected stalwart of Stichill Church, Jim Smith, has been appointed the new Moderator Designate of Jedburgh Presbytery.

**What does this mean?**

It means that Jim has been asked by members of Presbytery to succeed the present Moderator, Rev Robin McHaffie when he completes his term of office in September.

This is a daunting commitment which Jim has accepted after giving it due thought and consideration.... as he does in all matters.

Jim has been an integral part of this community all his life and has given much of his time and talents for the good of the area.

Jim has wide experience of church matters and has been an elder for 40 years, Church Treasurer, Session Clerk, Presbytery elder, Preacher, computer expert and official KCC photographer and local historian, and we musn't forget, mouse and mole catcher around all our churches pre-retirement when he was pest control officer for Roxburgh and Berwickshire; a man of many talents indeed, and always willing to share them with others.

Just when you would think that he has enough to keep him multi tasking for the foreseeable future, he is going to embark on another learning curve as Moderator of our Presbytery, and I know he will do it with competence and grace.

Jim feels honoured to be asked, but it is also an honour for our church family, and I hope that we can give him the help and encouragement and prayers he will need in his Moderatorial year.

Jim and Janice are a good 'team' and we wish them God's blessing in all they do.

