

Diary: July

August

1	10.30 Makerstoun	
2		
3		
4		
5		10.30 Makerstoun
6		
7		
8	10.30 Stichill	
9		
10		
11		
12		10.30 Stichill
13		
14		
15	10.30 Roxburgh	
16		
17		
18		
19		10.30 Smailholm (H.Communion)
20		
21		
22	10.30 Stichill	
23		
24		
25		
26		10.30 Stichill
27		
28		
29	10.30 Smailholm	
30		
31		

Kelso Country Churches



The Country Link

~~~~~ July/August, 2018



“Peace be with you” was the phrase used at the start and end of all the proceedings at the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland this year. I was lucky enough to be a commissioner and attended each day. The new Moderator is Rev. Susan Brown who is the Minister at Dornoch Cathedral. She told us that the congregation there always enjoyed singing a paraphrase of Psalm 139 which starts *“Thou art before me Lord, thou art behind, and thou above me hast stretched out thy hand; such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too high to grasp, too great to understand”*. In Dornoch this hymn is often sung to the beautiful tune “Highland Cathedral” and so you can understand why it might be a favourite.

One of the highlights of the General Assembly for me was the singing. Almost 700 people attend and it would appear that all the hymns and psalms chosen were “weel kent” and popular. Certainly we took to heart one of the readings during the week which was Psalm 150 which finishes “let everything that has breath, praise the Lord! O praise the Lord.”

One of the themes for the Moderator this year is to be “walk with..” and we are encouraged to get out and about and walk together, either for our own physical and mental health or to help others in our community who may suffer from loneliness and isolation. In our rural communities we often think we know our neighbours but this year I urge you to think about the people around you and ask if they need company.

At the end of each day’s business we sang “May the God of peace go with us as we travel from this place; may the love of Jesus keep us firm in hope and full of grace”. This was sung to the tune “ae fond kiss”. Try it, you will find the words and tune fit beautifully together. I wish you all peace and happiness over the summer months.

Helen Howden  
Interim Moderator

## *Parish News and Updates*

**The Stichill Summer Fayre** held in the village hall on 2<sup>nd</sup> June, was a great success despite threatening clouds and forecast for heavy rain. Thankfully, it missed our patch and people came from near and far to buy bedding plants and sample the delights of various stalls and enjoy delicious afternoon teas. The event raised an outstanding total of £1,344. Many thanks to all who manned the stalls, provided and served the teas and generally helped to make it a good day.

**The Christian Aid Lunch** held in May was also a happy get-together and raised £175 on the day. Further sums were donated via Christian Aid envelopes which were handed over to be included in the Kelso Churches Together collection.

### **Cheviot Youth says 'Thank you'**

I am writing on behalf of the Trustees, staff and youngsters at Cheviot Youth to say many thanks to Kelso Country Churches for the recent unsolicited gift of £152.50. All of us at Cheviot Youth are very grateful for your kindness and most appreciative of your continued interest in the work we do. Please have a chat with me should you wish more information as to what happens at Cheviot Youth.

*David Harvey - Chair Cheviot Youth*

### ***Our Church Family***

11<sup>th</sup> May: The funeral took place in Stichill Church of Marshall Steel, from Stichill, dear husband of Dawn, and elder of Stichill Church. The funeral was conducted by Rev. Anna Rodwell.

18<sup>th</sup> May: The funeral took place in Stichill Church of Margaret Mary Ferguson (nee Macleod) widow of the late Duncan Ferguson of Newton Don. The funeral was conducted by Rev. Robin McHaffie.

**From the editor:** the summer months are traditionally when church clubs and organisations take a break to recharge the batteries and take a holiday. As I write this, the sun is shining and gardens and fields are looking good and I could happily have a holiday in the garden, but then there is the soft fruit to deal with and all the vegetables coming ready from the allotment but these are pleasant tasks. I wish you all happy and relaxing times over the summer months and remember those in our midst who are sad, ill or lonely. Look after each other and stay safe.

Website: [kelsolinkedchurchescofs.org](http://kelsolinkedchurchescofs.org)

Scottish charity no. SC000958

### **Date for your diary**

This is forward notice of a late summer

Concert to be held in

Stichill Church

Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> September in

the afternoon.

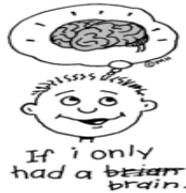
'Fluteworks Quartet' and piano duo  
Harris Playfair and Heather Cattanach  
will perform a varied programme of music  
for all tastes. Details to follow.

# ☺ Brain Teasers ☺

## THE SECOND LINE QUIZ

Below are the second lines of 15 Hymns found in CH4. Do you know the first lines?

1. Praise the Lord for he is kind
2. Who put the salt in the sea?
3. And his righteousness.
4. Let me hide myself in thee.
5. And tell redemption's story
6. Fill me with life anew.
7. Or answer every sufferer's prayer.
8. His legions are scattered, his strongholds are spoiled.
9. When the world was begun.
10. Does its successive journeys run.
11. I have a strong, a perfect plea.
12. Urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way.
13. Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice
14. As we, by love for love was made
15. In the midst of the darkness, shining



Answers available if needed, at teatime after a service.

### PSALM 118:8 (for your information)

- The shortest chapter in the Bible is Psalm 117
- The longest chapter in the Bible is Psalm 119
- The chapter in the centre of the Bible is Psalm 118
- There are 594 chapters before Psalm 118
- There are 594 chapters after Psalm 118
- Add 594 and 594 and the answer is 1188
- The central verse of the Bible is Psalm 118:8

*"It is better to trust in the Lord than to trust in man."*

## Preaching Plan for July/August, 2018

### July

- |                            |               |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Makerstoun | David Harvey  |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> Stichill   | Charles Orr   |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> Roxburgh  | James Smith   |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> Stichill  | Sophia Duncan |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> Smailholm | Charles Orr   |

### August

- |                                        |                    |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 5 <sup>th</sup> Makerstoun             | James Smith        |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> Stichill              | Rev Robin McHaffie |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> Smailholm (Communion) | “                  |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> Stichill              | Elizabeth Findlay  |

### September

- |                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Makerstoun | Rev Robin McHaffie |
|----------------------------|--------------------|

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An inspiring Songs of Praise was held in Smailholm Church on Sunday, 24th June. We welcomed many visitors who were attending a weekend event in the village. It was a glorious day and the sound of our voices singing much-loved hymns rang out through the open door. Sophia Duncan led the service and was assisted by Mary Carmichael who shared two of her favourite readings and thoughts. It was a privilege to meet up with old acquaintances and new faces over food and fellowship after the service and hear lovely comments about the peace and presence of this historic church. We must not take for granted that this familiar, ancient place of worship will always be there when we need it.

A very brief history of Newton Don

In the 12th century, the Manor of Newton Don was part of the Lordship of Lauderdale, then in the possession of the Morvilles – a powerful Norman family. Hugo de Morvilla was High Constable of Scotland, the founder of Dryburgh Abbey – he and his wife are both buried there; ca. 1162.

The family was related to John Balliol and, after Robert the Bruce won the War of Independence, their lands were forfeited and a charter of the Lordship of Lauder was given to Lord James Douglas (The black Douglas). In 1455 the Douglasses had their lands taken from them and they reverted to the Crown.

Newton Don, as it is now known, was originally part of Little Newton. After 1455 Sir Patrick Hepburn of Wauchton owned part of Little Newton. Also owning another part of the lands was a family called Newton.

From 1586 onwards the land was gradually acquired by the Kerr family. Around 1848 Alexander Don, a writer from Kelso, bought Newton (he later added his own surname to it).

The Dons were in possession for 200 years, during which time they laid out the policies. The present house was built 1817-18, the architect being Sir Robert Smirke. A plan of 1828 shows the walks and the shrubberies very much the same as they are today.

At that time the estate also included: Courthill, Kaimflat, Harpertoun, Highridge Hall and Edenmouth, together with the fishing rights on the river Tweed from Sharpitlaw to the Berwickshire March. All this was sold between 1828 and 1847.

It is believed that the burial place of the Don family is the site of the chapel of Little Newton, next to Mid Lodge.

The village of Little Newton has completely disappeared – tradition says that the Dons removed it.

The Dons were originally a Perthshire family. Sir William, being the last of the family who actually owned Newton Don (1825-1862), became an actor and died in Australia. He was in debt most of his life.

In 1990 there was a knock on the door of Mid Lodge – it was Sir Alexander Don and Lady Don returning from South Africa to see the home that his family had owned for generations, and to visit the family burial ground.

In 1847-48 the remainder of the estate of Newton Don was sold to Charles Balfour. The rest, as they say, is history!

Alistair Ferguson

Book Review by Andrew Nicholson

THE HIDDEN WAYS by Alistair Moffat



During the course of his latest book, *The Hidden Ways*, the author walks ten of the lost paths of Scotland – including *The Invasion Road* used by Roman soldiers to march north into Scotland from the Cheviot Hills in 80 AD, *The Herring Road* used by the women of Eyemouth to take the herring to Lauder where it fetched the best price, and *The Road to Heaven* (the pilgrims' road) from Earlsferry to St Andrew.

Each chapter is a masterpiece of evocative travel writing with many references to Alistair Moffat's childhood in the Kelso countryside. He has particularly fond memories of Cliftonhill Farm, near Ednam, where his grandmother was born (Cliftonhill is now farmed by Archie and Maggie Stewart).

Alistair Moffat gave an inspiring talk at the 2018 Borders Book Festival; a festival which would not exist if it wasn't for his vision and hard work - and his enthusiasm for bringing Scottish history to life is matched only by his encyclopaedic knowledge of the country and countryside he so dearly loves.

New Jungle - Same Old Monkeys by Margaret Anne Lawson

This story summarises the character of Margaret Anne Lawson known to many as Annie. No stranger to wild living, she was saved by grace and called to a most unusual sphere of service. A Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) engineer, hangar foreman, and evangelist in Africa for over a decade, she was called Matika (child of grace) by locals, Patronne by her awe-struck staff, and tool waitress by a fellow engineer who felt threatened by her formidable gifts.

The pages brim with humour, startling imagery of life in Africa, and larger-than-life characters. Exorcisms, perilous journeys, police corruption, rotten goat meat, mysterious illnesses and a distinct lack of personal space are only some of the trials of missionary life.

Despite suffering reverse culture shock on her return to Scotland, Annie found a new sphere of ministry with Christians against Poverty. Her marriage at the age of 48 and the cancer diagnosis that followed conclude the story of a woman who considered herself God's servant in all circumstances.

Sophia Duncan

Update from Juliette

Well, here we are in late June and just completed our first 6 months here. After a very wet four months, the sun has decided to grace us with its presence and the ground is now dry.

The house is nearly sorted with just a few repairs to do; one is a new waterpipe into the kitchen as the old one is leaking behind the cupboards.

A few new units and work top and that too will be done.

David has settled into work and his first batch of yearlings come in next week to prep for the sales so a full yard will be nice to see and the start of another prep season for him.

Theo has had a steep learning curve at school but in his end of year assessments it was seen he has caught up to the English system with its year ahead of the Scottish system – fantastic news and he has worked so hard. He is now 6 and has found confidence and humour. He is such fun.

Jess has sat her end of year exams and has more than satisfactory grades. All her hard work and dedication has paid off and she has earned a couple of academic prizes to boot. Jess has earned her place as a chorister and is proud of her red gown. She continues to play her instruments and has also taken up Bassoon.

Me – well it's easy to parent 2 happy, hard-working children who are a credit to themselves. We live somewhere that is beautiful and views over the Chalk Valley are amazing. I have found watercress and strawberries, streams and fields and even the odd smile from a stranger, so maybe, just maybe I am finding my feet too. Thank you as always for all notes and cards that still arrive with such love and uplifting messages, I hope that Theo and I can see some of you when we come for a break at the end of August.

God Bless, *Juliette*.



Breamore CE Primary School has been recognised for its efforts in raising awareness of global poverty, receiving a bronze award from Christian Aid's global neighbours scheme.

Executive headteacher, Emma Clark said, "We are thrilled to be recognised for the work we have done as a whole school community to raise awareness of the extreme inequalities across our globe and perhaps more importantly, the steps we can take to address these.

Year of Young People Prayer

Welcoming God, you welcome us with open arms. Inspire and guide us, that we may never hinder your children from coming to you; and remember that we are all part of your family. Bring us together as a loving community for all, that we may learn from each other as we walk side by side in faith.



Loving God, we pray for those who have come to know you and stepped out in faith; we pray that they grow in grace and knowledge as they continue their walk with you. We pray for those far away from you. Meet them where they are and give them courage and strength to make the right decisions, that they may come to know and experience your gracious love.

Caring and compassionate God, we pray and ask you to guide and protect our children and young people from that which may restrict them on their journey in life and faith. We pray for the day when all children can be just that: children. Be with them as they experience the dangers and injustices that are ever present in our world today.

Nurturing God, we pray for all those who work with and support children and young people – for those of all ages who give their time, talents and love to create a place in churches and communities that can be the foundation of growth, confidence and a relationship with you.

Calling God, you call us to follow, to serve, to welcome and to share. We come now to answer your call, to lift our minds and voices to you, and to thank and praise you for all the young people in our communities, country and world. We ask that you walk alongside them and grant them courage, strength and wisdom as they face the challenges of life.

Guiding God, as we travel through this year of young people and beyond, help us to come alongside children and young people to draw closer to you, to answer your call to follow, to serve, to welcome and to share together, through the Holy Spirit.

We offer these prayers through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

St James Church, Buttermere

Jeanette Mackie

On our recent pilgrimage in the Lake District we visited the village of Buttermere near Allerdale in Cumbria.

When wandering around the village we stumbled upon the smallest church I have ever been in.



The tiny church of St James we discovered, was built originally around 1507. However following several instances of damage by raiders the most recent building renovation was recorded in 1840 with additions 1893 and 1903. It is built with squared stone and slate rubble, under graduated green slate roof with coped gables. A 2-bay

nave, with west twin bellcote, west porch and north vestry; single-bay chancel.

The Nave has lancet windows. Interior has C20 furnishings and fittings. East window by Henry Holiday 1893 has Mary, Martha and a cherub head. A Stained-glass north window, 1903 and a Bronze plaque to Alan Catherall by his father Cyril Catherall dated, 1945.

The church is open to the public and was a very popular attraction in the village. There is a fairly original door to the church for keeping the "bad weather" out and a wrought iron 'Shepherd's Gate' on the porch to keep the free wandering sheep out. The local churchgoers were obviously very fit as the climb up the steps to the doorway are not for the faint hearted or unfit.



There are six pews to each side of a narrow aisle with four places to each pew. Every pew has a home-made cushion with tapestry images which are attached to the pew in front when not in use, [see example]

most of them have a farming or nature scene with the remainder having Biblical themes.

6.

The first church congregation was too small to warrant a clergyman, so a "reader" [the present day worship team] took the services. For his trouble he was entitled to free room and board, shoes, and clothing.

The piped chamber organ is antique and dated around 1820; it measures approximately **three feet wide** and stands just over six feet tall.



There is **not** a lot more information regarding this marvellous organ. To the right of the organ you can see the ropes which toll the churches two bells in the tower on the roof at the porch end.

I imagine the organist to have been a very small lady who possibly doubled up as a school teacher or perhaps a housewife. It's hard to imagine a large lady perhaps a farmer's wife playing this small instrument.

This as I say is just imagination on my behalf. She or perhaps a he played the organ as an occupation.

There is a stone tablet set into the window sill of a south window as a memorial to Alfred Wainwright, the famous walker and author of guidebooks. The window looks out on his favourite place to walk, Haystacks, where at his wish his ashes were scattered.



Even Wordsworth visited this church and was quoted as saying of the church, "A man must be very insensible who would not be touched with pleasure at the sight of the chapel of Buttermere. If it was good enough for Wordsworth then it's certainly ok for me!

*My heart leaps up when I behold
A rainbow in the sky:*

*So was it when my life began;
So is it now I am a man;
So be it when I shall grow old,
Or let me die!*

*The Child is father of the Man;
And I could wish my days to be
Bound each to each by natural piety.*

7.

William Wordsworth

