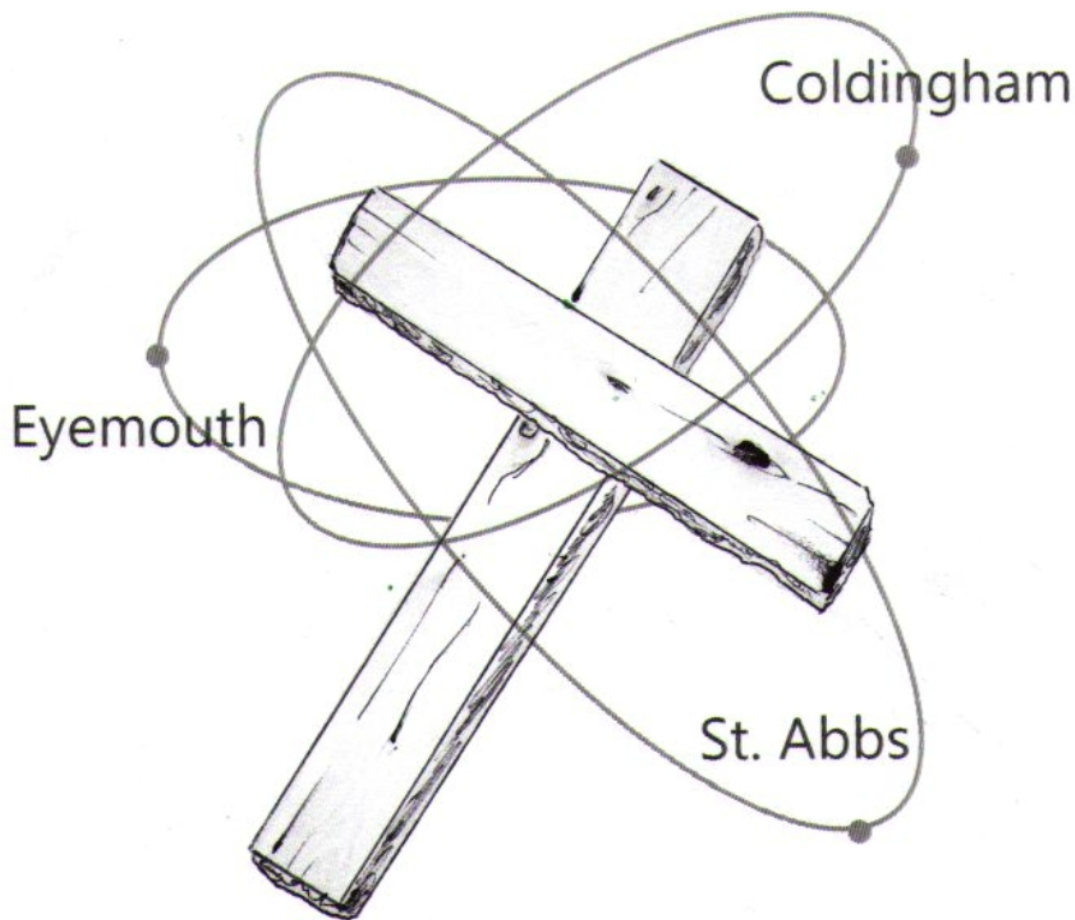


UNITED UPDATE

Autumn 2022 Edition



Newsletter of the Parish Church of Coldingham &
St. Abbs linked with Eyemouth Parish Church

Your word is a lamp for my feet,
a light on my path.

Psalm 119v105

The Queen's Legacy

"Your statutes are wonderful; therefore I obey them.

Direct my footsteps according to your word; let no sin rule over me."

(Psalm 119 vs 129 & 133)

Dear friends,

once again we seem to be bandying about the word unprecedented. Particularly with the Energy Crisis, the Cost of Living Crisis, the events that led to a new Prime Minister and now the end of our modern "Elizabethan" age. It was a sad moment when we realised that our country had forever changed with the passing of HM Queen Elizabeth and it was truly astonishing to watch how her death touch so many people in ways that they had not expected. Yet throughout the coverage of this truly historic event one thing came through clearly and that was Queen Elizabeth's faith in Jesus and her ability to not just act in line with that faith, but to be fearless in sharing her understanding of what it means to be a Christian, what it means to be a follower of Jesus and how her faith touched upon every aspect of her life.

It would be lovely if the Queen's legacy was a renewed sense in which Christians felt free to share their faith and understanding with those around them. That there was a loss of embarrassment about talking about Jesus and about God and how following Jesus has effected our lives.

Living in this new age reminds us that we no longer live in a world where folk understand Christianity, the Church, or even simply the message of Jesus. We are called then as followers of Jesus to make sure we preach the gospel, in words as well as in actions, so folk know why we do what we do. This may require us to brush up on the basics, but it will be time well spent as we learn why we do what we do, it will also make what we do even more effective in reaching people with the Good News of Jesus Christ and living our lives in light of that!

Andy

Away Day to Dunbar, Saturday 24th September

Our next Away Day is to Dunbar on Saturday 24th September when Jeanette Wilson is going to tell us about her visit to the Holy Land. Away Days are great opportunities for members of the congregations to get together in a relaxing setting and to hear from interesting speakers. At the last Away Day in April, Jeliase gave us a fascinating talk on Zimbabwe.

The day starts with a relaxed cuppa followed by a short worship time before moving onto hearing from our speaker. After the speaker we then move onto a shared lunch where folk have plenty of time to chat and talk about the morning, or whatever's on their mind. Then the rest of the afternoon folk are free to stay and chat or explore the town. We then gather again for another cuppa followed by a short time of worship including a quiet communion before

Winter Worship

In pre-COVID times we were used to moving into the Church Hall in Eyemouth after Christmas, partly to help reduce our heating costs, help us to be a bit greener but also to give us a more cosy and closer fellowship. However when the Board met it was suggested that in response to the current situation with regards increasing living costs that we should move into the Hall before Christmas. In further discussion it was decided that we would move into the hall in October and November, and then back into the Church for Advent and Christmas, before returning to the hall after Christmas as usual. The board have committed to getting the hall setup for livestreaming and with a hearing induction loop to help with those using the loop in the main sanctuary. Please bear with us as we make these adjustments.

A Tribute to the Queen

I was unprepared for how sad I feel at the death of our Queen. As a young woman of twenty-one she promised to the nation that she would devote her whole life, whether long or short, to the service of her people. I am old enough to remember her becoming Queen and have seen throughout her seventy-year reign how she has fulfilled that promise. How was she able to do that? Through her great faith in God who has given her strength right to the very end. A faith that she openly acknowledged many times, especially in her Christmas broadcasts to the nation.



‘This is the time of year when we remember that God sent his only son ‘to serve not to be served.’ He restored love and service to the centre of our lives in the person of Jesus Christ. It is my prayer this Christmas Day that his example and teaching will continue to bring people together to give the best of themselves in the service of others. The carol In the bleak midwinter ends by asking a question of all of who know the Christmas story, of how God gave himself to us in humble service. ‘What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man, I would do my part.’ The carol gives the answer: Yet what I can I give him – give my heart. (Christmas message 2012).’

What a message! What a witness to her own faith, heard by millions across the world.

Yes, I’m sad that we have lost such an ambassador for our faith, but I rejoice that she is now with her Lord, who will surely say ‘Well done my good and faithful servant.’

Heather Johnston

THE GUILD

By the time you read this the Guild will have almost completed their session for this summer.

The strategy for the three year period 2021–2024 is ‘Look forward in faith’ and the theme for this first year has been ‘ Lights and Bushels’



We have enjoyed learning about the theme through Bible Study with Roo Macrae and through music. We have had visits from the two projects we are supporting this year – The Vine Trust and it's latest project Kanzunzu, a purpose built village for orphan children on the south east shore of Lake Victoria in Tanzania and also ‘Chocolate Heaven’ working with a small chocolate kitchen on an island in South East Asia, providing local employment and giving a fair price to local producers and helping to buy good equipment for the manufacture of the chocolate.

We have enjoyed talks from several of our usual contacts – Isabel Gordon, Bryan Webster, David McLean, Pete Gage, Wendy Lough and Kenneth McLean – on various topics.

Iain Whyte retired as general secretary of the Guild at the beginning of the year and came to tell us about his years in office and Jeliaise told us about life in Zimbabwe.

Several Tuesday evenings have been informal get-togethers – just to have a cup of tea and chat about anything and everything (putting the world to rights!!). Jean always brought her knitting and twice Beth brought a quiz which was great fun.

We will end with our Dinner/AGM at the Golf Club at the end of September

Although we are small in number we will continue to meet in fellowship and fun next summer and any new members, male or female, will be made welcome.

Audrey, Carole, Elizabeth, Jean and Margaret (Joint leaders)

Discussion groups

We come to church on a Sunday morning and as part of the service we listen to a Bible passage being read and then a sermon preached on it. Unfortunately, there is no opportunity to ask questions, to discuss further the things we have heard or to discuss how it affects our lives. Currently there are 2 groups meeting in Eyemouth to look at Bible passages and discuss them. One group reads a Bible passage before watching a short video which explains it and then there is a time of discussion. The other group uses Bible study guides to look in a bit more in depth at books of the Bible. Everyone who attends these groups finds them very enjoyable and helpful. If you would like to join a group like either of those described please speak to Andy or Ishbel

Finance

With the rising costs of everything being on every mind, it's important that we don't forget that the costs of keeping our buildings going and making a contribution towards the ministry is not unaffected by these changes. For those who continue to give via standing order and in the plate on a Sunday morning a huge thank you for your faithfulness in giving. Finances may not be our biggest concern as a church, but it is clear that as a church we have tried very hard to cut our cloth accordingly, however there is only so much cutting before we need to seriously think about asking for further support from members. So please take this as your reminder to prayerfully reconsider your giving and whether you are able to increase your contribution. If every member were to increase giving by a small margin we would very quickly close the gap in our finances and be able to move forward with confidence. Please speak to the treasurer or one of the finance team for further details of how to give. Also check if you are using easy fundraising and Amazon Smile for your online shopping as you can give to the church this way at no cost to you! Finally if you pay tax in any form make sure you fill in Gift Aid form so we can reclaim the tax you've paid.

supporting



Harvest Thanksgiving

2nd October 2022

Once again, we will be having a collection for Christian Aid's Harvest Appeal which this year is to help millions of people in East Africa – across Ethiopia, South Sudan and Kenya. They

are experiencing the worst drought in 40 years causing failed harvests, livestock deaths and water shortages. The severe conditions are being made worse by the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The increase in global food prices has turned a tough situation into a dire crisis. Please consider what you can give to help. If you are unable to come to church to collect or return an envelope you can give online to the harvest appeal at <https://www.christianaid.org.uk>

AMAZON SMILE

If you use Amazon for your shopping you can also persuade them to donate on your behalf by signing up for Amazon Smile. Simply go to smile.amazon.co.uk from your web browser on your computer or mobile device. This will allow you to connect your Amazon account and select a charity to receive donations, both congregations are registered (The Church of Scotland, Eyemouth Parish Church or The Parish Church of Coldingham & St. Abbs) with Amazon and once linked when you shop on Amazon Smile, donations will be made automatically with no cost to yourself!

Prayer

We are entering a time of great change for our congregations and none of us knows clearly what lies ahead. This means that it's all the more important for us to meet together to seek God's help and guidance. The opportunities for meeting to pray are Tuesday mornings on Zoom at 9am; Thursday mornings at 8.45 am in Eyemouth Parish Church; the first Saturday of the month in Eyemouth Church Hall at 8.30am for prayer breakfast and the third Saturday of the month at 9am in Coldingham Priory. If none of these times suit you but you would like to gather with others to pray, please speak to Andy to discuss possibilities.

Help While You Shop

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online – from your weekly shop to your annual holiday – you could be collecting free donations for the Church?

There are over 3,000 shops and sites on board ready to make a donation, including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, thetrainline and Sainsbury's – it doesn't cost you a penny extra!

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3...

1. Head to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/coldinghamstabbs/> or <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/eyemouthparishchurch/> and join for free.

2. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping, or download the easyfundraising donation reminder for your web browser.

3. After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to your good cause for no extra cost whatsoever!

There are no catches or hidden charges and the Church will be really grateful for your donations.

You can now even download a handy reminder that reminds you to activate your donation when shopping on participating webpages.

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Hard

The Decline of church attendances

Like many of us I have pondered the question of why church attendance is declining so much, and decided to do a little bit of internet research to learn more. One thing is for sure, if the present church does not change radically it will no longer exist in 10 years time. Here are just a few of the articles I discovered, followed by my own thoughts:

“The Brierley Consultancy reported that church attendance between 1980 and 2015 declined from 6.4m to 3m. This is most marked in the historic churches.”

and

“To stem the decline, services need to be vibrant and provide a sense of uplift for those who attend.”

Mike Royal, General secretary of Churches Together in England

“This has happened because the UK Church has lost her confidence that the Bible’s message is good, just and true with something to say today.”

Andrea Williams, Director of Christian Concern and the Christian Legal Centre

“If we want to see revival in our nation, we need to humble ourselves and be much more proactive in reaching out to those who might not be like the majority in our churches. By ‘reaching out’, I mean mixing and becoming genuine friends with, loving, caring for and learning from people who are different to us; whose life experiences don’t mirror our own.”

Natalie Williams, Chief executive of Jubilee+.

“The Church of Scotland has no plans for growth, only ‘managed decline’. This latest story sees the same pattern of denial, excuse and defeat being repeated. The inability to grasp reality seems endemic within the Church.”

David Robertson, former minister at St Peters Free Church in Dundee.

– ‘TheWeaflee.com’ – blog Nov 2020

“In the space of three decades from 1986 to 2016, churchgoing in Scotland fell by an astonishing 50%. The Church of Scotland’s decline was even worse, with churchgoing declining by 40% in only fourteen years. Because of this decline, the Church no longer has the finance or personnel to maintain itself, and the General Assembly of 2021 passed deliverances requiring a 30–40 percent reduction in ministry numbers by 2025.”

Life & Work magazine September 2021

My own thoughts:

Plausibility is a central issue; i.e. does our faith seem reasonable or probable? To many people it is not and they just don’t believe in a God and so they argue in that case why should or would they want to go to church? Seems perfectly reasonable.

So how do we help them change their minds? Here are 4 things we can remind ourselves about:

1. We can be friendly with such people! Jesus said: “Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (John 13:34–35)

Jesus said this; he taught this to us! So, we can be absolutely reassured that this will bear fruit. He didn’t quarrel with others. He loved them.

The Apostle Paul taught young Timothy, “And the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful.” (2 Timothy 2:24).

2. We should also pray for God to open a door before we rush in. Doing things in our own perceived power and wisdom is usually doomed to failure instead of asking God to help us.

Again, Paul wrote: “Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. (Colossians 4:2–3)

3. Applying Christian principles in our own lives and ensuring we do these things, not just say them; otherwise we are seen as a phoney! And don't compromise our beliefs, which in this increasingly secular and fast changing world is challenging.

4. Treat others with respect and dignity no matter who they are and how they might treat us.

There are of course many other things, not least of which could be if we work through Missional Communities – Good 'ole Wikipedia defines this as: ““A Missional community is a group of people, about the size of an extended family, who are united through Christian community around a common service and witness to a particular neighbourhood or network of relationships.”

I would recommend you Google 'Missional Communities Definition' and click on Wikipedia and look at the whole article. It is quite illuminating and potentially opens up all sorts of possibilities.

So, in summary I sense that the 6 important things for us all to think about are:

1. Jesus' teachings
2. The Bible – as our reference book
3. Prayer
4. Style of services
5. Information technology and social media
6. Missional Communities in some sort of shape or form.

Dr Andy Leach. Eyemouth Parish Church.

Berwickshire Christian Youth Trust (BCYT)

Term began on August 17th and Mark was able to be present as the new S1s arrived at EHS. He was encouraged to see some young people had brought their copies of *It's Your Move* with them!

We're excited that the Chaplaincy Team (Mark, Stephen, Roo, Andy, Suzi and Timon) are now able to be involved in delivering assemblies in Eyemouth High School, reviving the pattern of pairs of chaplains delivering short, sharp thoughts for the week to a different year group each morning.

We've written to all our Primary Schools with our offer of assemblies and some units of RME, and our hope to be present in each school this term, ideally to front an assembly. Responses so far have been encouraging, and we're awaiting a few more replies before we finalise some dates. Please continue to pray for our schools, and perhaps especially for your local schools. Please pray for us as we seek to organise our calendar and re-establish our physical presence in our schools, explore possibilities, engage with pupils and children, and help them to engage with God's Word.

SU Groups. These could resume in any of the schools which used to have a group, but realistically this can only happen if there are church members who can help to run them. Nationally, **SU Scotland** is making a big push to establish or re-establish **SU** groups. Please pray that God would provide people to run groups in Berwickshire's schools, and give thanks for those already keen to establish or re-establish groups.

Explore is meeting fortnightly. The current programme of teaching is looking at a range of Old Testament characters including Caleb, Hannah, Esther, Elijah and others. Please pray for the YP who attend this group, and for the leadership team (Mark, Sarah when she can, Anne and Andy, Josh and Kathryn)

Mark & Stuart

Eyemouth Foodbank

With the ongoing rise in the cost of living the foodbank continues to be needed and well used. The foodbank covers the East Coast of Berwickshire and inland towards Ayton, Foulden and Grantshouse. The numbers for each month have remained fairly steady and so far this year the foodbank has delivered 250 food parcels feeding around 552 people.

DONATIONS NEEDED

**EYEMOUTH
FOOD BANK**



The main need for the foodbank is for money to pay for the fresh produce that goes into each parcel. If you can help please speak to Andy. Also due to the lack of donations of food, this means the foodbank is required to purchase food that would normally come from donations (or from the food larder and community fridge) so some months the foodbank expenses can be considerably more than normal. Please do remember we continue to collect food on a Sunday for the foodbank. Once again, if you would be interested in helping out with food parcel deliveries, on the organising committee, or taking collected food to the Foodbank store then please contact Andy.

The Food List

Tins or packets of Soup

Tins of mince, stew, meat balls, curry pies in tins

Corned beef, spam, ham, tuna, sardines, pilchards, baked beans

Tinned veg and potatoes

Pasta

Pasta sauce

Tea & Coffee

Breakfast cereal

Dried or UHT milk

Custard

Tinned fruit

The following items are added when the parcel is made up and delivered, so donations of money are always accepted: bread, margarine, fresh milk, fresh potatoes (nappies and baby food, if required)

Eyemouth RE:NEW Project Update

As many of you will know by now we recently received funding from the Fallago Environment Fund Grant to the tune of £50,000. The Fund shares the benefits of the Fallago Rig Wind Farm in the Lammermuir Hills with projects across the Scottish Borders and is supported by Roxburghe Estates, Federated Hermes and EDF Renewables.

With this addition to our funding, we now have the go-ahead from the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland to move to the next stage of the project to ask building contractors to tender for the work.

This process has been slowed down by how busy many of the contractors are and the constant changing prices of materials.

Although we hope to have some good news soon.

We are also looking at the possibility of removing some of the pews at the back and sides of the church and ordering our new chairs as both these would not affect the project, and the chairs might take some time to arrive. We hope to have some samples of the new chairs for folk to look at (and try out!) When we begin to remove pews there may be opportunities to purchase the pews and if you would be interested in doing that please speak to one of the team.

Please also keep an eye out for further fundraising events as with the constant increases in costs it may be that we will need to raise some more money to cover some of the work.

If you have any questions about the project or ideas for fundraising, then please feel free to speak to any member of the project group.

Ishbel Dorward, Pete Gage, Andy Haddow, Carrie Haddow, Ian Hankinson, Andy Leach, Dixie Scott & Donald Wood

PUZZLE PAGE

Write the missing
letter to find when Jesus
is with us!

In BALL  but not in BILL _____

In LETTER  but not in BETTER _____

In WELL but not in BELL  _____

In HAT  but not in HOT _____

In SILLY but not in SILL _____

In STOP  but not in TOP  _____



Matthew 28:20

Directory

Rev. Andy Haddow, *Minister*

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Regular Events

Sundays	Morning Worship, Eyemouth, 10.15am
	Morning Worship, Coldingham, 10.15am
	Evening Worship, 6.30pm (last of month)
Mondays	Busy Bees, Coldingham, 9–10.30am
Tuesdays	Prayer time on ZOOM, 9am
	Guild in Eyemouth Hall, 7pm
Wednesdays	Busy Bees, Eyemouth, 10.30am–12noon
	Busy Bees, Eyemouth, 1.30–3pm
Thursdays	Prayer time in Eyemouth, 8.45–9am
	Vestry Hour, Eyemouth, 10.30–11.30am
Fridays	Busy Bees, Eyemouth, 10.30am–12noon
Saturdays	Prayer Breakfast, 8.30am (1 st of month)
	Prayer in the Priory, 9am (3 rd of month)