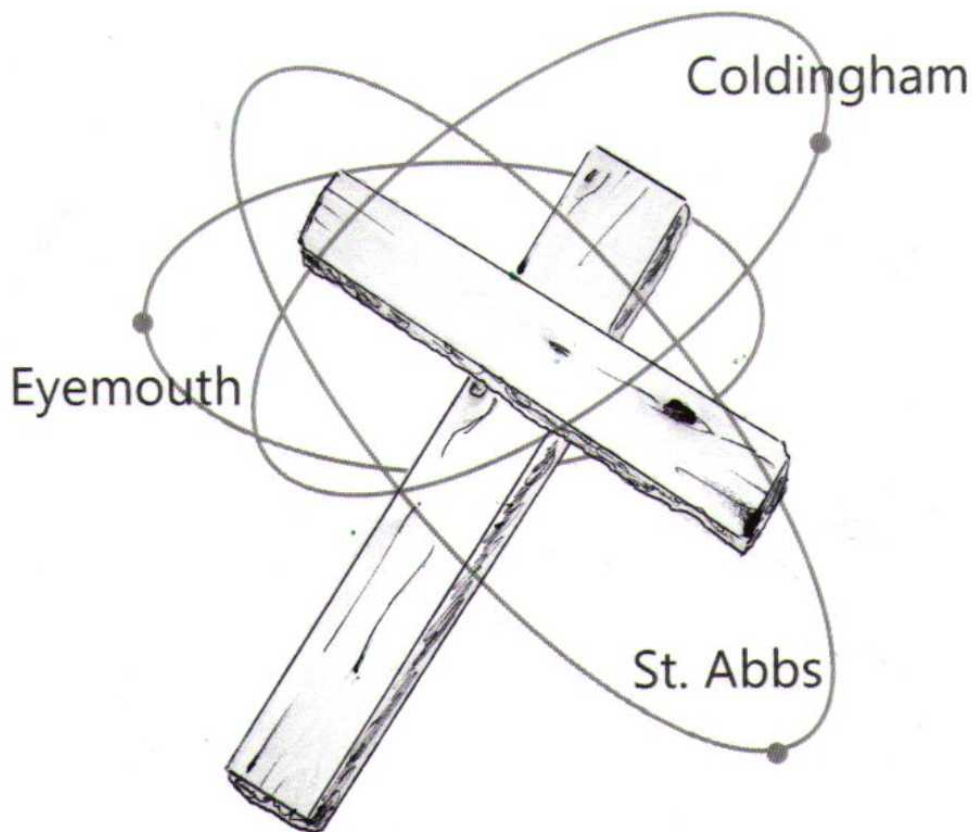


UNITED UPDATE

Easter/Pentecost 2025 Edition



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

What a God we have! And how fortunate we are to have him, this Father of our Master Jesus! Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we've been given a brand-new life and have everything to live for, including a future in heaven—and the future starts now!

1 Peter 1:3–5 (The Message Translation)

Fellowship, Friendship and Followers

“Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” Acts 2:46–47 (NIV UK)

Dear friends,

recently I've been thinking about the importance of what happens to the disciples after Jesus' resurrection, ascension and even after Pentecost. The disciples continued to meet together, continued to share life with one another as they awaited whatever was to come. I found myself focusing on the aftermath partly as we, Jesus' followers in the present time, don't have the benefit of living through Jesus' ministry or resurrection. Although Jesus did say to Thomas “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” (John 20:29) it doesn't always feel like we are as blessed being so far removed from these events that they have taken on a legendary quality, even mythical for certain folk.

Despite all this, I believe we can still meet with Jesus, the church is, after all, supposed to be the body of Christ. So when we meet the church we are meeting Jesus. Yet as I'm sure many of you have experienced the church as a whole doesn't always live up to this reputation! We've all experienced our fair share of squabbles, hurts and simply un-Christlike behaviour from our fellow church members. Yet hopefully amongst the church you have also experienced support, great friendship and some Christlike moments too. One person once challenged me to figure out what the plural of disciple is. Their answer, was that the plural of disciple is church!

Maybe the more we strive to be followers of Jesus, to be His disciple then the more the church will begin to reflect that Christlike nature and those who join us will be able to truly meet Christ.

May you have a blessed Easter and Pentecost.

Andy

supporting



Christian Aid Week 12th – 18th May

The focus for this year's Christian Aid Week is the country of Guatemala. Guatemala is suffering heatwaves and extreme weather as a result of climate change which is affecting indigenous people who rely on agriculture for

income as well as feeding their families

To raise money to contribute to the projects which Christian Aid is supporting the following events are planned.

Sunday 11th May – Soup and Sandwich lunch in Eyemouth Parish Church

Wednesday 14th May – Afternoon Tea in Coldingham Priory

Saturday 17th May – Coffee Morning EU Church.

Priory Live

On Tuesday 10th June Coldingham Priory will be buzzing with activity as all the children in P6 from Coldingham, Eyemouth, Cockburnspath, Ayton and Reston schools come to learn a bit about life in a 13th Century monastery. This is a joint venture with Berwickshire Christian Youth Trust.



On the day the children will learn something of what life was like for medieval monks. They will have the opportunity to take part in a range of activities which include bread making, script writing, music making, herb growing, bee keeping and pressing apples. They will also hear the same stories about Jesus that the monks would have been familiar with as well as learning about prayer which was such a feature of the monks' day. We are in need of some more people to help small groups of children get from one workshop to the next. If you are free that day and would be willing to help could you please speak to Andy, Marianne or Ishbel.

Simply a Follower

Over the past sixty years my admiration for ordinary Christians has grown and my doubts about Christianity have increased. Now I'm publishing a book about it. It is called 'Simply a Follower'.

There is no doubt that the world needs good people. Nothing else will do. Equally, there is no doubt that fewer and fewer people in this country of ours are interested in what churches have to offer.

Sixty years ago, a third of the adult population of Scotland were members of the Church of Scotland and many more reckoned they were affiliated. Now only 20% claim any connection. Almost everyone in our little town had an affiliation to a church; most bairns attended Sunday School. It was expected.

No more. The church is operating in a largely pagan society. To continue to try and 'sell' religion as the path to a good life won't work.

For a long time now, I have asked myself the question, 'What is Christian?' And decided that only persons are Christian. You can't stick the label on anything else. 'Christianity', especially, is not Christian.

Over the past few years, I've teased out this thinking on a website called onlychristians.co.uk. In addition, each month I have written a blog, or newsletter, explaining how we might go about living out our ordinary lives as Christians and demonstrating that the Jesus way does work in the rough and tumble of life.

However, I thought a book might be better for some folk. In the first part of 'Simply a Follower', I set out what I think about God and Christians. The chapters include, among others,: Knowing God; Jesus the Game-Changer; Christians Now; Lost in the Present Age and How to Read Bible.

Then I include some of the latest blogs and after that, non-religious prayers and talks. It will be available on Amazon shortly, but, should you want a copy, I'll get one to you.

Bryan Webster

Trinity

One and one and one I Am,
outside time and space,
Flowing, loving, Three in One
Dances through the cosmos.

Created mimics Creator
Proton cleaves to neutron
Spirit electron binds atoms,
Communion of matter.

All creation pours out love stream
Heaven is everywhere,
Open our eyes to the Kingdom,
So we can meet Him there.

Richard Bond, March 2025
After Rohr R. With Morrell M. 2016
'The Divine Dance', SPCK, London.

Communion Dates

EYEMOUTH

22nd June

26th October

COLDINGHAM

8th June

12th October

The Times They Are A-Changing

Back in January when the elders from both congregations gathered together one of the challenges I got them to begin thinking about is how we might change our service times (again!)

Currently we have services in both Eyemouth and Coldingham every week but at the same time. This has worked well over the last wee while due to having two ministers! However with the prospects improving of Jeliase finding a charge with more vacancies coming available, it is important that we start to think about the way forward when we are back to just having one minister available on a Sunday morning.

We have a number of options that the Kirk Sessions have begun to consider. We split these into two categories, those that rely on technology and those that don't. When we use the technology we would still have two services a month led by the minister, the other two services could be either with local folk leading the service and the sermon streamed from the other building, or doing that once a month and for the other service having a joint service alternating in venue each month, which would mean once every month there would be no service in one of the buildings one week.

Our non-technology reliant services would require a change of time. Suggested possibilities would be to move back to something similar to pre-COVID services, possibly 9.30am & 11am, or moving to something much later at one building, say 10.15am & 11.45am. Another option would be to have afternoon services such as 12.30pm or 2.30pm while the other building keeps the 10.30am service time.

Both Kirk Sessions are currently in favour of a non-technology reliant option and we hope to change to a new pattern at some point in the Summer so it would be very helpful to get feedback and your thoughts on all of this as soon as possible. Please speak to Andy or one of the elders to give your opinion.

Away Day to Holy Island, Saturday 3rd May

We are returning to the St Cuthbert Centre on Holy Island for our next Away Day. Scott Brennan, a local Christian artist and one of the guardians of the Community of Aidan & Hilda will be talking to us in the morning. Sign up sheets will be available in both Eyemouth and Coldingham churches or you can email jidorward@gmail.com. The numbers are needed so that we can cater for a simple lunch together.

Berwickshire Christian Youth Trust (BCYT)

BCYT employs 2 youth workers Mark and Stuart who visit almost all the schools in Berwickshire taking assemblies and RME (religious education) classes. In addition, Home Together which was started during lockdown with videos and craft activities for families continues with occasional events when the families come together for similar fun and stories in Whitsome.

A weekend camp for children in P5–7 is planned for the end of May at Scoughall near North Berwick. The camp gives children the opportunity to have fun together and to learn more about Jesus and what it means to follow him.

For children at high school a fortnightly group called Explore is run when they explore what the bible teaches about some of the issues facing young people today.

This work would not be possible without prayer and generous donations from people in the church. Unfortunately, the Trust is currently running with a monthly deficit. If you are in a position to give even a small amount monthly, this would make a difference. To find out more about the work of BCYT or to support it please speak to Marianne, Carrie or Ishbel

**Trust Me One Day At A Time Devotion (from Jesus Calling
18/03/25)
supplied by Jeanette Lindsay**

Trust me one day at a time

This keeps you close to Me responsive to my will.

Trust is not a natural response, especially for those who have been deeply wounded.

My spirit is within you is your resident is your Tutor, helping in your supernatural endeavour.

Yield to His gentle touch; be sensitive to His prompting.

Exert your will to trust Me in all your circumstances.

Don't let your need to understand distract. you from My Presence

I will equip you to get through this day victoriously as you live in deepest dependence on Me.

Tomorrow is busying about itself.; don't get tangled up in its worry-webs.

Trust me one day at a time.

Biblical References

Psalm 84:12;

1 Corinthians 6:19;

Jeremiah 17:7;

Matthew 6:34.

Easter Musings from Heather

I am part of Coldingham Art Clubs WhatsApp group and a few weeks ago our weekly theme was yellow. What should I choose, so many yellow things? Flowers– daffodils, buttercups, primroses, cowslips? Food – cheese, butter, lemons? I could not decide, and time was running out, I put my indecision down to anxiety over my own health issues and those of a close family member. Then I had a visit from a new carer who is a person of faith, we had a lovely chat and she was so understanding and reassuring that I felt my mood lift.

That afternoon the idea of a canary popped into my head and I painted this and wrote my customary haiku verse to accompany it.

this cheerful songbird
canary in a coal mine
living sacrifice.



The next day I was pondering this verse, and another thought came into my head. We could think of Jesus being like a ‘canary in a coal mine’, going ahead of us and sacrificing his own life to make a way back to God for us, that in the resurrection hope of Easter we may live.

Wishing you all the joy and hope of Easter.

Heather Johnston

Exploring the Bible happens on alternate Wednesday evenings in the Fellowship area of Eyemouth Parish Church. It provides an opportunity to explore a bible passage together, discuss its meaning and how it helps or challenges us as we live out our lives as Jesus followers.

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. Over the last year we have seen a small reduction in demand for food parcels, which can only be a good thing. The numbers for each month have remained fairly steady and in the first three months of the year the foodbank has delivered 61 food parcels feeding around 155 people.

DONATIONS NEEDED

**EYEMOUTH
FOOD BANK**



The two biggest needs for the foodbank is volunteers to help with organising the foodstore and for money to pay for the fresh produce that goes into each parcel. If you can help please speak to Andy. Do remember to continue to collect food and your donations can be dropped off on a Sunday for the foodbank. Once again, if you would be interested in helping out with food parcel deliveries, 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)

PUZZLE PAGE

The road to Emmaus, read about it in the Bible in Luke Chapter 24 verses 13–35

Sadly they told
the traveller all about Jesus
of Nazareth, and how he had
been put to death

Use the code to see who the traveller
was and what he talked about

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	
H	I	O	R	X	E	K	H
J	C	A	L	N	P	D	I
M	T	B	U	S	F	W	J

A,I F,H E,J D,J E,J F,H E,H F,I D,I C,I B,H E,I F,H G,I

C,I D,I D,I B,J A,H F,H

E,J B,I D,H B,H F,I B,J D,J D,H F,H E,J

C,I C,J C,H D,J B,J A,H B,H A,J E,J F,H D,I F,J

Directory

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Regular Events

Weekly

Sundays	Morning Worship, Eyemouth, 10.30am
	Morning Worship, Coldingham, 10.30am
Mondays	Busy Bees, Coldingham, 9–10.30am
Tuesdays	Prayer time on ZOOM, 9am
	Busy Bees, Eyemouth, 10.30am–12noon
Thursdays	Prayer Time, Eyemouth, 9.00–9.30am
Fridays	Tea & Toast, Eyemouth, 9.30–10.30am
	Busy Bees, Eyemouth, 10.30am–12noon

Monthly

1 st Saturday	Prayer Breakfast, Eyemouth, 8.30am
1 st Sunday	GodSpace, Eyemouth, 4–5.30pm
3 rd Saturday	Prayer Time, Coldingham, 9am
Last Sunday	Evening Worship, Eyemouth, 6.30pm