

UNITED UPDATE AUTUMN 2021



“Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few”

Matthew 9.37

Jesus, Breaking the Mould

Dear friends,

Sometimes I think we have a very odd view of Jesus. We maybe picture him as the bearded, long blonde hair, and blue eyed version that we see on TV, in sketch shows and some art work. But it is fascinating as you begin to look a little wider at all the differing representations of Jesus in art from across the world. It makes sense to remember that as humans we do like to make Jesus a relatable figure for us, so that does mean we tend to be drawn to images that depict him in a similar way to us. Yet of course the reality is that Jesus was middle eastern of Jewish descent and so the image that was reconstructed back in 2002 by some forensic anthropologists seems far away from what we might be used to.

Yet it's not just the physical image of Jesus that at times seems at odds with what we imagine, what the Bible has to say about him can seem very different from what we at times imagine Jesus to be like. The image that we get from the world around us is that Jesus seems to be a meek and mild teacher who cared for people. Yet some of the interactions paint a very different picture. In the early chapters of Mark's gospel we see a picture of a Jesus who hung around with the wrong kind of people "When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the sinners and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: 'Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?'" (Mark 2:16) They got upset with his approach to fasting, "How is it that John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees are fasting, but yours are not?" (Mark 2:18b) accused him of breaking the sabbath laws, "Look, why are they doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?" (Mark 2:24) and his own family accused him of being insane, "When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, 'He is out of his mind.'" (Mark 3:21) not to mention the Pharisees accusing him of being possessed by the devil "He is possessed by Beelzebul! By the prince of demons he is driving out demons." (Mark 3:22).

In this we see a picture of Jesus who was a rebel, who broke the rules, who others thought was beyond the pale. Yet Jesus was really showing us a new way to live, breaking the mould of how the world calls us to live and living, as one writer puts it, "questionable lives!" Do we live lives like that? Lives that get folk asking questions, simple questions, like "why are you like that?", a simple question with a simple answer, "I'm a follower of Jesus, and this is what he was like!" If we could show those around us what Jesus was truly like maybe we could change the world in the process.

God bless, Andy

Priory Young People

With the Priory closed for face-to-face worship for several months during lockdown and social distancing and number restriction in place as live worship started up again, The Priory Sunday Club had not met since March 2020. We still engaged with our young people and their families through Zoom services and through making up activity packs which were delivered to doors, but lockdown had given us a period of reflection and thinking about how to do things differently going forward.

We decided to organise a Friday afternoon picnic and games in the Priory Garden for the children and their families. Word spread about the gathering and the response was quite wonderful. On Friday 3rd September, had you been passing by the Priory, you would have seen 26 children and 13 adults enjoying a treasure hunt, bible story and songs and lots of fun games. Our theme was water, and the story was 'The Woman at the Well'.

There was such a positive atmosphere during the event and families were so grateful to be gathered in such a special place to enjoy social time and refreshments. We used the gathered numbers to fill in questionnaires because we believe it is vitally important to listen to what the families are telling us about involvement with the church community.

The results of the questionnaire were very positive, and everyone said that they would like more of this type of event and that Friday afternoons are most suitable. We are therefore planning our next Family Picnic for Friday 12th November and the theme will be 'Caring for our World'. The story will be Noah's Ark.

Thanks go to Carol Campbell and Mary Wilson for refreshments and home baking and to George Prentice for putting up the gazebos. Thanks also to Andy and Jeliase for coming to help with the music and to Kath Roberts for help with setting up and during the afternoon.

Kath & team

UCB Word for Today - Thoughts on giving

God doesn't want your generosity to be restricted by fear. Either you'll trust Him financially and experience the joy of participating in His purposes on earth, or trust your own earning ability and live with anxiety. The danger of not moving to a higher level of giving is that you can miss out on something great that God wants to do for you and through you.

Count on it; at some point He'll challenge you to give more than you've ever given before. And at that moment your faith will cause you to say yes, or your fear will cause you to dismiss it as impractical. That's a pivotal point in your life, because your response to God's challenge will determine your future.

Some levels of giving are effortless, while others make us uneasy. Sooner or later we all hit a wall called fear, and unless you recognise it you'll never be able to break through it. As a result you'll live with less than God intends you to enjoy. What's the solution? Change your concept of ownership! Adolphe Monod said, 'There's no portion of money that is our money and the rest God's...It's all His; He made it all, gives it all, and has entrusted it to us for His service.' If you believe that, there's no reason not to give.

However, getting God involved in your finances means surrendering control of your money to Him. And that can be scary. Jesus' model for generosity was a widow who gave her last penny, without having anything to fall back on except God's promise to meet her needs.

When you reach that point, you're on the threshold of the miraculous.



Foodbank

August – 29 parcels – (feeding 73 people) Split: 34% singles /21% couples /45% families

July – 34 parcels – (feeding 69 people) Split: 32% singles /50% couples /18% families

June – 41 parcels – (feeding 64 people) Split: 54% singles /34% couples /12% families

Demand on the foodbank continues to be fairly steady. 323 food parcels have been sent out this year with an increase of families needing them in August meaning that while the actual parcels are less in number the number of people fed has increased. As we move into the Autumn and Winter we may see an increase with the ongoing changes in energy prices, universal credit and the removal of some support for businesses may see folk unexpectedly needing support. As always can we take a moment to thank you all for the generosity and effort that you continue to show and display for the cause of feeding the poor and for this Foodbank.

There is no question that the delivered food parcels provide a great source of help, encouragement and support. It's not unusual for a food parcel to be described as a 'life saver', as they can really help people get back on their feet. The foodbank clients are most grateful for the care shown to them and that somebody somewhere is thinking about them and their needs.

If you would be interested in helping out with food parcel deliveries, or organising the collected food at 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).

Finance Update from Eyemouth Parish Church Finance Team

As the new finance team settle into the day to day running of the accounts the Congregational Board have been grateful for the detailed income and expenditure breakdowns for the year to date provided at their meetings, so it would seem to be worth sharing some of the figures in the newsletter.

Giving by standing order and through the free will envelopes is up from £16,733.30 to the end of August last year to £18,650 this year up to the end of August. Sunday offerings (not including those who put their envelopes in the plate) are down, but that's no surprise as Sunday services are not as well attended as they were prior to the pandemic (from £927.30 to £563 in 2021). Rental of the premises is also down, in part due to the hall being closed and compared to when it was open in 2020, not nearly as busy (from £1475 in 2020 down to £696 in 2021). Also we have raised £30.46 via Amazon Smile and Easyfund-raising so far this year, details of how to do this (at no cost to you) are on the next page.

As you can see the majority of our income comes from those giving by standing order and free will envelopes. If you would like more information about how to do either of these things please speak to anyone on the Finance Team. Overall however our income is down, but this is mainly due to fact we are still awaiting Gift Aid from the last tax year which would when it arrives should put us well ahead of where we were this time last year. Tax recovered from Gift Aid is also an important part of our income, so please make sure you have signed a gift aid declaration no matter how much tax you pay we can claim back money from the government on each donation you make.

Expenses have also reduced this year with the main reason being how much we pay to the central church - reduced from £15,860 to £12,652 so far this year. If you have any questions about the finances or would like more information about where all your money goes then please don't hesitate to ask a member of the Finance Team, who, if they don't know the answer, will know someone who does!

*Eyemouth Parish Church Finance Team
Sandra Anderson, Dixie Scott & Julie McFarlane*

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!

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. 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!

Priory Gift Day

In keeping with the Church of Scotland 'National Giving Day' campaign, we are reviving our Gift Day.

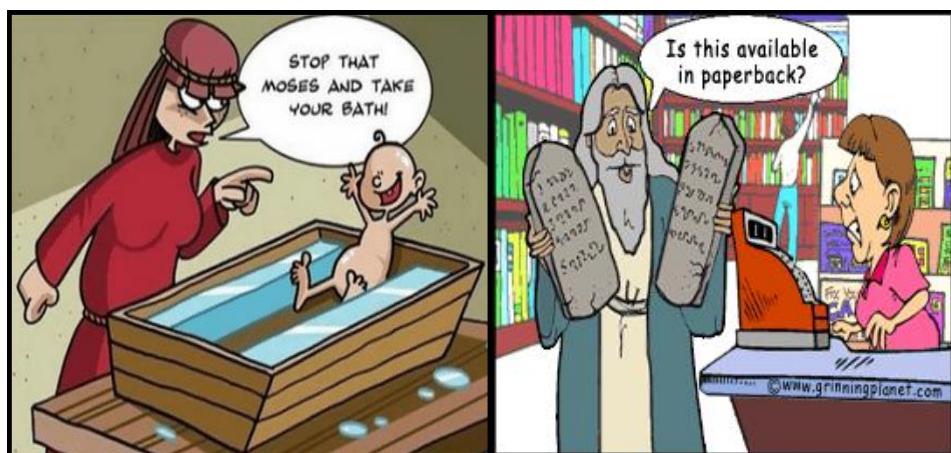
This takes place on Saturday 9th October, 10.00 to 12.00. There will be refreshments available, and Elders present along with the Minister to chat to visitors. There will also be a sale of pictures for Church funds.

Our last Gift Day focussed on the now complete Stonework Project. With the Parish's own fabric funds completely exhausted we are appealing to the Congregation and the broader Coldingham & St Abbs community to help replenish Church funds after this period of Covid-driven depletion in giving.

The Church contributes to the broader community not only by sustaining Christian worship in Coldingham Priory; it also reaches out to bring people into the Church family and to help people in need. We operate a Benevolent Fund, principally used to help individuals in particular need. This fund is not available, however, for the ordinary expenses of running Parish affairs or maintaining the Priory building.

I can assure you of a warm welcome on the 9th.

David Campbell, Treasurer



Harvest Thanksgiving

Once again, we will be having a collection for Christian Aid's Harvest Appeal. This year's appeal is to help women in Malawi come together to form small businesses that can help them generate an income to support their families.

In Malawi, women are struggling in the face of the climate crisis. Extreme weather is affecting crops; cyclones have destroyed homes; floods have washed away livestock. The climate crisis is pushing them deeper into poverty. In the aftermath of floods, they have lost nearly everything. Food is scarce and there is no money to educate their children.

Donation envelopes are available in the vestibule of the church in Eyemouth or you can give online at <https://www.christianaid.org.uk>

Items for the foodbank would also be appreciated.

Prayer Breakfast

This has now restarted on the first Saturday of the month at 8.30am in the church hall in Eyemouth. It's an opportunity to gather with others to pray for our congregations and community. The more people who come, the more concerns and situations for which we can pray.

Ishbel

Eyemouth Guild

The Guild is organising a coffee morning on Saturday 16th October in the Church hall from 10.30 to noon. It is in aid of one of the projects which the Guild has been supporting over the last three years - 'The Free to Live Trust'. There will be a raffle. Cost is £3 for coffee and a scone.

Margaret

BCYT

We ended last term with a face-to-face event! After the restrictions of the previous two terms, we were delighted to have been invited to contribute to Chirnside Primary School's end of term assembly. This was held out-of-doors and became a Leavers Service as we worked with Mike Taylor of the Parish Church to explore the idea of a relay race as a metaphor for the ongoing process of life and learning. We provided some inspirational readings delivered by members of P7, one of which was inserted into a relay baton and presented to each member of P7. Our message included the encouragement to "run with perseverance the race marked out for us" (Hebrews 12.1) and Paul's determination to "press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3.14) Mark led some singing (including One More Step) and Mike prayed a powerful blessing for the P7s, the whole school community, the staff and the new head teacher.

Near the beginning of the school holidays BCYT worked with Ayton and District Churches to run an outdoor two-mornings event in the grounds of Ayton Church and the adjacent woodland around Ayton Castle. "Wild Things" is a holiday club written by BCYT that explores the life of David.

At the end of the same week BCYT & Southview Church ran a similar two-mornings event in the woodland attached to Chirnside Primary School. About 15 children attended each of these, and some families attended Southview's follow-up service in the school playground on the Sunday following the Holiday Club. Teams, children and their families were positive about these events. Mark has compiled a video summary which you can find here: <https://youtu.be/ZVKHri-rWLE> Towards the end of the school holidays, Mark assisted with another outdoor Holiday Club – Eyemouth Parish's "Jungle Adventure" - a Holiday Club devised by SU to be used across Scotland in the light of Covid restrictions.

Our video contribution to SU's Back to School with God resource pack has been widely seen across Scotland, and we have received some encouraging feedback. It can be viewed here: <https://vimeo.com/551995601/c391a876eb>



Unfortunately we are still not able to work on school premises, so we aim to continue putting together video assemblies for schools to use in individual classrooms, along with some resources for classroom use. We look forward to being able to work more directly in schools as soon as that becomes possible.

We have a stand at the BAVS About Berwickshire Family Fair in September, where we aim to promote Home Together. The next episode will be available at the end of September, with further monthly instalments leading up to Christmas. Please contact bcyt.mark@gmail.com for further details.

For older pupils, Explore recently met in person again, and we hope to be able to continue with regular meetings this term. Please contact Mark, or direct any interested young people to his email address. For further details of all our other activities, or to join our mailing list to receive a copy of our next quarterly newsletter, which will also contain links to all of our videos, please contact bcyt.stuart@gmail.com

Stuart Otley, BCYT p/t admin and Children's Worker.



What could stand against me, since one person, with God, constitutes the majority.

Maya Angelou

Creation Kind

The Creation Kind eco group has been encouraging local people to join in with the Stitches For Survival craft project. We managed to send 6 banners to Glasgow from Berwickshire and another 60 from the rest of the Borders. A group of women from the Bogan were especially inspired and would like to do more. We also displayed the panels on Coldingham beach and had discussions with passers-by regarding the Climate Emergency and COP26.

Eleven local Climate Activists joined in with the Global protest organised by the young people's Friday For Future movement. In support of Greta Thunberg, the group highlighted the need for leaders and governmental decision makers to put Words into Action. Fast action is required to keep global temperature rises below a 1.5°C increase. Anything higher than that would be catastrophic for the climate and biodiversity.

On Coldingham beach the group displayed the six banners that were made in Berwickshire for the COP26 project called Stitches For Survival. The banners will be exhibited in Glasgow during this important Climate Conference in November, in the hope of encouraging leaders to make bold decisions and commitments to safeguard life on this planet.

A big thank you to our sewers & knitters and to all those that turned up during the beach protest.

Creation Kind - East Berwickshire.

Els Nicol



Summer to Autumn

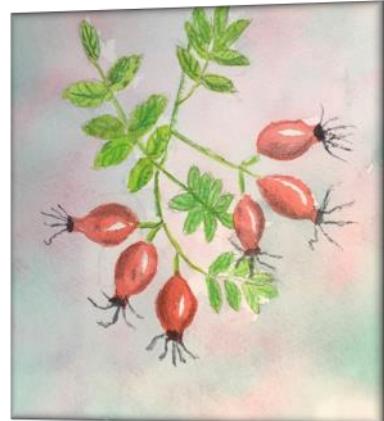
Our glorious summer is coming to an end and I have to be honest; Autumn has never been my favourite season. However I am learning to appreciate its beauty especially through the mediums of painting and creative writing. Remembering also the words from the Bible in Ecclesiastes Chapter 3:1....

‘For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven’



wild geese returning
cry, flying in V formation,
celtic holy spirit.

vibrant rose hips
seed bearer of summer blooms
vitamin C source



Heather

Participating in a Meeting

Show up.

If you're scheduled to go to a meeting, make every attempt to get there.

Show up on time.

Get there five minutes early. If you're late, don't make excuses. Just apologise and sit down. If you are habitually late, figure out why.

If you have to leave early, let people know up front.

Then leave quietly when you must.

Come prepared.

If you are on the agenda or need to read or prepare something for the meeting, do it.

Don't talk to just talk.

It's a meeting, not lunch! Don't just say everything that's on your mind. Before you say something in a meeting ask yourself "Does it add value to the conversation?" If not, don't say it.

Don't drag on and on.

Follow the "One-minute rule." Unless you are presenting or setting up the discussion, once you talk more than a minute it's too long. If you tend to be a long talker, start timing yourself.

Listen to others.

Don't be the person who sits on the edge of their seat just waiting for an opening to say what they want to say.

Don't cut people off.

Ok, sometimes you need to in order to get into the conversation, but at least let the other person finish their thought.

Watch your body language.

Most of our communication comes from the way we posture. Don't make faces, roll your eyes, cross your arms, slouch in your chair, unless you want to send the message that you are extremely disinterested.

Don't be rude.

Don't make snide comments, be sarcastic, pound the table, or point fingers.

Recognise peoples' efforts.

If you like what someone said or did, tell them. Everyone loves getting recognised in front of their peers.

Sir Walter Raleigh was continually submitting requests to Queen Elizabeth on behalf of convicts. Once the Queen said to him, “Sir Walter, when will you stop being a beggar?”

“When Your Majesty ceases to be a giver,” was the wise answer.

Oh, how wonderful it is to know that God is the inexhaustible source of blessings!

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning” (James 1:17).

Love that goes upward is worship;
Love that goes outward is affection;
Love that stoops is grace.



Donald Barnhouse



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AUTUMN



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apples	colorful	frost	pumpkin	squash
autumn	cozy	harvest	quilt	squirrel
birds	crow	hayride	rake	sunflower
blanket	deciduous	jacket	rustling	sweater
bonfire	equinox	leaves	scarecrow	trees
changing	flannel	migrate	season	vegetables
cider	foliage	orchards	spider	wheelbarrow

