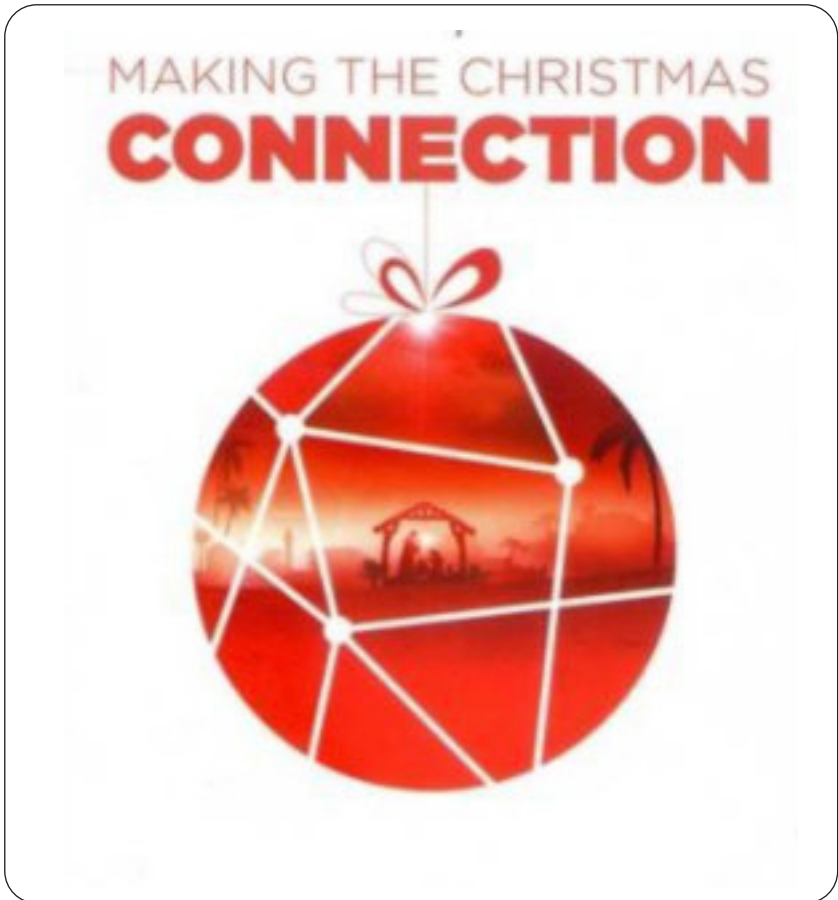


The Hird

News for Ashkirk, Ettrick & Yarrow and Selkirk Parish Churches

December 2022

Websites: ettrickandyarrow.church selkirkparish.church
sites.google.com/site/ashkirkparishchurch



Interim Moderator: Rev. George Shand

Tel: 07765 987163 Email: georgeshand@live.co.uk

Selkirk SC 014883 Ashkirk SC 010768 Ettrick & Yarrow SC 034662

Notes from Selkirk Kirk Session and Congregational Board

From the **September joint meeting:**

- The treasurer gave a financial update and expressed her concern at the ongoing monthly deficit in the general fund. (see page 18).
- Repairs and maintenance of the Loanside manse are ongoing. The windows have been replaced and soffits made safe. The kitchen is to be refitted and planning is already underway for this.
- The possibility of selling the plot of land opposite the manse is being explored.
- A few volunteers have been weeding and tidying at the church and manse, meeting weekly over the summer. More help would be appreciated. A suggestion has been made that people might like to adopt a small area of the church grounds to maintain.
- Presbytery has given permission to replace a couple of the side pews with moveable chairs to allow more flexibility and better access.
- Rev. Norman Smith has been appointed Presbytery clerk for the new Lothian and Borders Presbytery which comes into being in January 2023.
- Sunday services will continue at 9.30 am to allow the minister also to lead worship in Ettrick and Yarrow. It was agreed to hold some services in the hall over the winter months to save energy costs.
- The Pop-up shop in September raised £1000 for church funds.

From the **November meeting of the Kirk Session:**

- The proposed Presbytery plan was discussed at some length and members were invited to attend Presbytery on 16th November.
- The plans for the development of the buildings will be available to the congregation in January. It was noted that the Presbytery mission plan emphasised planning for growth and vibrant, flexible ecclesiastical buildings for 21st century worship and community activity. These phrases chimed with the vision of the group which has been exploring possibilities for our premises.
- Reports were received from the Foodbank, Churches Together, the Eco-Congregation group and Heather Carroll, our pastoral assistant.

Selkirk Parish Church Christmas Card



The Selkirk Parish Church Christmas card is in the Meeting House throughout December. If you wish, you can sign the card and make a donation to Shelter, instead of giving lots of cards to church friends whom you see every week: an opportunity to share Christmas greetings, support homeless people and save paper! Whether or not you participate, take a look towards the end of December and read the lovely greetings, meant for all our church family.

From our Locum Minister

November 2022

Dear Friends,

Christmas is coming! And you may be looking forward to some surprises.

The Christmas story is full of surprises. Mary was surprised, Joseph was surprised, the shepherds were surprised, the wise men were surprised, King Herod was surprised, the animals in the stable were surprised.



And the surprises continued as Jesus grew up. At the age of twelve, Jesus surprised the teachers of the Law in the Temple. He surprised those in the Synagogue with His teaching. He surprised Andrew and Peter when He asked them to follow Him.

He surprised over 5,000 people when He fed them with only two small fish and five loaves of bread. He surprised those who listened as He told them the stories of the Prodigal Son, the Good Samaritan and others.

He surprised His disciples when they saw Him walking on the water and when He calmed the sea. He surprised those who came to Him for healing and all who witnessed His amazing miracles. And the greatest surprise of all was when He rose from the dead on Easter Sunday morning!

Today, Jesus continues to surprise all those who believe in Him and follow Him as He helps us through life - as He strengthens and encourages us, comforts us and guides us from within.

Perhaps we shouldn't be surprised, because as the angel Gabriel said to Mary: "There is nothing that God cannot do!" But we rejoice that He is 'the God of surprises!'

May He continue to surprise each one of us this Christmas and each day of our lives.

Christmas blessings,
Scott

Different voices, fresh perspectives

At Selkirk Parish Church we have been fortunate, following Margaret's retirement, to have Scott, Geoff and George lead us from the front. It has been refreshing to hear their different voices and insights into the Christian life. Thank you, gentlemen!! Only last Sunday, it was also good to hear 4 contrasting voices on the subject of "hope".

Café Church has also been a great place for hearing new voices, both from the folk at the front and from those seated beside you around the table. Apart from the learning that goes on, there is a real sense of community and shared affection which strengthens our church family.

This leads me to think that there is an important reservoir of spiritual insight and understanding which we are yet to tap into fully here in Selkirk Parish Church. That reservoir is of course, all of us!! We have all had times in our lives when God has clearly touched us, or something has suddenly "clicked into place", or an important prayer has been answered, or we have been surprised by joy or helped through difficult times. These are stories worth sharing.

Now I am not proposing a sudden rush to the pulpit, but I do believe we should create more opportunities for mutual encouragement, talking about times when God has shown us something, or blessed us in a special way. It might be as simple as a sudden, unexpected wonder at the beauty of the world, or something learnt over many years. According to my concordance, the command to encourage one another, or to be encouraged, occurs 46 times in the New Testament. It must be good for us: we ought to do it. Of course, encouragement is two-way: there are listeners and speakers; we need to do both.

One such opportunity is right here, in The Hird. ***Different Voices*** will hopefully become a regular feature of our church magazine: a place where anyone can write down something to benefit the entire congregation. It can be a few words or a slightly longer piece: (but please, nothing requiring chapter headings!)

Different Voices can also be a place where you express your thoughts about the changes we are facing as a church. It is important that differences in opinion and aspiration are aired openly, so that we can hear the views of others and navigate these changes in a spirit of mutual respect and love as we prayerfully seek God's guidance.

So please be courageous and get your pens out, (or rather, start tapping your keyboards). We would love to hear from you. To get you started, here is something I have shared before with Amy's cafe church in Durham (see facing page).

Rod Ward

Fresh Perspectives



If I had to choose just one favourite verse from the Bible, I think it would be John 1 verse 5, which the RSV renders as “*the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it*”.

Light really interests me. Have you noticed how, on a dark night, your own headlights pierce the gloom for maybe 50 yards, but an approaching car’s headlights are visible miles away? Why is that? Is this a metaphor for life, (don’t follow your own nose, but let scripture guide you)?

Also, we all know that more stars are revealed the darker it gets. Is there a helpful metaphor there as well?

But I want to share something else. We sometimes think of light and dark as opposites, but that is not correct. When I was younger, I regularly went caving. Once underground, the blackness would be absolutely impenetrable; it almost had substance, but the moment I switched on my head torch the darkness vanished: destroyed by the brightness of my light.

But the opposite is not true. Nobody in a brightly lit room can turn on “the darkness switch”; there is no such thing of course. Darkness is not some separate entity that can be turned on and off: darkness is just an absence - an absence of light.

In Thessalonians 2:8, Paul writes that Jesus will destroy the powers of darkness merely “*by the brightness of his coming*”.(AV). When the Light of the World returns, all that is dark will vanish, no matter how bleak life has become or how powerful the forces of destruction have grown.

The light shines in the darkness and the darkness **cannot** overcome it, because the light is eternal.

So I love this verse: it gives me hope about myself - the darkness that still remains in me will one day disappear - and hope for the world. Brilliant!!

I wonder: do you have a favourite verse you would like to share? Then please do.

Rod Ward

Come And Meet Each Other at CAMEO

The CAMEO group has had an enjoyable start and attendances have been good. We had two gentlemen at our last meeting and we would be delighted to have more.

Our next meeting will be a talk from Viv Ross about the Haining, on November 24. Our December meetings are gearing towards Christmas with a visit from Knowepark school on December 8 and our Christmas party on December 15 when The Golden Girls will entertain us. Our first meeting in the New Year will be on January 12 when Sue Briggs will tell us about the General Store.

We are always delighted to welcome new members. Our meetings start at 2pm. Please bring your own cup and teaspoon. The cost is £2 per meeting and we supply tea and biscuits.

We send our best wishes to
all for a Happy Christmas.

Marjorie Lawrie



**CHRISTMAS IS COMING!
JOIN AN ADVENT GROUP.**

Take a moment.
Share a cuppa.
Reflect together.
All are welcome.

Advent groups
Fridays at 10am on 25 Nov.,
2, 9 & 16 Dec. in church hall
Sundays at 7pm on 27 Nov.,
4, 11 & 18 Dec. at 5 Marion Crescent

PIC•COLLAGE



Worship in the Valleys

It's hard to believe that nearly a year has passed since I first contributed to The Hird! We have enjoyed worshipping with everyone in Selkirk, getting to know each other over coffee and physically putting a name to a face we have seen on zoom/YouTube. We have been delighted and encouraged to have Ashkirk and Selkirk congregations coming to worship with us. We had our last service in Ettrick church last month which was also our Harvest Thanksgiving. We only worship in Ettrick church April - October, due to the inclement winter weather, especially so far up the Valley. However, Ettrick Church is open for private prayer and reflection on the 3rd Thursday of each month between 2pm - 3pm until April. Services now alternate between Kirkhope and Yarrow until April 2023, at 11.30am.

December is a busy time in our Church year with our annual Bereavement Service on Thursday 15th December at Kirkhope Church at 2pm. This service is open to anyone who has lost a loved one whether recently or not and would like to seek comfort, a bit of quietness/stillness and listen to some comforting words and music. We have coffee and cake after this short remembrance service.

On Friday 23rd December, we meet at 6pm outside Kirkhope church for our Carol Singing. We walk/sing our way around Ettrickbridge for approximately 1 1/2 hours (we are weather dependent!) with people joining in and dropping off as and when. This is a much loved part of our community outreach and we extend this invitation to all in our Church community - it is very light hearted and you definitely don't have to be a chorister!! A Christmassy/topical hat and a torch is all you require.

On Christmas Eve, we have our Christingle Service which is an all ages interactive service (think Blue Peter "Here's one I made earlier"). It's held in Kirkhope Church at 6pm. Again we extend a very warm welcome to all, especially the young. What better way to celebrate Christmas than a meaningful service with young ones?

Wishing everyone in our church family peace and hope at Christmas and the New Year.

Susan White

A Service of Remembering 2022

Christmas is for most people a happy time with pictures showing happy smiling faces, laughter and merriment. However, for many (and perhaps more than we imagine) Christmas can be a very painful, sad and difficult time. Illness, bereavement, sad memories and loneliness can make this time very difficult to face and get through. The difficulties experienced facing Christmas can be in the year immediately after loss and sad memories, or indeed for many years to come.

With this in mind, in Selkirk Parish Church we will be holding a special “Service of Remembering” on **Sunday 11th December at 3pm** where we can quietly remember both individually and together. The short service will begin and end with quiet reflection, there will be hymns, not carols and some readings and prayers. Tea and coffee will be served in the Hall afterwards, though some people may prefer to just leave quietly after the service. There will be the opportunity to have the names of loved ones read out during the service in remembrance of them.

A list will be in the Meeting House and in the Hall from the beginning of December for names of loved ones from recent or past times to be added, so the name/s can be read out during the service.

If you would like a name read out in memory but don't wish to attend that is perfectly acceptable. Please feel free to phone Fiona Corbett Joint Session Clerk (22687) or Heather Carroll, Pastoral Assistant (62240) and arrange for this or indeed to clarify anything about the service.



With kind regards and every blessing, Katrina Smith

Selkirk Advent Calendar

There's no denying that the weather is getting colder and we are now approaching the season of Advent. We will be putting out the Advent Calendar on 27th November. This is an advent calendar with a difference - we put gifts into it!



If you wish to participate in our long-established tradition of providing small gifts for those who find themselves in the Borders General Hospital over Christmas, we welcome your contributions. Gifts should be non-edible, no candles or tea-lights, gift wrapped and, if gender specific, labelled for male or female. The last day for receiving donations will be Sunday 18th December. Santa and her elves always enjoy distributing these gifts on our behalf!

Pauline Davidson

(NB: another opportunity for giving on 4th December for children and teens)

Ashkirk News



Ashkirk Parish Church is a very historic landmark in the area between Selkirk and Hawick, seen from both the A7 and from the road to Robertson. A familiar landmark within our county's landscape, reminding us of the church where generations of families gathered to worship, where weddings, baptisms and funerals were conducted, and harvest, Easter and Christmas were celebrated.

Today, the church has become less and less of a focus for many – a distant memory, a connection with the past; the myriad of graves surrounding the church speaks of the history of so many local families. Yet churches must change and provide the faith and hope for the future.

As you may be aware, Ashkirk has made the painful decision to close for services during the winter months though it is still open for private prayer and meditation on each Sunday between 11.45 and 12.30. I also need to inform you that discussions about the future of the church will likely begin shortly following the approval of the Melrose and Peebles Mission Plan. I will keep you updated about this.

A further change is that the Presbytery of Melrose and Peebles will cease to exist on 1st January 2023 and will be replaced by the Presbytery of Lothian and the Borders. This will incorporate the current presbyteries of Lothian, Duns, Jedburgh, Melrose and Peebles. Kirk Sessions are all aware of this development but we can expect further changes to be agreed.

Thank you for all your support; please contact me if you have any questions or queries. Also, should you become aware of any church members or attenders who are unwell or who are struggling at home and who would appreciate a visit, please let me know asap.

Fan Heafield (07827 927715)

(From Editor: of course, while Ashkirk building may be closed over the winter, people are most welcome to worship at one of the other churches in the cluster. We are here to support each other.)

*The light of the Christmas star to you,
The warmth of home and hearth to you,
The cheer and good will of friends to you,
The hope of a childlike heart to you,
The joy of a thousand angels to you,
The love of the Son,
And God's peace to you.*

Celebrate Christmas with Selkirk Parish Church



During Advent

We bring gifts to fill the Advent Calendar for patients in BGH (see page 6)

Advent groups start Fri. 25 November.



1st week in Advent

Sunday	27 Nov.	9.30 am	Communion Service
Wed.	30 Nov.	11 am	Communion Service
Friday	2 Dec.	10 am	Advent Group



2nd week in Advent

Sunday	4 Dec.	9.30 am	Gift Service
Gifts for children and teens, wrapping paper separate			
		7 pm	Advent Group
Wed.	7 Dec.	11 am	Wednesday Worship
Friday	9 Dec.	10 am	Advent Group



3rd week in Advent

Sunday	11 Dec.	9.30 am	With Selkirk Silver Band
		3 pm	Service of Remembering
		7 pm	Advent Group
Wed.	14 Dec.	11 am	Wednesday Worship
Thursday	15 Dec.	2 pm	Cameo Christmas Party
Friday	16 Dec.	10 am	Advent Group



4th week in Advent

Sunday	18 Dec.	9.30 am	Family friendly with Christmas choir
		7 pm	Advent Group
Monday	19 Dec.	10 - 2 pm	Christmas at Open Door
Wed.	21 Dec.	11 am	Wednesday Worship
Sat.	24 Dec.	6 pm	Christingle service, Kirkhope Church, Ettrickbridge
		7.30 pm	Carol-singing, Market Place
Sunday	25 Dec.	9.30 am	Christmas Day Family Service
		2.30 pm	Christmas Lunch (see below)



Christmas Day lunch, 2.30 - 5.30 pm

In the past, pre-Covid, we had a lovely Christmas celebration in the Parish Church Hall on 25th December and we are delighted to be able to return in person again this year. Nibbles and drinks were served as folks were welcomed and a delicious traditional festive meal with all the trimmings was enjoyed by all who might otherwise have been on their own or stuck in front of the TV.

Why not join us this year? We can cook for 40 and are happy to cater for special diets (please let us know in advance) and smaller portions, if that's your preference. If you know of someone else who might enjoy company and some musical entertainment, invite them to come with you.

We look forward to hearing from you. To book please call the church office (01750 20078), ask at Open Door, or speak to one of us.

This year again we are suggesting that you pay what you can between £5 and £10.

BYOB if you enjoy a glass of wine or something special.



Myra Ward and Fiona Corbett



A Warm Space at St John's

On Friday afternoon (4 Nov), I wandered down to visit our friends in the Episcopal Church to try out the new initiative that they have launched, to provide a warm space for people to meet to-gether in a warm, welcoming place. Tables and chairs are spread over a wide area with lots of space for moving around. There were plenty of newspapers to read, lots of games - Jenga, Scrabble and dominoes are some that I remember seeing; hot drinks and an excellent selection of biscuits (and Tunnocks tea cakes!); and people to talk to if you want to chat. Christine and David were hosting the session. Unfortunately, just about 13:50, as I was getting ready to set off, the rain started. This may have put other people off, as I was the only other person present. However, I spent a lovely afternoon chatting about lots of topics and I encourage anyone to pay them a visit between 14:00 and 17:30 on Fridays. A warm welcome awaits you.

Pauline Davidson



Sales of **Christmas Cards** from **Traidcraft** (in aid of Christian Aid, and others helping the world's poorest communities) amounted to £271.66. Thank you very much to all who bought cards. The selection offered good quality, colourful cards, with many portraying a part of the Christmas story, something that is increasingly difficult to find in shops.

Traidcraft, the leading fair trade company in the UK, continues to sell a wide range of goodies from everyday items to gifts for special occasions. Here is a link to the shop for you to browse through if you are interested and have access to it. <https://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk/> Paper catalogues can also be ordered.

If you would like to add your name to an email list of regular buyers please let me know. An invitation to place orders is sent out about 4 or 5 times a year, or more if there is a demand. An order of £75 means we don't pay postage so it is good to act as a group. I am happy to deliver to you.

As a Fairtrade church, we want to maintain our commitment to the world's poor through what we choose to buy. Many of these countries are also struggling with extreme climate change.

Every order ensures that our global neighbours can survive and have a more secure future.

Myra Ward
myraward@gmail.com or 01750 22867



A Warm Space at Open Door

We are all very well aware of the increase in our heating bills. Are you wearing extra jumpers and have you turned your heating down or off more often than you did last year? Even if some of us can afford the increases, we know that using our heating less is good for our planet. Who amongst us has not heard the dire predictions coming out of Egypt and COP27?



With this in mind, Open Door would like to be a good space for us all to share warmth and friendship with the option of coffee, tea, baking and lunch. We will be open every Monday a little earlier from 10.00am.

Coffee will be available as before from 10.30am and lunches between 12.00 and 1.00pm when last orders are taken. Sit and chat thereafter until 2.00pm if you are comfortable. Some people like to linger longer!

We would also like to start a small group knitting, crocheting or crafting for charity during the morning session. Would you be interested? You don't have to be an expert and there are people who are happy to share their skills. Please pop in or have a word with Pauline Davidson, Fiona Holmes or Lynda McCraw.

Pastoral Visiting

Dear All,

The last 3 months have been busy. It has been nice to see more people getting out and about now that the worst of the Covid restrictions are over. However, we must not forget those who are unable, or find it difficult to get out. For them, this time of year can be difficult as the nights draw in and the weather becomes colder, wetter and windier.

Please let me know if you know of someone who would appreciate a phone call or visit. My contact details (phone number and email address) are on the back page of the Hird.

I have been doing a greater number of hospital visits than normal, and regularly travel to Tweedbank, Galashiels and Hawick for those who have left hospital but have not yet settled back into their own homes.

To all Hird-readers, I wish you the best of health and happiness.

Heather Carroll
Pastoral Assistant

Guatemala

We sent a copy of The Hird to Ignacio in Guatemala and a request for an update.

Here it is:

Hey - lovely magazine! I found the word Quiche on the magazine funny because there's is a town with that name in our country which means a forest with lots of trees in Mayan language. Be great if we can get our ministry name on the magazine and tell what we do. Tell about the prisons, scholarships and the work in the villages. Thank you so much for everything.

Isn't it amazing that we share chats and laughter and photos with a family serving God in a very dangerous place. We also share their sorrows and pray for their needs.

A message this week (November 10th) from Guatemala and our friend Ignacio:

Regarding prisons, we visit twice a week to do our discipleship with 30 inmates. We provide them with Bibles and note pads. We swap groups every nine months and at the end of each course we bring them a gift. The scholarship program helps 10 young adults aged 18 to 30 who have been released from prison or those we meet in neighbourhoods with a high rate of gang activities. The villages we work at are Mayan, and with hardly any help from government or mayor's office, we



bring rice, beans, corn mix and cooking oil to some families. At Christmas, we usually do some activities depending on funds. On Sunday November 20, we are gathering with our guys who are benefiting from a scholarship. If y'all can help us with some funds, we're planning to do lunch at Wendy's.

*We need prayers for my wife's full recovery and resources to keep paying scholarships next year and support some of the families at the villages.
In Christ, Ignacio*

We pray regularly on Wednesdays for Ignacio and his family and his ministry in Guatemala City. We are delighted to be able to send money donated both monthly and as "one-off gifts" We know that every penny sent is used to serve people in need and that this family is dedicated to the work. If you are interested to know more, please have a word with Myra or Rod Ward.

Presbytery Autumn Conference 1st Oct 2022

Growing Your Church

The aim of the conference was to inspire, enthuse and equip us to move forward in mission. The organising committee is now working on a toolkit which will assist everyone in growing the church in their communities.

We heard from some great speakers:

Rev Tommy MacNeil who was called to Martin's Memorial church in Stornoway some 15 years ago. Threatened with closure Tommy managed to turn Martin's into a thriving church with a strong community focus.

The Very Rev Albert Bogle, Pioneer Minister of Sanctuary First, founder of the Vine Trust (an international relief organisation working in the Amazon). Albert's ministry has included blogging, broadcasting and developing digital media as a communications tool, exploring new ways to reach those disconnected from traditional forms of church. Sanctuary First is now part of the Church of Scotland NB Albert is in the later stages of his life and not a young whizz-kid with computers.

Other topics: improvements to church buildings, attracting a younger generation, meeting the spiritual needs of older generations and more information on the new Presbytery of Lothian and Borders, of which we will be part from Jan. 2023.

There was also a Faith Mission book stall where we could buy books useful for mission and leadership.

The conference was attended by around 100 people. A good day was had by all.

Fiona Corbett

Forward in faith

Forward in Faith is starting a new series, 'Encountering God in Daily Life'. This will take the form of a short video clip followed by short discussion in a relaxed atmosphere. Please join us on alternate Thursday evenings at Orchard Brow from 7:30 to 9pm. During Advent, we shall join the Advent groups and just meet once for a pre-Christmas celebration. Further details, or to ask for a lift, talk to Jane Peers (019171 28918)

Here is the current plan.

15th December: A change - nibbles and carols at Myra and Rod's

5th January: Grace

19th January: God in the world

2nd February: The presence and absence of God

16th February: Spiritual Practices 15



From your Interim Moderator In such a time as this...

Margaret and I retired to Peebles in April this year. We could look back on many years of day trips there from Edinburgh, and latterly from the Biggar area - enjoying long walks along the Tweed with Ben, our energetic dog of fond memory. We thought we knew the Peebles area well. As it turns out, we knew the cafés we started and ended the day at, and the nice shops and people we met on the High Street, and the glorious ever-changing River Tweed. But we didn't know Peebles because we didn't know community from the inside.

Over these last months our community links have grown and developed. Still sometimes at night we can relax into sleep thinking, "that was a lovely day in the Borders," as if we were still just day visitors.

Finding a place in a new community takes a long time – relationships, hierarchies, living history all come into play. The incomer must learn how to negotiate the complex of relationships and to gain the knowledge that only time will give.

The Church of Scotland has set itself on a path over the next five years of changing its relationship with the communities within which it serves – redesigning itself, so it can free itself from the inherited financial and physical burdens of an age now gone – burdens which threaten our very future. This liberation is essential if the church is to continue to have any place in our communities.

However, for most of us, a time of such change is confusing. We see and we love how we are, and we find it difficult to see how we will be. Adjustment to a new way of relating and thinking takes a long time. As we journey along the way of gaining the new, we must deal with our fear about the important things we might also lose on that journey. So, in such a time of profound change we must take even more care of each other – gently and patiently.

This Advent season we now enter is a time of preparation for a new beginning from God – a time of momentous change. In one of his hymns, the hymnwriter Brian Wren talks of Jesus as 'the Hinge of History.' All that has gone before is to be seen in the light of the gift of the incarnation, the ministry, and the passion of Christ.

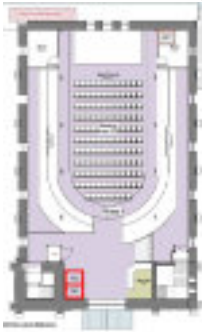
As we negotiate change in this turbulent age we live in, the Season we are entering is not just a celebration of an historical event from thousands of years ago. We celebrate an event which is a now event for every age, and personal for each of us, because through Christ we know God is with us, taking care of us, gently and patiently restoring, and rebuilding us.

Peace be with you,
George

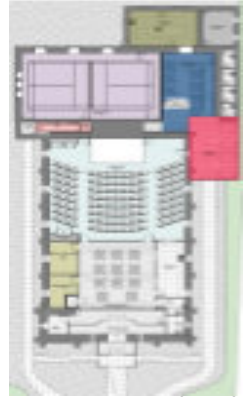
Building the Future

In the June Hird, we reported that Angus Design Associates, an architectural practice with expertise in redeveloping church buildings, was working on some ideas to make our church and hall more welcoming, more flexible and more practical in terms of usable spaces, storage and energy use. This ties in well with the requirement by 121 and Presbytery that all retained buildings should be multi-purpose and geared towards community outreach and use.

Our architects have produced an exciting and innovative plan for us to consider, which could address all these issues. We are now waiting for them to supply us with 3-D images of the proposals along with a video walk-through to help us imagine what it would be like if completed.



Early in the new year, these ideas will be presented to the congregation, probably over a weekend, providing lots of opportunities to ask questions, make suggestions, give feedback and comment.



The plans will then be on display for a few weeks, so that everyone has an opportunity to see them and respond.

Once there has been plenty of time for discussion, the plans can be adapted further and finalised based on the feedback from all of us. We would then need to get approval from 121, the Presbytery, the planning authorities and a congregational meeting before we could even start to move ahead.

The Manse

The plans described above will take time to evolve and develop slowly. In the meantime, new windows have been fitted in the Loanside manse, and a new kitchen is to be installed in January. Once that is done, there will be minor repairs and decorating to do, so that we will have a manse ready for whenever we are allowed to call a new minister for Ashkirk, Selkirk, Ettrick and Yarrow.

Many thanks to Andrew, Jack, Elissa and Elaine who have been overseeing this work.

David Bethune

Selkirk Diary Dates

November

Thursday 24	2 pm	CAMEO: The Haining, Viv Ross
Friday 25	2.30 pm	Service at Riverside (led by Joanna Smith)
Sunday 27	2.30 pm	Service at Thornfield (led by SPC)

December

Thursday 8	2 pm	CAMEO: Knowepark Primary School
Thursday 15	2 pm	CAMEO: Christmas Party, The Golden Girls
	7.30 pm	Forward in Faith at 3 Deer Park
Friday 16	2.30 pm	Service at Mungo Park Court (Joanna Smith)
Sunday 18	2.30 pm	Service at Thornfield (led by Baptist Church)

January

Tuesday 10	7 pm	Kirk Session, Church Leadership, zoom
Thursday 12	2 pm	CAMEO: The General Store, Sue Briggs
Sunday 15	2.30 pm	Service at Thornfield (led by St John's)
Thursday 19	2.30 pm	Service at Mungo Park Court (Joanna Smith)
	7.30 pm	Forward in Faith housegroup
Thursday 26	2 pm	CAMEO
Friday 27	2.30 pm	Service at Riverside (led by SPC)
Sunday 29	11 am	Joint service in Selkirk

followed by lunch and a chance to think about the future together as a cluster

February

Thursday 2	7.30 pm	Forward in Faith housegroup
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Weekly Freewill Offering Envelopes

It is time to organise next year's WFO envelopes, so it will be very helpful to know of any additions/changes. For both new and old members, this provides a good opportunity to reflect on our personal level of giving and the method we use. If you do not already use envelopes but wish to do so, or, alternatively, if you no longer wish to use them, please let Lynda McCraw (tel. 21971) or the office know by mid December, as these envelopes come at a cost to the church. Similarly, please contact me if you wish to set up a bankers' order for details of the church account. If you are a tax payer and have not yet signed a Gift Aid Form, please consider doing so, to enable the church to reclaim tax on your offerings at no extra cost to you. Forms are available from the Office, or Gillian Grant (Gift Aid Convener).

Financial Situation

Unfortunately, our monthly giving is still not keeping up with our monthly expenditure. During July and August, we had a deficit of over £5,000, and would have had another, albeit smaller, deficit over September and October had we not received a substantial payment from tax recovered from Gift Aid donations. I know finances are difficult just now for many of us, but any extra offerings/donations for the work of the Church would be very gratefully received. Many thanks to those who have already increased their offering.

Stay in touch

If you would prefer to read The Hird online, or would like to receive Selkirk Parish Church weekly notices by email, please contact the church office. Details on back page. The Hird and weekly notices are also available at selkirkparish.church



@ettrickyarrowchurch @Selkirkparishchurch



Coffee Morning 30/9/2022

Thank you so very much for those who supported us by coming along, giving donation of money, cake and other goodies! We raised the amazing amount of £555.68. Your support is much appreciated.

Thank You!

**Open Door Selkirk
Parish Church Hall
Mondays**

10 - 11.30 am coffee
12 - 1 pm lunch

Macular Society

Beating Macular Disease

The Galashiels Macular Society meets the first Monday of every month 1.30 - 3 pm in Galashiels Church of Scotland, 60 High Street.

Open to anyone affected by central vision loss. Family, friends and carers are welcome.

Bereavements

2022

Aug.	10	James Fox Gardenview, Tweedbank	Oct.	6	Joe Wilson 9b Crailing Court Hawick
Sept.	5	Tanya Bell 46 Shawburn Road	Nov.	6	David Mitchell Meadow Cottage Scotts Place
Oct.	5	Jean Taylor 19 Viewfield Park			

The records on this page are as up-to-date as possible. We apologise for any omissions that may have occurred. Please note that opinions expressed in this magazine are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the church or congregation.

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Ashkirk



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Sketches courtesy of John Hume, Scotland's Churches Trust

Selkirk

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Items for the **February** issue of The Hird should be with the editor
by **22 January**.