



UNITED UPDATE

June - August 2019

"Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near!"

Matthew 24:32

Directory

Rev. Andy Haddow

018907 50327 andy@blakkie.co.uk

Ishbel Dorward, Session Clerk, Eyemouth

018907 51732 jidorward@gmail.com

Richard Bond, Session Clerk, Priory

018907 71388 richardbond@phonecoop.coop

David Philp, Newsletter

018907 81568 united.update.newsletter@gmail.com

Regular Events

Sundays

Coldingham Priory - 9.45am

*(Any month with 5th Sunday Coldingham
meets St. Abbs Ebba Centre)*

Eyemouth Parish - 11.15am

Tuesdays

Prayer, Eyemouth Session Room - 9am

Tuesdays

Eyemouth Guild, 7pm, Apr - Sep

Wednesdays

Busy Bees, Eyemouth - 1.30pm

1st Monday

BCYT Prayer, Springbank - 8pm

1st Friday

Iona-based meditation, Priory - 4.00pm

3rd Friday

Meditation, Priory - 4.00pm

1st Saturday

Prayer, Eyemouth - 8.30am

3rd Saturday

Half-hour prayer, Priory - 8.30am

The times, they are a changin'

Dear friends,

I'm writing this while at the General Assembly and have been astonished by the positive feel within the hall when dealing with the radical changes placed before us. There is a palpable feeling that these decisions are history making moments in the church with a desire to see the renewing of the church with a central emphasis on mission. Many may remember only last year the General Assembly threw out the strategic plan that was presented and asked for a more radical plan to be brought back this year. Well with a little help from some friends the Radical Action Plan and a Special Commission on Structural Reform were brought to this year's assembly, and the Church of Scotland has now committed to some very wide ranging and significant changes.

From slimming down the central bodies of the church, committing to cost cutting reductions of central staff, reduction of the number of presbyteries, reviewing the size and responsibilities of Kirk Sessions, freezing of Ministries and Mission contributions, to exploring new ways of harnessing the finances of the church, there is no doubt now that the General Assembly have removed their heads from the sand and are trumpeting the call to change.

Although there were few changes directed at the organisation of congregations, change in the church needs to start with the people who make up the church. No amount of changes to the structure of the church will make a difference if there is no change in the people. This is nothing new, Paul encourages the church in Rome with this verse "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will." (Romans 12:2)

Our challenge is to continually strive to change, to grow, to journey onwards in our faith, to be transformed and renewed. Martin Luther King put it this way "If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward." As individuals when we respond to this challenge relying on the Holy Spirit's power in our lives, then we are changed and as we are changed the church is changed. Let's keep the change going and become the church Jesus wants us to be!

God bless, Andy

Priory Flower Rota 2019

June 2 nd	Mrs J Rutherford
June 9 th	COMMUNION
June 16 th	Mrs R Scott
June 23 rd	Mrs A Ramcharron
June 30 th	Miss H Hardwick (St Abbs)
July 7 th	Mrs G Philp
July 14 th	Mrs P Thomson
July 21 st	Mrs J Dixon
July 28 th	WEDDING
August 4 th	Mrs A Wylie
August 11 th	Jo & Johanna Wright
August 18 th	WEDDING
August 25 th	Mrs A Aitchison

Needs and Appeals

Income to the Eyemouth Needs and Appeals fund is from donations given at the teas after the Sunday morning service.

We respond to local needs and wider church appeals. Any person can suggest where assistance should be given by contacting the Minister or Jim Evans. This fund enables our Church to show its concern for the local community as well as the wider church needs. It needs Church members to call attention to needs in the Community so that the Church might respond.

Away Days on Holy Island

These days are an opportunity for all members of Eyemouth, Coldingham with St Abbs and other congregations to come together. The next is 5th October when Pat Rowe from Coldstream is going to share with us what life is like for Palestinians living in the West Bank. She and her husband were part of a Church of Scotland study group visiting the area. It should be a fascinating day and there will be the usual time to relax and explore. Please put the date in your diary; there will be sign-up sheets in church nearer the time.

Unwanted or broken jewellery

Although there is no longer a Traidcraft stall, we can still raise money to help support producers wishing to trade their way out of poverty by sending them any unwanted or broken jewellery which Traidcraft sells. If you have an odd earring, a broken necklace or any unwanted jewellery, please give it to Mairead or Ishbel and we will send it on to Traidcraft.

Berwickshire Christian Youth Trust

Although the regular weekly meetings have finished for the year the children still have the annual weekend camp to look forward to. This year it is taking place at Scoughall near North Berwick from 14 -16th June. The camp gives children from all over Berwickshire to have fun together and to learn more about Jesus and what it means to follow him.

Buttons for Marie Curie

Do you have a box of buttons tucked away, maybe accumulated over years or from a previous generation. Creative Together, part of Edinburgh City Centre Churches Together are gathering buttons which they will sort before arranging them on cards and selling. In 2017 they raised £4,500 this way for Marie Curie and are planning to have another sale in the autumn. If you have buttons could you please give them to Audrey or Ishbel will take them to Edinburgh.

Two Mothers Met

Long, long ago, so legends relate
Two mothers met at an old city gate.
By the look in your eyes, said one to the other,
I see that you too, must have once been a mother.
And by the blue tinted veil in your hair, you too have known
sorrow and deepest despair.

Ah, yes, she replied. I once had a son,
A sweet little lad, full of laughter and fun.
But tell of your child, Oh, I know he was blest,
From the moment I first held him close to my breast.
And my heart almost burst with the joy of that day.

Ah yes said the other. I felt the same way.
The former continued, the first steps he took,
So eager and breathless, the sweet, startled look.
Which came over his face, he trusted me so.

Ah yes, said the other, I felt the same glow.
How often I shielded and spared him from pain,
And when he for others was so cruelly slain.
When they crucified him, and spat in his face,
How gladly I would have hung in his place!

A moment of silence, Oh, then you are she,
The mother of Jesus! And she fell on one knee;
But the blessed one raised her up, drawing her near,
And kissed from the cheek of the women a tear.
Tell me the name of the son you loved so,
That I may share with you in your grief and woe.

She lifted her eyes, looking straight at the other-
He was Judas Iscariot.

I am his mother.

Submitted by George Power.



Priory Live

On Tuesday 4th 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 about St. Ebba and what life was like for the monks. They will have the opportunity to take part in a range of activities which include making bread, pottery, script writing, music, spinning, willow weaving, gardening 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 a monks' day.

Christian Aid Week

Thank you to all who through a variety of events helped towards raising the excellent total of £2,812.59 in Eyemouth, Coldingham and St Abbs. This year the first event was the sponsored walk along the coastal path from Berwick to St Abbs. 12 people set off from Berwick on a dry but windy day. At Burnmouth we enjoyed a welcome break and were able to support the village monthly coffee morning. Sunday lunch time saw the hall in Eyemouth filled with people and chat as everyone enjoyed soup and sandwiches. On Tuesday evening the Priory hosted a coffee evening and to complete the week there was a coffee morning in the Mason's Hall. In addition to these events there was a house to house collection in Coldingham and St Abbs. Very many thanks to everyone who donated to and supported these events and to the team of people who gave their time to help with the counting of the money.

Family Film Night in Eyemouth Church Hall

21st June 2018 – How To Train Your Dragon 3

The Guild

The Guild started at the beginning of April and this year's theme is 'Companions on the road' and already we have thought about this theme in several different but very interesting and thought-provoking ways. We have been brought up to date with the projects, which at the end of the first year has already exceeded £121,000. We have learned about Splash, the community project in Eyemouth and have been warned about scams – how to recognise and what to do. Isabel Gordon gave a fascinating account of the life of Mary Somerville – recently seen on one of the Scottish Bank notes.

Before we have our short break at the beginning of July, we are expecting visits from the Leprosy Mission and the Sailor's Society (one of the projects). We also hope to hear about Peter Gage's recent walk, safety in the kitchen, as well as another night based on the theme in music. Our last night will be a visit to Berwick to visit and learn about 'Northern Soul' in West Street.

The Guild will restart on 23rd July with a visit from the second project we are supporting this session – World Mission's project 'Teenage mothers in Zambia'

Audrey, Carole, Jean and Margaret

Foodbank

The foodbank has been very busy in February with 37 referrals which fed 50 adults and 13 children. This is the highest number of referrals in a single month we have ever recorded, that was until March where we recorded the exceptionally high figure of 50 referrals feeding 69 adults and 21 children. Things calmed down a little during April where there were 29 referrals feeding 43 adults and 16 children. It remains to be seen how this pattern will work out in the coming months.

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One of the three

At the birth of the universe — planning— designing— creating
you were there
one of the three

When things went wrong with God's perfect plan
he went himself in the form of his son
one of the three

You were there as a dove descending
when God acknowledged him
one of the three

throughout his short life
at his cruel death, his glorious resurrection
one of the three

he left you with us
Comforter, flames leaping, inspiring
Enabler - powerful wind - wisdom
You are here - always with me

one of the three.

Heather Johnston May 2019



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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).

Priory Sunday Club...

... is where we share God's love with children and families.

Sunday Club at the Priory is continuing to provide planned learning activities for children attending Sunday services.

Over the last months, we have been finding out about the life of Jesus and where possible have been fitting in with Andy's Sunday talks centring on the Top 100 Bible Readings. Children also helped with a short drama on Easter Sunday and really enjoy when they can help Andy out during the "Setting the Scene" part of the services.

The Children's Team, who make up the rota for leading the Sunday Club have met to take forward several initiatives. They have produced a leaflet, explaining the aims of Sunday Club for distributing within our community. These leaflets will be printed soon - so look out for them to read!

The team is also making up cloth draw string bags which contain various small toys and activity books for children to use when in church.

On the last Sunday, 30th June, before the schools break up for the summer, we are heading to the beach for a picnic and games. Everyone is welcome at this and there will be more details to come.

Sunday Club hopes to continue during the school holidays and, as in past years, we will look to do a project which will last across the months of July and August. We look forward to planning this and to welcoming families who may be visiting the Priory during their holiday to the area.

Sunday Club would not happen without the team of people who work with the children. It is a very rewarding and enjoyable contribution to the work of the church -would you like to join us? A small commitment, of a few Sundays would make a big difference to our ability to deliver our Sunday Club aims. Please consider this, and if you would like to know more please speak to one of the team.

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Coldingham Primary School pupils filled the Priory to celebrate Spring after they had returned after their holidays in April. Members of the team enjoyed the chance to attend this service and serve refreshments afterward to parents and family.

Also linking with Coldingham Primary School and providing service, we are hoping to set up a Games Club which would happen over Tuesday Lunchtime. The club would be 30-40 minutes, involving a small group of children playing games e.g. cards, dominoes, snakes and ladders. We plan to have a rota of 2 adults working together at the Games Club and the school is keen to get us started. Ideally, we need 8 people to volunteer which would mean a commitment of one week in four (Oct - March only). So far, we have 2 names and are therefore not able to start up, but we hope that people will come forward. Again, speak to anyone on the Children's Team to find out more.

'Rise Up and Pray'

The Sunday Club team are in the progress of building a small prayer group to support both the members and work of the Sunday Club. These prayers are much needed and a vital part of the ministry we offer for the young people. This is a new and exciting initiative for us, and we are looking forward to seeing God at work through our Sunday Club activities.

If you would like to be involved with the Sunday Club prayer group, please contact one of the Sunday Club team members ... Thank you!

'Dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit.' Jude 19 v 20

'Rise up and pray'. Luke 22 V 46

Heather, Irene, Kath, Nessa and Nicola.

Coldingham Priory Sunday Club Team

Wrapped Together in the Bundle of Life

As some of you may know, I have published another novel. A Kindle copy can be read on any iPad or computer. However, this time I've been able to produce a paperback version of the book. Its title is 'Wrapped Together in the Bundle of Life', and it is set in Hecklescar, my name for Eyemouth. Both the Parish Kirk and the Priory get a mention.

I have been accused of including in it some local worthies. I deny it! All the characters are fictitious! But not, I hope, the lives. For that is what the book is about; the way we are wrapped together in the bundle of life – for better or worse.

For the paperback version, I was able to design the cover, write the blurb and, best of all, determine the size of the print. I opted for a fairly large, easily read font. I think it has turned out well. Normally, when you self-publish a book, you are required to order hundreds of copies (and can be left with most of them up the garret). What surprised me is that this one will be printed on demand. In Poland, would you believe?

You can order either the paperback or the Kindle copy on Amazon, by entering Amazon/Bryan Webster in your browser.

Now then, 'Wrapped Together in the Bundle of Life', is a quote from the Bible. But where?

Bryan

Cathedral

Air-danced dust in shafts of light are sparkling
within cool cavern of mason's strata.

Built as tower of praise and power
as fitted man's purse and purpose.

Deft art of square and compass-true pillars,
hold stony spider's web aloft lightly,
pierced by sun through kaleidoscope tableaux,
projecting tales of anno domini.

Cold marble covers, bones holy, bones wealthy,
drab martial flag bleeds guilt for the lost.
Opulent plaque with a cherub on top
to glorify God but mostly those passed.

Choir stalls at evensong reserved by rank
where formal canticles make holy sound,
traditions to tame that radical love.
Yet even here, God can be found.

Richard Bond

Communion Services

COLDINGHAM & ST. ABBS
9th June @ 9.45 am in Coldingham Priory

EYEMOUTH
23rd June @ 11.15am

Evening Services

June 9th, 6.30pm - East Berwickshire Churches Together service,

From the Session Clerk, Coldingham and St Abbs

We recently held our Stated Annual Meeting after a wonderful meal together thanks to the ladies concerned. We learned that, thanks to the administration of our treasurer, we maintain solvency but that this is only due to the interest we make on our investments with CoS. To pay our way free of tied investments would require an active congregation some one-third larger than at present. Are we up to the challenge of inviting friends and neighbours to come along with us? Sometimes people who don't come to church are just waiting to be invited.

Session recently revised our strategy and noted that prayer requests are not being made, neither by congregation nor by general public. The weekly prayer meeting in Eyemouth and the monthly meeting in the Priory pray confidentially over any concerns they are made aware of. So what is wrong? Are we shy of sharing our joys and worries with brothers and sisters in Christ or do we not believe in the power of joint prayer? Look out for the prayer request slips in the chairs and the new prayer text number. Of concern also was our low usage of the Benevolent Fund. Any local financial hardship which causes suffering might be helped by a small grant from the church. If you know of such a situation please speak to your elder who will take the matter in confidence to Session. One possible use might be helping the Food Bank to establish in this area – the need is there. If you would like to help have a word with Noreen Thompson.

Finally we have a new challenge. Due to a drop in the number of trainee ministers being recruited and to the widening geographical areas that existing ministers need to cover we need teams of members capable of leading worship when a minister is not available. Andy is proposing to train volunteers to fill this role – now there is a challenge for you, do think and pray about it, maybe you have a calling.

Richard

Food Bank

I would like to put out a plea for people to become involved in an Eyemouth-based food bank. Having been overwhelmed with deliveries Duns stopped delivering food parcels east of the A1 corridor several weeks ago. This has created a crisis situation as you can imagine. They have offered to supply parcels to any of the referral agencies who can pick them up. Because they are themselves are so overwhelmed I think this rarely happens.

As 48% of referrals to Duns were for the Eyemouth and surrounding area there is obviously a great need. We urgently need a secure lock up space - Duns use a garage. We need volunteers who are prepared to do deliveries from the referral list. We need an administrator - Miles Wrigley who runs the Duns Office is very willing to help with the setting up procedures.

Please if you think you can help with this get in touch with Andy or myself.

Noreen Thompson
noreenet45@Icloud.com
07817990298

Summer Holiday Club (12th - 18th August)

Once again we are planning on running our Summer Holiday Club in the last week of the school holidays. Once again we are partnering with Scripture Union Scotland and hope to see around fifty local children coming along each day to join in the fun. As always this undertaking requires a lot of folk to get on board helping out in all manner of ways. If you think you could help out in this exciting outreach to our community then please get in touch with myself or Ishbel and we can tell you what help is required and how you could make a real difference to this work.

Andy

General Assembly 2019

This year's General Assembly theme was the words "Follow Me" the simple call that Jesus gave to his disciples. Yet this was not just a call to discipleship, but to leave things behind, to trust in a new future, to walk with God in all of this. So this theme seemed particularly appropriate as the General Assembly considered the radical plan put before it, and while the changes made may feel quite distant from us, they deal with a reality that is the day to day life of many congregations across Scotland.

This radical plan could be categorised into several different threads, firstly "Planning for Mission", which means the creation of a £20-£25 million Growth Fund to birth new ideas at a local level, a focus to engage with those under 40, formation of 100 new worshipping communities in the next decade and support for a research and analysis process to understand what we do. The next thread is "Supporting Faith Formation", with the creation of a single, easy and accessible platform of faith and nurture resources, production of resources to help make Church an accessible and welcoming place for the 'Millennial Generation' and 'Generation X', a call for Churches to explore characteristics of discipleship and explore how they are worked out in their own local context and the prioritisation of development of resources to work with young people and have their voice heard in decision making.

The Third thread is "Developing Leadership", a flexible education, training and support programme for every person in the Church including material on leadership as well as changes to Initial Ministerial Training to allow more flexible routes to ministry. Next up was "Financial Reform", which will look at a reconfiguration of Ministries & Mission payments that every congregation pays centrally to pay for local ministries across the nation as well as funding the central church and the mission of the national church, further development of ways to support congregations in long term vacancies as well as a commitment to no increase of Ministry & Mission contributions from 2021 until a new scheme is in place.

The second last thread is “Land & Buildings Reform”, which moves forward the General Trustees “Well-equipped Spaces in the Right Places” Initiative, promoting the unburdening of congregations by the sale of unnecessary buildings as well as encouraging congregations to share the load by the sharing of financial resources between congregations. Then finally a thread with a call to “Structural Reform” with a new central structure with new charity trustees, a 20-30% reduction in central offices, a reduction of Presbyteries to 12, including a refocus of staff from central to regional work, an enabling of new models for local churches working together as well as reviewing of the size and function of Kirk Sessions, Presbyteries and the General Assembly.

In some sense there has been a seismic shift in the structure of the Church of Scotland, yet how this all works out will depend very much on the people making the changes, and on how those affected by them respond. However one thing we can say with confidence is that the church of tomorrow will not look like the church of today (or even yesterday!) But these changes will bring great potential for folk to grow in faith through practical service to God, to a God who doesn't change, who is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow!

Andy



Thy Kingdom Come

The Priory will be open for prayer as follows -

Mon 3 Jun - 10-11am

Tue 4 Jun - 4-5pm

Wed 5 Jun - 10-11am

Thu 6 Jun - 10-11am

Fri 7 Jun - 4-5pm

Sat 8 Jun - 10-11am

The welcome notice outside Coventry Cathedral:

We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, widowed, gay, confused, filthy rich, comfortable or dirt poor.

We extend a special welcome to wailing babies and excitable toddlers.

We welcome you whether you can sing like Pavarotti or just growl quietly to yourself. You're welcome here if you're 'just browsing', just woken up or just got out of prison. We don't care if you're more Christian than the Archbishop of Canterbury, or haven't been to church since Christmas ten years ago.

We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome keep-fit mums, football dads, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte-sippers, vegetarians, junk-food eaters. We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems, are down in the dumps or don't like "organised religion." (*We're not that keen on it either!*)

We offer a welcome to those who think the Earth is flat, work too hard, don't work, can't spell or are here because granny is visiting and wanted to come to the Cathedral.

We welcome those who are inked, pierced, both or neither. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down their throats as kids or got lost in the city centre and wound up here by mistake. We welcome pilgrims, tourists, seekers, doubters... and YOU!"

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There is no doubt the way we welcome folk to church makes a big difference. I recently received an e-mail from a Sunday visitor who wanted to congratulate the welcome team at Eyemouth on the quality of their welcome, unfortunately they had not received a similar welcome within the church building from other members. We need to remember that the churches welcome doesn't end with the welcome team, it's important that every member of the church is as welcoming as the sign outside Coventry Cathedral. I'll leave you with this simple story about the effectiveness of a good welcome that extends beyond the door.

The following happened to a young mum who had been struggling to go to church and had just been uprooted and moved when her husband's job changed. When she turned up at the church the woman at the door greeted her with a welcoming smile. "I haven't seen you here before. Are you new?" she asked warmly. "Yes, I am," she replied. "Well, welcome! I'm so glad you're here!" In that moment, something shifted inside the visitor. "The volunteers there welcomed me with genuine kindness and acted like I was already a part of their family," she said. "They were genuinely happy I was there. I felt welcome, accepted, and wanted. And I hadn't felt that way in a very long time."

She returned home with her hope renewed again. "I want to try this church out!" she told her husband eagerly. "Everyone was so nice and welcoming." For the first time in years, husband and wife were able to worship, learn and feel refreshed in a church environment. "We felt God working in our hearts and in the church," she said. She especially noticed a big difference in her husband, who has taken his faith in God to the next level.

Eyemouth RE:NEW Project Update

Work on the building project continues, ranging from a snails pace to rocketing along at times! Over the last wee while we have continued to work with our Edinburgh architect and the Church of Scotland's General Trustees to take into account many of the comments we have received over the initial draft plans and now drawings have generally been finalised and can be viewed in the church hall. We applied to Scottish Borders Council for planning permission for the external works in January and Planning Permission was granted in March.

We've also been working on a Business Plan to send out to potential funders, which explains the project and this can be found on the church's website. Along with this, as a congregation, we set ourselves a local fund raising target of £50,000 and have begun holding events and gift days from June last year and to date we have raised in excess of £30,000 towards this local target! The project as a whole is costed at approximately £350,000 and the remaining £300,000 is to be obtained by application to a multitude of Funding Bodies and the General Trustees who are very supportive of the project.

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, Dixie Scott & Donald Wood.