



UNITED UPDATE

March - May 2020

“You’ve no idea how much I have looked forward to eating this Passover meal with you before I enter my time of suffering. It’s the last one I’ll eat until we all eat it together in the kingdom of God.”

Luke Ch22, v 15-16, The Message

Directory

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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

1st Saturday

Prayer, Eyemouth - 8.30am

3rd Saturday

Half-hour prayer, Priory - 8.30am

Old & New

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” - 2 Corinthians 5:17

Dear friends,

It's always wondrous to hear the stories of folk who have had amazing experiences of their conversion to Christianity, those who seem to embody that verse above from Paul's second letter to the church in Corinth. It's astounding to hear of how they have been transformed by the Holy Spirit, sometimes overnight, truly “the old has gone, the new is here!” Yet where does it leave those of us whose story of faith has no great experience of change, who possibly do not have that “Damascus Road” moment (see Acts chapter 9, where this phrase comes from), maybe even those who cannot remember a time when they were not a Christian or did not know Jesus. Ruth Graham (the wife of the great American Evangelist Billy Graham) said she knew Christ her entire life, there was no time that she did not know Jesus or love God as a girl. For folk who can identify with Ruth Graham can they talk about the old being gone and the new being here? Well, despite not knowing when you became a Christian the change still occurs, because unfortunately never a day goes by when we can say we have been perfect! So unlike the world around us each day we come back to Jesus for forgiveness, we hand over the old and accept the new life of God's grace. This daily exchange calls us to respond very differently to the world around us. One example can be found in 1 Peter 3:9 & 16 “Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing”, “keep a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.”

All around us we can see the acts of those who do not have God's grace and forgiveness and so with God's help the way that we respond to the world around us can truly show how the old has gone and the new has come, and this transformation can be just as transformative for those around us as any “Damascus Road” testimony of conversion!

May God Bless you at this time whatever you are going through,
Andy

East Berwickshire Churches Together Lent Meditations

Every Wednesday in Lent we meet in St. Ebba's Episcopal Church for a short meditation led by volunteers from the different churches. The meditation starts at 11am and is finished by 12noon, but if you want to come early we serve tea & coffee from 10.30am. This is a great opportunity to take a moment away from day to day life and focus on what we are waiting for during Lent and why we celebrate at Easter: Wednesday 4th March, 11th March, 18th March, 25th March, 1st April, 8th April

Easter Services

Palm Sunday (5th April) – Family Services

Friday (10th April) – Friday Prayer Walk and Outdoor Service (meet Victoria Road Car Park 10.45am & service at Bantry 12noon)

Friday (10th April) – Reflection & Communion – 6.30pm – Prioory

Easter Sunday (12th April) – Sunrise Service – 6.30am – Venue TBC

Easter Sunday (12th April) – Egg Rolling beside Gunsgreen House – 10am, followed by rolls in Parish Church Hall

Easter Sunday (12th April) – Family Services

Dates in Eyemouth Church Hall

6th March – Board Games Night

3rd April – Friday Film Night – Frozen 2

24th April – Friday Film Night - Star Wars: Rise of Skywalker

1st May – Board Games Night

15th May – Friday Film Night – Film TBC

5th June – Board Games Night

19th June – Friday Film Night – Film TBC

Communion Services

Eyemouth

22nd March @ 11.15am

28th June @ 11.15am

Coldingham & St. Abbs

8th March @ 9.45am in Coldingham Priory

14th June @ 9.45am in Coldingham Priory

Traidcraft

Over a year ago we had to stop running the Traidcraft stalls as the range of goods that Traidcraft were selling had reduced and we were required to buy in larger quantities which we couldn't sell before their sell by date. Wonderfully Traidcraft have managed to turn the business round and are now stocking a much bigger range of items again. Unfortunately I don't think it would work to run the stall again but it would be possible to pool together orders so that we could continue to buy from Traidcraft but not have to pay postage on orders. If this is something that you would like to explore further could you please speak to Mairead or Ishbel.

Christian Aid Week 10 - 16 May

Christian Aid continues to support projects that give people a chance to improve the lives of their families. This enables them to have access to improved health care and education as well as such basic things as adequate food and clean drinking water. As in previous years there will be a number of different fundraising activities.

Saturday 3rd May

There will be a sponsored walk from Berwick to St Abbs along the coastal path. This is not an organised walk so that each person will require to bring their own food and drink. There will however be a backup car waiting at points along the route so that people who do not wish to complete the entire walk can be given a lift home. Sponsor forms and further information from Audrey or Ishbel.

Sunday 10th May

There will be lunch in Eyemouth church hall, 12.15 - 1.30pm.

Tuesday 12th May

There will be a coffee evening with a sales table in the Priory, 6.30pm.

Saturday 16th May

There will be a coffee morning in the Mason's Hall, Eyemouth 9.30-11.30 with the usual stalls. Donations would be greatly appreciated.

Do You Like Chocolate?

Fairtrade fortnight runs from 24th February to 8th March. During this time the challenges facing smallholder farmers is being highlighted and the difference that being able to sell their goods with Fairtrade certification makes.

Fairtrade can provide a safety net by helping protect farmers from market volatility and extreme poverty prices through the Fairtrade Minimum Price. In addition the Fairtrade Premium money goes directly to the farmers' co-operatives and their communities. When selling on Fairtrade terms, farmers will receive the market price plus a Premium of \$240 a tonne. However, only a fraction of cocoa leaving West Africa is currently certified as Fairtrade, so there's a huge amount we can achieve by increasing sales of Fairtrade cocoa.

Rosine Bekoin is a mum of five, and a member of CAYAT co-operative in Côte d'Ivoire. She used to sell her cocoa to local middlemen, but heard about Fairtrade at a meeting in her village, and thought it could be a way to become more independent. Having received training in quality and good agricultural practices from her co-operative, her production increased by 50 percent in one year. Rosine and 400 other women in the group have invested the Fairtrade Premium in a variety of income diversification projects, mainly growing other food crops, including cassava and peppers, and raising chickens. This provides an independent income that supplements the income from cocoa so they can meet important costs they face all year round, like paying for medicines and school fees.

What can we do? Try to buy cocoa, drinking chocolate and bars of chocolate which have the Fairtrade logo and encourage your family and friends to do the same. Although this article only highlights cocoa the same problems face farmers growing our tea, coffee, rice, sugar and so much more, so please buy Fairtrade certified goods when you can.

Away Day to North Berwick

This will be on Saturday 7th March on Lindisfarne. The day away after that will be in North Berwick on Saturday 24th October. If you have a suggestion for a speaker or topic please speak to Andy.

God Through The Eyes Of An Eight-Year Old

One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. He doesn't make grown-ups, just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way, he doesn't have to take up his valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers.

God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times besides bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. Because he hears everything there must be a terrible lot of noise in His ears, unless he has thought of a way to turn it off. God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting his time by going over your mum and dad's head asking for something they've said you can't have.

Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there are many in our town. At least there aren't any who come to our church.

Jesus is God's son. He used to do all the hard work like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach people who didn't want to learn about God. They finally got tired of him preaching to them and Jesus said they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said OK. His dad (God) appreciated everything that he had done and all his hard work on earth so he told him he didn't have to go out on the road any more, he could stay in heaven. So he did. And now he helps his dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones he can take care of himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary only more important.

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You can pray any time you want and they are sure to hear you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time. You should always go to church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God. Don't skip church to do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. This is wrong! And, besides, the sun doesn't come out at the beach until dinner time anyway. If you don't believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like to camp, but God can. It is good to know he's around you when you're scared in the dark or when you can't swim very good and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids.

But you shouldn't just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and he can take me back anytime he pleases. And that's why I believe in God.

From George Power

Needs and Appeals

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

This fund was to be our response 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. Very few are raising concerns at the present time although we know there is need in Eyemouth.

Sunday Club

Most Sundays we now have four young people and at Christmas we were able to plan and lead the Family Service with a full (nearly!) cast for the Nativity with Leah as Narrator and angel, Lucia as Mary, Jasper as Joseph and Hugo as the donkey and an unforgettable innkeeper! Friends of Jasper and Hugo were happy to be kings with Carl making up the third. *(Ed. - he's wasted at Tesco. We should contribute to acting lessons - every little helps!)*

We are now going into Lent, a time when we remember Jesus going into the desert without food for six weeks to think and pray about his Ministry which was to be three years of healing and teaching people about God and his amazing love for us and a time when he was tempted not to do God's will but to use his own power, which he resisted and chose God's way for him. Some people still choose to give up something for Lent – like chocolate, but today more of us are choosing to do something special like trying to show God's love to other people by helping them and showing kindness.

This takes us to Good Friday, when Jesus showed that great love by dying on the cross for us and then on Easter Sunday rising from the dead, a time of glorious celebration. We hope to welcome Coldingham Primary school to their end of term service here in Priory where we will serve refreshments after to the families, and to be able to take part in the Easter Family Service. Please continue to pray for our team of leaders and helpers as we try to reach out to young families here.

Heather, Irene, Kath, Nicola. The Sunday Club Team

Haiku

Haiku is a form of Japanese traditional poetry that is now popular here too. It consists of three lines of non-rhyming verse often on a seasonal theme with a syllable count of 5,7,5 (this can be slightly flexible in Western haiku). The first two lines describe an aspect of your theme but the third can go off at a tangent sparked off by a thought about first two lines. I like writing haiku and am writing one for each month of the year – here are the three for March, April, May.

starry primroses

spindly shanked lambs

sky blue nodding bells

shining on banks and verges

joyfully they leap and dance

smothering the woodland floor

once picked for mothers

resurrection life

will they ring again?

Heather Johnston



Good morning, you are invited to take a seat. A few minutes quiet before the service will help us prepare for worship and is an opportunity to pray for those involved.



Peacetime at the Priory!

We are encouraging a time of quiet and reflection during the few minutes before the service starts. There may be live music to listen to, a featured artist on CD, poetry, a bible text to reflect on or just silence. It's a chance to pray for everyone involved in the preparation and delivery of worship, the Sunday Club, the change in how our Presbyteries are arranged, our Minister's family and the ongoing work of our Session and Board. We hope you will give this initiative your full support and look forward to your comments and constructive criticism.

Andy & David

Car Transport.

Eyemouth Parish Church provides transport for those requiring assistance to get to church. This is provided by volunteer drivers. Please note that there are alterations due to some car drivers retiring and new drivers. We are grateful to those drivers who freely give their service.

<u>Linkum Court</u>	<u>Swan Court</u>	<u>Saltgreens</u>
(F.Vanko,B.Walker,J.Lindsay)	(G.Taylor)	(J.Lamb)

Duty Drivers

2020

February	E.Bennie	J.Tarvit	P.Gage
March	C.McIvor	D.Scott	D.Scott
April	J.Wilson	I.Dorward	I.Dorward
May	W.Gray	E.King	P.Gage
June	E.Bennie	D.Scott	D.Scott
July	C.McIvor	I.Dorward	I.Dorward
August	J.Wilson	E.King	A.Lawrie
September	W.Gray	D.Scott	D.Scott
October	E.Bennie	I.Dorward	I.Dorward
November	C.McIvor	E.King	A.Lawrie
December	J.Wilson	D.Scott	D.Scott

Telephone numbers

C.McIvor	I.Dorward	I.Dorward
750414	751732	751732
J.Wilson	E.King	A.Lawrie
751549	751023	775092
W.Gray	D.Scott	D.Scott
751625	751777	751777
E.Bennie	J.Tarvit	P.Gage
750999	751179	01289 384985

Duty drivers unable to do any duty on a Sunday please arrange an alternative driver or contact Jim Evans 750701 as early as possible to enable an alternative driver to be arranged.

Pick up will be 1050 at Saltgreens and 11.00 Swan Court and Linkum Court)-

Linkum Court Front of building on Coldingham Road

Swan Court Front door of Swan Court;

Saltgreens Harbour facing door, off Harbour Road.

Return will be after tea following the church service. Additional transport can be arranged. Please contact Jim Evans 50701.

Eco-Congregation, Carbon Offset

As stewards of the earth we are right to be concerned about the quantities of carbon dioxide we are putting into the atmosphere in our daily lives. We now see everywhere the effects of a destabilised climate which is only going to get worse. As Christians we should be living different, more caring lives and caring for creation is one way we can demonstrate our love.

A recent circular from the Eco-Congregation organisation (see below), offers a way we can offset the carbon we are responsible for emitting, by having trees planted to take up carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Not only that but these trees will be planted in the catchment of our beloved Tweed – a double win! I have signed up to cover my three long-haul return flights a year (ten tons of carbon dioxide!!).

The Old Melrose-based Tweed Forum has joined forces with Forest Carbon to form the Tweed Forum Carbon Club, offering a chance for people to support tree planting projects in the Scottish Borders and North Northumberland and offset their carbon footprint. Individuals can pledge contributions on a sliding scale based on household size with one ton of carbon offset equating to at least four trees. So far Forest Carbon has planted 7 million trees in the UK certified under the Woodland Carbon Code. For further information log on to <https://tweedforum.org/tweed-forum-carbon-club>.

Richard

Eco House Group – Season of Creation

In October we set up a small house group for people with a concern for the environment and Climate Change. We used an ecumenical resource called '2019 Season of Creation – The Web of Life: Biodiversity as God's Blessing', which gave us suggested bible readings, short bits of information and questions to discuss and reflect upon. All this made us more aware of how all life on earth is interconnected and interdependent, spun like a delicate web, and how Climate Change is already making a serious impact on people living in other parts of the world.

Our last session was before Christmas and we decided to ask the Berwick Green Shop for a tour of their shop and its products. Even though some of us were familiar with the shop, we were very surprised how much we learned from it. We discussed labelling, logo's, companies, food miles, ethical choices and much more. We especially took some time to admire the new-ish 'hoppers', which are big dispensers full with rice, pasta, seeds, flour, porridge, etc. You can bring your own container to fill up and by doing so reduce the need for packaging. In bigger towns and cities, Zero Waste shops specialise in this kind of dispensing methods.



The Green Shop also refills your empty Laundry Liquid bottles, Liquid Hand Soap dispensers and Washing Up Liquid bottles. With regular deliveries of organic vegetables and freshly baked bread it really seems to offer everything you need for your ‘green’ shopping trip!

During a coffee & cake at The Granary we all agreed that the visit to the Green Shop had been very informative and worthwhile. With the Climate Change Emergency recognised by governments and churches alike, shops like this might give us an opportunity to do our bit, no matter how small, towards *caring for God’s Creation*.

“When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world.”

John Muir

You and me and other people

The relationships which bind us together with other people in many ways form the structure of our daily lives. It could be relationships within our family, or with others in the community, or within the life of the church. Relationships matter. They have the potential greatly to enrich our lives. Sadly, when things go wrong, they can also bring us anxiety and heart-break and real hurt. They can do us good; equally, they can do us harm.

The Church of Scotland has recently produced new resource material to help us think about Christian Stewardship. The overall title is “Narratives of Generosity”, which gives us a clue. The material is all about stories – the stories we can tell about ourselves and our own experiences; the stories we hear other people tell about themselves and their experiences. A number of different topics are dealt with in this way and one of these topics is ‘relationships’. The Stewardship Planning Group would like to invite you to think about relationships from the perspective of stewardship. Relationships are a gift to us, we do not create them all on our own; but having received the gift of a relationship with someone else, we have the responsibility to try to make that relationship something positive and beautiful, an experience which enriches our life and the lives of other people; and that is stewardship.

What we are going to invite you to do is to share your stories about relationships as you answer just a few questions: questions like, ‘Who were the important people in your life when you were ten years old?’ or, ‘Talk about a school teacher or family member whom you admired and who was a positive influence on your life, or, ‘When did you last have a conversation with a child in which you listened carefully to what the child was saying?’ or, ‘How would you describe a good relationship, and how would you describe a harmful relationship?’

This kind of questioning will be best done in groups in which you already feel comfortable, so in the first instance we intend ask existing groups in the church and perhaps in the community to take just a few minutes when they are together to look at some questions about relationships. All this may seem just a little vague at the moment. What we want to do in this little article is to share with you the journey we are on as we try to encourage stewardship thinking within the congregation and beyond. We would like you to join us on this journey.

Els, Kath, Mairaid and Bruce, the Coldingham and St Abbs Stewardship Planning Group.

Priory Live – Get Involved!

Priory LIVE is run by the Coldingham & St. Abbs congregation in partnership with Berwickshire Christian Youth Trust, and along with members of other congregations in the area we work together to put on an activity day for all Primary 6 pupils from local schools to come and find out about the history of Christianity in this part of the world. During the day youngsters have the opportunity to take part in activities such as drama, story telling, bread making, pottery work, hand spinning, a prayer journey and creating their own illuminated scripts while being led by “pilgrim guides” dressed as monks. This year we are planning to run Priory LIVE over TWO days to allow even more schools in Berwickshire to take part. We've already approached a few folks to help with some of the activities, but we do hope many of you would consider helping out whether as “pilgrim guides” or in the background as it will require a lot of hands-on to ensure that everyone who comes has a really valuable learning experience and a memorable day. The event will take place on the first Tuesday & Wednesday in June (2nd & 3rd June) from 9am till about 2.30pm. *If you would like more information or might be able to help, please speak to Andy, Marianne, Isabel or Carol Campbell.*