

# **Coldstream & District Parishes Church Magazine June 2024**



**You are invited to Holy Communion  
at the Sunday Service on  
16 June 2024  
at 11.15 a.m.**

..... Elder

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## **AFTER PENTECOST**

We have just celebrated Pentecost, the last in the cycle of Church special seasons and festivals stretching from Advent, through Christmas, Epiphany, Lent and Easter and finishing with Ascension and Pentecost. We begin in Advent by anticipating the birth of Jesus and we end with the giving of the Holy Spirit, fulfilling the promise that Jesus made to his disciples that he would send a comforter and guide who would be with them always.

Has it ever struck you that all these major dates in the church calendar fall into a period of about six months leaving the other half of the year with seemingly nothing much happening? It looks a bit like the way almost all the clubs and societies in Coldstream, including our Church Guild, close down from spring till autumn while folk spend time enjoying their gardens! Some churches call this “ordinary time”, perhaps in contrast to all the extraordinary events of the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Others simply call it “time after Pentecost”.

And perhaps that’s a good description, because for the past almost 2000 years we have been living in the time after Pentecost. This half of the year is a reminder that we too are part of God’s story, that now it’s over to us to live as God’s people in the present, inspired by the love and compassion that Jesus embodied as he walked this earth, responding to his challenge to live as his followers and to be his hands and feet in our community and our world today – and trusting in his promise to comfort, guide and strengthen us through the power of his Holy Spirit.

Jesus calls us to be his Church every week of the year, not just on special occasions. Everyone is welcome to join us each Sunday and at our midweek activities as we worship God and learn what it means to be his people.

## **A TRIBUTE TO WILL MURRAY**

We were all very sad at the death of Will Murray, one of our Kirk Elders, on 24<sup>th</sup> March after a short stay in hospital. Will lived all his life in Coldstream and was an active member of the community as well as of the Church.

Fellow elder David Tait gave a tribute to Will at the April meeting of the Kirk Session. Will was elected to the congregational board in 2003 and ordained an elder in 2009. As property convenor he made sure that we kept on top of maintenance and repairs of the church, the hall and the manse. Among many other things Will did for the Kirk, he also arranged the production of our parish magazine.

Will was a keen sportsman playing golf, cricket, badminton, curling and bowls, and a keen supporter of Hibs and of Coldstream Football Club. His other interests included local history through the Coldstream History Society, as well as membership of the Art Group, the Burns Club and the 1513 Club – it was Will's initiative to get the round stained glass window sponsored by the Burns Club installed above the High Street door of the Church in 2013 to commemorate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Flodden.

Will had a dry sense of humour and a kind heart – he quietly did a great deal for other people.

Will's funeral on 12<sup>th</sup> April was the largest we have seen in the Church for some time, reflecting his wide involvement in the community and the deep love and respect with which he was held. As his friend John Fulton said in his tribute, Will really was "Mr Coldstream"!

Will Murray will be greatly missed by all of us. We extend our love and prayers to his wife Mary and brother David and family.

## **SUMMER SERVICE AND PICNIC IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE GARDEN**

Come and join us for a special summer celebration in the garden at the Community Centre on Sunday 30 June at 11.15 a.m. followed by a Church family picnic. You can access the garden via the Community Centre – come early and browse the market on the way – or through the side gate. We'll be serving hot and cold drinks, so just bring your own picnic. If it's wet – or too hot! - the Leet Room will be available, so don't be put off whatever the weather!

### **THE LIFE OF OUR CHURCH**

Discussions among the parishes in Berwickshire are ongoing about how we can work more closely together as we share the smaller number of ministers who will be serving in our area. Until there is agreement on how this sharing of ministers will work, we will not be able to appoint any new ministers. It's quite frustrating for us to be caught in the middle of this process without a minister!

What is abundantly clear is that we are going to have to learn to do a lot of things that traditionally we expected ministers to do, including leading services in Church. Over the past year we have been getting plenty of practice! We are enormously grateful for the support of retired ministers, notably Rev Robin McHaffie and Rev Bruce Neill, as well as other guest preachers, but we also thank our Worship Team for their contributions and our Church elders who have been helping to lead services written by Rev Dr Susan Brown.

When we think of all the different activities within our church, most of them run pretty well without a minister! Let's build on that, so that when a team of ministers is finally in place to support and lead us, they can focus on what is most strategic for the future.

*Michael Rowe, Session Clerk*

## OUR ONGOING ACTIVITIES

As well as our Sunday morning Church services a lot of other things are happening in our congregation.

**Ladies group:** We have been meeting every other week for a few months now. We start with a cuppa and a chat before looking at the Bible. We began with a series linked with the book and film *Chocolat*. We ended the series by watching the film and enjoying some chocolate! Currently we are looking at the life of David. We will have a break during July and August, but keep an eye out for when we start again in the autumn. We have space for more people! The next meetings will be at 10.00 a.m. on 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> June .

**Sunday Sing:** Every two weeks a group of us meet at 10.15 a.m. to sing and worship God before the Sunday service. There can be up to 14 of us. We generally sing contemporary worship songs and hymns, but it does vary! Everyone is welcome to join us and there is no requirement to stay on for the service and you do not have to be a great singer! It is not a choir, just people who enjoy singing together. We will take a break during July and August but why not give it a go before the summer or sometime in the autumn. Sunday Sing next meets on 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> June.

**Men's Prayer Breakfast:** A group of up to a dozen men meet every other Saturday from 8.00 to 9.00 a.m. in the Church hall to share a breakfast of bacon or egg roll and tea and coffee and a time of fellowship and prayer. We come from different church traditions and are equally comfortable with times of silence and with spoken prayers. We share a common concern to bring to God the needs of the world, our community, neighbours, friends and families. New members will be very welcome. The next breakfasts will be on 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> June and then every two weeks throughout the summer.

**Iona service:** On the third Wednesday evening of the month we hold an informal service in the Church hall. We begin and end with responses and prayers drawn from the worship of the Iona Community and each time reflect on and discuss a different theme, continuing to share with one another over a cup of tea or coffee. The next service will be on 19 June at 7.30 p.m., with refreshments served from 7.15 and afterwards. Then we will break till September.

## **PARISH CHURCH GUILD**

The Guild is open to everyone – male or female – and meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month from October to March in the Church Hall at 7.00 p.m. We try to provide a varied programme with the emphasis on “enjoyment”. Our aim is to have our members leaving the Hall having had an evening of good fellowship and laughter – helped along by our excellent tea and biscuits! We’d love to you to join us when we resume in October. Details of the new session will be in the next magazine. Subs for the year are £10.00 and £1.00 is payable each meeting. Visitors are always welcome at a cost of £2.00.

*Helen Park*

## **WHAT’S HAPPENING AT SWINTON KIRK?**

With the decision by the Church of Scotland to close Swinton Kirk, a group of us have been exploring the possibility of the community purchasing the building, as we have no village hall, and this is the last public building in the village. We are also determined that the Kirk will remain open as a centre for Christian worship and outreach.

To that end we have been holding services on the third Sunday of every month at 10.00 a.m. since October 2023 as the Merse Church. We are an interdenominational fellowship of some 22 people, and our worship is a mixture of Church of Scotland, Anglican and Baptist worship and we are slowly

developing our own identity as a Christian community. Attendances have varied between 11 and 36 and there is a real sense of growth both in terms of Christian witness and fellowship.

We have carried out extensive public consultation helped by a small grant from the Architectural Heritage Fund, which has enabled us to employ a professional facilitator, and to have an independent survey and valuation of the building as well as architectural input for the redesign of the building to create a flexible space which will retain all the church features such as the pulpit and altar.

To underpin all of this work we are now an incorporated charity, Swinton Community Hub SCIO, with the ability to buy the building. Throughout this time, we have greatly appreciated the support and encouragement given to us by Coldstream and District Parishes and the Kirk Session.

We would warmly welcome you if you felt able to join us in worship on the third Sunday of every month at 10.00 a.m., the only exception being in June when we will meet on Sunday 23rd June for a Service of Healing.

Upcoming services all at 10.00 a.m. - Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June – Healing Service; 21<sup>st</sup> July – Communion; 18<sup>th</sup> August – Morning Prayer; 15<sup>th</sup> September – Songs of Praise and 20<sup>th</sup> October – Harvest Festival. Refreshments and fellowship after every service.

*David J Dalglish, Pastor, The Merse Church*

### **KEEP IN TOUCH**

For the latest news and updates on Coldstream and District Parishes please visit our website

[www.coldstreamdistrictchurches.org.uk](http://www.coldstreamdistrictchurches.org.uk)

and Facebook page [www.facebook.com/ColdstreamKirk](http://www.facebook.com/ColdstreamKirk)

**Tailpiece:**  
**a hymn by a contemporary theologian**

Why search for God enthroned above,  
'Mid distant stars where angels soar?  
Why look for him in ancient times,  
Or far off lands beyond our shore?  
O Lord, who once was homeless child,  
And man in pain on gallows tree,  
May we see you in those who hurt,  
The destitute, the refugee.

Why wait for God to intervene,  
To right the wrong, to reign supreme,  
With flaming sword or angel hosts,  
At hour unknown, a distant dream?  
O Lord, our time to act is now,  
So grant us gifts that we can share;  
By channelling love, may we in turn,  
Be your response to someone's prayer.

Why long for life that follows death,  
With heav'nly choir all dressed in white,  
Among the saints around the throne,  
All shadows lost in endless light?  
O Lord, who said eternal life  
Begins right here, may we now know  
That peace and joy you offer us  
In serving you on earth below.

Why think of faith as words and creeds,  
As rites and rules, as holy writ?  
We show our faith in how we love  
When we ourselves to you commit.  
O Lord, help us to spend ourselves,  
As freed from self, transformed by grace,  
We now respond to those in need,  
Discerning you in every face.

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