

Coldstream & District Parishes Church Magazine October 2025



**You are invited to Holy Communion
at the Sunday Service
in Coldstream Parish Church
on 19 October 2025 at 10.30 a.m.**

..... Elder

Interim Moderator: Mrs Susan Patterson

Session Clerk: Michael Rowe

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CANDLE, TABLE, DOOR

If you think that sounds like an address from the What3Words app, you would be right (it's in Farmington, Missouri)! However, these three words have been chosen to pinpoint what church is all about – that's something good to remind ourselves of now, as our different groups and activities resume after the summer break. This year autumn also marks the beginning of our search for a minister and looking forward to a new phase in the life of our churches.

Recently on the Rural Ministries Network website there was a reflection from Pete Atkins, for 30 years a minister in rural Lincolnshire, offering these three common objects to point us to three core values for the life of the church.

Candle

For us, a candle represents the presence of God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – in all of life, in every community and every heart. God in Jesus took the initiative to be with us – Emmanuel, God with us. We choose to respond by loving God, seeking His presence, dwelling in Him.

Table

This speaks to us of community lived in and lived out around a table: a place of generosity, hospitality and study. Table speaks of who God is – His love, His welcome, His hospitality, His community – for those who know Him and those who don't. We aim to 'do life' in community where He is easily found.

Door

We are compelled by love to go outside in mission and to welcome in through the door the pilgrim, the friend and the stranger. It means having an open door – a threshold for people to cross to a welcome in the Kingdom of God

and for us to venture over to those beyond the boundaries of church.

Candle, table, door speak of a culture of love for God, each other and those beyond the church.

Will you join us in praying for ourselves and our church?

*May the God of all imagination
set our hearts ablaze with love,
our minds afire with wisdom,
and our spirits burning bright with hope.
May we be the church the world needs –
ancient in faith,
contemporary in expression
and eternal in purpose.*

Come, Holy Spirit. Kindle us anew.

Amen. (Leonard Sweet, August 2025)

CALLING A MINISTER – WHAT'S NEXT?

Over the summer, we have been preparing a Parish Profile to introduce ourselves to potential applicants for the post of minister in our linked parishes of Coldstream and Leitholm. We thought about our church, what it is like and what we would like it to become. The profile is now on our website.

Our nominating committee advertised the post in September and will review applications, shortlist and interview applicants and bring to the two congregations their recommendation of the most suitable candidate, who will be invited to preach on the same Sunday in Leitholm and Coldstream. The date will be announced in our weekly notices, on the website and in the Berwickshire News. All members and registered adherents are invited to attend the service at their own church and then to vote on whether to call the candidate as our minister.

Michael Rowe, Session Clerk

MARY COMMON

We are sad to announce the death of Mrs Mary Common, on 15 September at the age of 91. Mary was an elder of our church for over 20 years. She had been unwell for the past few years and unable to be active in the church; the Kirk Session recently elected her as an Emeritus Elder in recognition of her faithful service.

Mary and her husband Smyttan were both born and brought up in Coldstream and returned to live in Coldstream after Smyttan retired from army service with the KOSB. Mary threw herself into the life of the community, being actively involved in the Coldstream RBLS Women's Section, the KOSB Association and, of course, the Parish Church.

Mary was a proud mother, grandmother and great-grandmother and we extend our condolences and prayers to Smyttan and all the family. All Mary's friends are warmly invited to her funeral service on Wednesday 8 October at 11.45 a.m. in the Church.

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Our Sunday services continue every week at 10.30 a.m. and all are welcome to attend and to join us for refreshments in the hall afterwards. On alternate Sundays we meet at 9.30 a.m., usually in the hall, for Sunday Sing – an opportunity to enjoy singing old favourites and new worship songs in an informal atmosphere.

Our weekly service sheet with notices now appears on our website, please check for details of coming services and dates and times of other activities.

Remembrance Sunday

The service on Remembrance Sunday, 9 November, will be at 11.15 a.m., following the ceremony at the War Memorial. We will be welcoming members of the Royal British Legion,

the uniformed organisations, the Pipe Band and the congregation of St Mary's for this special occasion in the life of our Church and our community.

Men's Prayer Breakfast

A group of men from our congregation and elsewhere meet for a shared breakfast, a short Bible reflection and a time of fellowship and prayer every other Saturday throughout the year. If you haven't attended, why not give us a try? You will receive a warm welcome, a bacon or egg roll, unlimited tea and coffee and a chance to pray with others for our community and our world. You can pray silently or aloud or bring a prepared prayer. We meet in the Church Hall from 8.00 to 9.00 a.m. You can check the dates on the weekly notices and on the church website.

Dave Henderson

Ladies@10

A group of ladies meet together every other Wednesday morning from September to June for a relaxed couple of hours starting at 10.00 a.m. to share coffee and cake, fellowship and some Bible study, either at Jayne Henderson's home or in the Church Hall. New members are always welcome – please contact Jayne in person or via the website or church email.

Jayne Henderson

The Guild

The Guild now meets on the second Wednesday evening of each month from October to April at 7.00 p.m. in the Church Hall. The Guild is open to everyone – male and female – and yearly subs are £10.00 with a donation of £1.00 per meeting for tea and biscuits. New members are always welcome – or feel free to attend any session: there is a £2.00 charge for visitors.

At our opening meeting on Wednesday 8 October we welcome Roger Manning with a talk on Holy Island illustrated with his lovely slides. On Wednesday 12 November we have a visit by "Serenity by Suzanne". Suzanne will give a short demonstration and discuss various holistic treatments. As it is getting near Christmas, there will be some Neal's Yard products for sale at this meeting. Our Christmas Party will be on 10 December. We resume on 14 January with a visit from Eric Grounds with his talk, "Reminiscences of a Royal Wedding" which sounds like an intriguing start to the New Year. On 11 February we welcome John Edwards who will give his illustrated talk on "Titanic – Myth and Reality", which should be most interesting. Wednesday 11 March brings the welcome return of the Rev. Susan Brown with "A Night in India" which sounds very mysterious but is bound to be a most enjoyable evening. Our session ends on 8 April with our A.G.M. after which our own Isobel Johnson will put us through our paces with one of her Craft Evenings.

Helen Park

Iona services

A small group gathers once a month for an informal service of prayer, reflection and discussion inspired by the worship of the Iona Community. We meet on the third Wednesday evening of the month at 7.30 p.m. in the Church Hall in a relaxed setting over a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit, served from 7.15 p.m.

Michael Rowe

Church Fayre

The annual church Fayre will take place on Saturday 15 November at 10.30 a.m. in the Church and Church Hall, with teas and coffees, the usual range of stalls, a raffle and the ever popular special raffle for Christmas hampers.

NEW THIS AUTUMN!

Starting on Tuesday 21 October we plan to run the 8-part Bible Course from the Bible Society.

The sessions will take place every Tuesday in the Church Hall at 7.15 p.m.

Whatever your knowledge of the Bible and Christian faith, the Bible Course is accessible for all.

Curious about the message of the Bible?

Looking to deepen your understanding of the Bible?

The Bible Course is for you!

Our world is constantly changing and the Bible Course has been updated to reflect this.

The relaunched course includes a lively video each week, with discussion starters.

Open to everyone, whether you are a regular churchgoer or just curious.

**More information is on our website
www.coldstreamdistrictchurches.org.uk**

Or email coldstreampc@gmail.com

Or call or message 07528364602

SWINTON KIRK

From October the Merse Church is meeting twice a month, on the first and third Sundays each month at 10.00 a.m., with a Celtic Communion on first Sundays. Special occasions are Harvest Festival at 10.00 a.m. on Sunday 19 October, Remembrance service at 11.15 a.m. on Sunday 9 November and Carol service at 10.00 a.m. on Sunday 21 December. There will be a short family service on Christmas Day at 10.00 a.m.

THE ANDANTE CHAMBER CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Andante Chamber Choir are giving a Christmas concert
in Coldstream Parish Church this year
on Wednesday 17 December at 7.00 p.m.

Entry by donation for church funds.

Come and enjoy a medley of classical and modern acapella
singing alongside some Christmas readings with a new
twist, and join in with some traditional carol singing to round
off the evening.

andante
CHAMBER CHOIR



KEEP IN TOUCH

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

www.coldstreamdistrictchurches.org.uk

and Facebook page www.facebook.com/ColdstreamKirk

You can contact us via the website or Facebook page or by
email to ColdstreamPC@gmail.com