

***Rev'd. William Jackson is our new Minister  
Welcome to Bill & Linda***

***Induction service  
Liddesdale Church, 7pm, Tuesday, 27th May  
Social afterwards in the school***

***First service at Canonbie Church  
Communion  
Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June, 11:30am***

***Liz Findlay, our Session Clerk writes:***

Dear Everyone,

The 18 month vacancy is almost over and I would like to thank you all for keeping the faith over that time – attendance numbers have held up or even increased, you have continued to support all church activities and fund raisers and we have had lots of fun, thinking particularly of the fund raisers to send the Youth Group to Malawi. You have supported me marvellously to make my job so much easier.

Special thanks to Andrew for providing continuity in the pulpit for the past year and for his smooth managing of the vacancy. His positive approach was greatly encouraging to the nominating committee. And now we eagerly await the arrival of Bill Jackson, called by God to our 2 charges. It would be really good if as many of you as possible could come to Bill's induction service at 7pm on 27th May at Newcastleton Church, but even more important that you all come to give him a great welcome at his first service here, Communion on 1st June. We look forward to seeing you there.

Thank you again and blessings.

Liz Findlay

## **Monday Evening Bible Study/Fellowship Group**

meets (most) Mondays at Mozie Law, 7:30pm. Call Ruth Foster on 71583

We are currently looking at a study by John Ortberg "If you want to walk on water you've got to get out of the boat". Come along for some prayer, singing, bible study and discussion.

## ***Spree in the Borders!***

Once again members of the Sunday School and Youth Group will be attending Spree in the Borders at Whittaugh Park in Newcastleton from 13th - 15th June. This is an action packed faith based Bible teaching weekend including outdoor activities such as gorge walking, kayaking and canoeing, rock climbing, and swimming. The list could go on!

## ***Youth Group***

The Youth Group continue to meet fortnightly at Mozie Law on a Sunday evening at 7.30pm. So far this year we have explored, amongst other things, the meaning of sin, love, and the foundations of our faith. We have also had a fantastic Bake Off! that involved the Sunday School children, and was judged by our very own Paul Hollywood and Mary Berry (Gordon Sandford and Hazel Murray). For more information about what goes on have a look at our FaceBook page at

[www.facebook.com/CanonbieUnitedParishChurchYouthGroup](http://www.facebook.com/CanonbieUnitedParishChurchYouthGroup)



## **Holiday Club 2014.**

### **Introducing *Fit for a King***

Over the last few years Canonbie Church have run well attended and successful Holiday Clubs in the summer holidays for Primary School age children. In May, a few of us attended a training day in Glasgow run by Scripture Union and were inspired and encouraged to hold a Holiday Club again this summer. As the Queen and Commonwealth nations assemble in Glasgow for their 2014 Games, Scripture Union have produced Holiday Club material called ***Fit for a King***.

The aims of ***Fit For A King*** are: - To present who Jesus is, to explain how someone can enter his Kingdom, to give the athletes (the children) a memorable, fun and safe week with a wide variety of activities

Theme and Setting.

With the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow from 23rd July–3rd August 2014, the children are athletes, the group leaders are the Games Makers, the presenters of the programme are Roy and Ali, the setting is a sports stadium and the children are in small groups each with the name of a Commonwealth country. The athletes compete in their small groups in various events, have a national anthem or chant and win medals as a country or as individuals. In this setting, we introduce Jesus as a king with a difference: who cares and has power, who died for us, who rose from the dead and who invites us to come into his Kingdom.

If you would like to help in any way running the Holiday Club, by either coming along and being a part of the team or by baking, collecting craft materials, offering advice and support, or by praying (most importantly) please let us know. The more people that help the better. For more information please speak to either Leoniek van Belzen, Ruth Foster, Ruth Gilbert or Lois Lane.

The dates for your diary are Monday 28th July to Friday 1st August. Come along and join in!

### ***Mens Group.***

After a bracing walk on Easter Day morning, the Men's Group are planning more walking, breakfasts ....and BBQs this summer. Keep an eye on the website and church notices for details.

## ***Beyond All Doubt***

**On Sunday, 27 April 2014, our Interim Moderator, Andrew Morton shared a few thoughts on "Doubting Thomas" with us. Here's some extracts from his sermon:**

*Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." (John 20:27)*

It's time to forget that nickname - "Doubting Thomas". I offer you another - "Blessed Thomas". Look how Jesus responds to Thomas's questioning and uncertain response to the news of the Resurrection. Does he belittle him? No. Does he cast him out as an "unbeliever"? No. He offers his hands and his side to Thomas. He meets him in his doubts. He meets him in his uncertainty. He meets him when he finds it hard to believe. This is a touching and beautiful moment. It is a blessing.

And it's a blessing that we need to recognise. Because we all have our times of doubt. We all have those times when we question the teachings of the Church, or we wonder what God's up to. We all have times in our lives when the love of God seems a very distant idea.

We do not live in a world of certainties where we can be without doubt. We do not live in a world where everything is so cut and dried that we can be without questions. We are all Thomas sometimes. We all live in a world that challenges us to reflect on what we believe to be true and to question it. There is no such thing as unquestioning faith, and let me tell you why.

Faith, ultimately is trust. It isn't certainty. It doesn't mean being beyond all doubt. It means trusting God with our doubts and our questions. It means trusting God with our uncertainties and our worries. Faith is not being without doubt. Faith is living with doubt; living with uncertainty; living with questions. It is living in trust. Whatever my doubts, whatever my questions, whatever uncertainties this I know. God loves me; no questions, no doubts or uncertainties can change that.

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