

Canonbie United Parish Church

# CANONBIE CHRONICLES

Edition 28

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

Spring 2016

Scottish Charity: SC000717

We shall be celebrating

## Communion

On Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March, 11:30am.

Please join us.

## Easter Services at Canonbie United Parish Church

Canonbie School Service. Tuesday 22nd March, 10:30am. Public invited.

Good Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> March. 2pm

Easter Day, Sunday 27th March, 11:30am

## Soup Kitchen

Canonbie Village Hall. 11:30am to 1:30pm

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2016

Same day as the Rotary Club Umbrella Walk

£5 for soup, dessert and tea or coffee

Not been for a while? Come along to this successful community event organised by our church people

Enjoy a good home-cooked meal and a chat with friends.

## Canonbie United Parish Church Film Nights

6:30pm. Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2016

## TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD (1962)

Gregory Peck

Admission free.

Tea & coffee served. Bring your own supper, beer & wine.

The Mens Group will be having a

## Pint and Prayer

6pm in the Cross Keys Hotel. Space for Christians to meet, drink and chat.

First Friday in every month.

For further details, contact Anthony, Tel. 71386.

## Youth Group

On Sundays, every 2 weeks. 7:30 to 9pm.

## Monday Evening Fellowship Group

Every Monday. 7:30pm.

Both at Mozie Law. Ring Ruth on 71583 for more details.

## Sunday School

for primary school aged children is held during our weekly Worship service at 11:30am. See Daan in Church or ring him on 71391.

Need a babysitter? Then contact

## Lydia Lane Babysitting Services

Rates are very reasonable!

Phone Lydia on 71386

Are you aged 8-15 years old and fancy a weekend of camping, outdoor adventure (zip wire, canoeing, gorge-walking, high ropes, swimming) and Bible teaching? Then come along to

## Spree!

17th-19th June

Whithaugh Park, nr. Newcastleton

Youngsters aged 16+ are welcome to help as event crew

Cost £48

See Lois (71386) or Ruth (71583) for further details

## [From The Manse](#)

Dear All

Hebrews is a deep, rich, and mysterious book. In Hebrews 6:1-12, the concept of "perfection" is the focus, which is both maturity in the faith as well as a perfection brought about by Jesus' suffering. The writer takes an incredibly hard stand against anyone who sins after baptism, declaring that it amounts to an unforgivable sin..."since on their own they are crucifying again the Son of God and holding him up to contempt."

Saying it is an indictment is to put it mildly.

It becomes clear that the primary goal of the Christian life is not to sit smugly in God's grace, declaring very selfishly that "I have been saved and you haven't." On the contrary. To do that would invalidate the entire process. What the writer of Hebrews seems insistent on is that the goal of the Christian life is to endure with the same diligence that the saints had - to be imitators of their faith and patience, working for the reconciliation of the world.

What a mouth full, I know! Perhaps an easier way to say it is that the goal of the Christian life is to spread Christ's love.

Despite the ways in which we fall short of that, we are called to continually renew that.

There is a stunningly effective analogy in today's lesson - that of the ground that drinks up the rain and produces a good crop, as opposed to the ground that drinks up the rain and produces only thorns and thistles. Perfection then is work! It is tending to the garden of life in a way that the grace of God can radiate and show in our lives with real results.

As the cold rain and freezing fog rolls in today, may you be reminded of the ground that drinks up the rain and produces a good crop in the coming season. May today become not an obsession toward perfection, but of the grace of God that can produce good work.

That's the challenge that faces us during this vacancy. Let us have the courage to be God's people, and let us strive towards the goal in Christ, and when we think that we are on the right track, let us not be sidetracked by complacency.

Vacancies can be difficult times but they can also be an opportunity to look forward and plan for the future. I will be working with the Session and Board and with many other people too in making sure that we lay good foundations for a sustainable long term future. To do that, I will offer you encouragement and support, but we will all need encouragement and support, in every direction. May our harvest be one without a thorn or thistle in sight. May you, when the time comes have a very happy and blessed Easter.

Your minister and friend, Adam Dillon (Interim Moderator)

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## [Interim Ministry](#)

We have recently made an application for assistance from Interim Ministry and have been told that our situation fulfils the criteria for Interim Ministry which both the Kirk Sessions of Liddesdale and Canonbie believe would be beneficial for sustaining a better, long term future. However, there is of course the question as we await the outcome of this as to what Interim Ministry actually is. So hopefully, this can provide a bit more information!

The Interim Ministries team has been established since 1997. Over 40 congregations have benefited from the services of an Interim Minister. A team consisting of Interim Ministers, (some available for deployment across the country, and some based in a region) Peripatetic Deacons and Transition Ministers is available to provide specialist ministry support for local congregations and Presbyteries.

Deployment of this team is the responsibility of the Interim Ministries Task Group, which faces the challenge of working with a small team of people to best utilise their skills and availability in a range of situations across Scotland.

An Interim Minister may be deployed in a vacant charge where there has been a very long ministry, a very short ministry, a major change in the shape of the parish, or conflict, but there is no definitive list of reasons for making an application for an Interim Ministry and each application is considered on its own merits.

Here are three comments from congregations who have recently had, or still have, an Interim Minister deployed with them:

"The time spent in Interim Ministry has given us a breathing space and the chance to sort out in a measured way problems that had arisen. It has also given us new insight into other ways of worship and of working and prepared us for moving forward to settled ministry once more. We are exceedingly grateful to the national church for that opportunity."

"For many of us Interim Ministry was an unknown quantity, something to be feared or viewed with suspicion, a threat to our Church life as we knew it, but we quickly realised that it was an opportunity worth grabbing

with both hands. The considerable benefit of an Interim Minister for both the congregation and Session is having an independent, impartial and highly experienced minister to lead, encourage and support us, and yet the Interim Minister was not a distant and indifferent stranger, but someone who joined with us, became one of us, a friend on our journey. We were challenged to think again about our objectives and to identify our priorities for work in our church and community, and this gave us a clearer and shared purpose, a purpose which we continue to pursue after the Interim Minister has left us."

"I think Interim Ministry has been a positive experience for our Church. It has given people in the congregation, who were upset about past issues, an opportunity to voice their feelings and feel listened to. Also I feel our Interim Minister really cares about what is happening in our Church and wants to help the congregation move forward together. Interim Ministry has provided our Church with the planned structures and processes which have been helpful to individuals and the wider congregation. I think the skills of our minister have been significant in making the period of Interim Ministry so positive."

Although Interim Ministers are often deployed in full-time placements, they can also be deployed part-time in more than one situation. They can give advice and assistance on a short-term or one-off basis, or work one-to-one with individual ministers. They work with each other to utilise particular areas of expertise.

If it is possible for an Interim Minister to be deployed with ourselves, the next step would be a presentation on the role of Interim Ministry for the whole congregation, and we would meet together as one group from both congregations. Details of this, as and when they are available will be widely shared. I certainly believe that this is a sensible step forward in ensuring that short term ministries and uncertainty become a thing of the past, God willing!

Rev Adam Dillon. Interim Moderator

## Wild River Cafe

Lunches ~ Home baking ~ SF Studios



Enjoy the picturesque location of Canonbie United Parish Church on the banks of the River Esk in this beautiful conservation Village.

This Spring Fling we are pushing the boat out and offering studio adventurers a new exhibition venue in the upper church gallery as well as delicious home made food in the Community Café.

Canonbie United Parish Church, Canonbie DG14 0RD.  
Café open Sat 28th & Mon 30th 11-4.30, Sun 29th May  
12.30-4.30. Disabled Access to ground floor only.

### May Bank Holiday weekend 28th - 30th the Spring Fling Studio Tour

is considered one of Scotland's major art events showcasing over 90 selected artists living in Dumfries and Galloway.

With the wonderful location and great gallery space and facilities that Canonbie Church has to offer local artist Diana de Gruyther will be exhibiting her work as well as fellow artist Cathy Sidhu from Eskdalemuir. Art materials and demonstrations help create a 'studio' experience.

The Community Cafe will be renamed Wild River Cafe for the weekend offering refreshments to the many visitors who come from all over the country and enjoy travelling around Dumfriesshire visiting studios and meeting the artists.

Home-made soup with fresh baked bread filled rolls, paninis and salad and delicious cakes, Fair Trade coffees and tea selection will be on sale.

Some brochures will be made available soon in the church with details of the various route options. Diana says '*we will look forward to seeing many local folks. Last year's tour was a really great opportunity to meet people, it was surprisingly busy, very encouraging and really good fun. A really rewarding conclusion to all those hours spent painting and preparing for the event! With so much on offer at the church we really hope that splendid food, sunny weather and lively conversations will make for a special weekend in Canonbie*'

If you would like to know more about Spring Fling and Church Exhibition here are some links for more information;

<http://www.spring-fling.co.uk/event>

<http://dianadegruyther.weebly.com/>

<http://www.theoldburrow.com/>

## **Canonbie Community Café - The Vestry @ CUPC**

### **Spring Calendar**

#### **1. Moorland March Exhibition Church Gallery**

Local Artists, craft workers, and photographers, exhibition of all things moorland!

Opening times: Mon/Weds/Fri 2pm-4pm for two weeks, Mon 14th until Mon 28th March.

#### **2. "Get Ahead Get a Hat!"**

Collection of glamorous ladies hats and accessories.

Easter Monday -28th March, in the Church from 1-5pm.

#### **3. Easter Bonnet Competition**

Easter Monday in the Café. Decorated Easter bonnets: Adult and Children's sections. Prizes for the winning entries!

All entries to the Café no later than 3.30pm. Judging at 4pm!

#### **4. Queens Birthday Celebration Afternoon Tea**

Date & time in May, to be confirmed. More details to follow.

#### **5. Spring Fling 2016**

Two local artists have booked the Church Gallery for Spring Fling, and are on the "Red Route" from 28th-30th May. A pop-up restaurant will operate from the Café, offering light lunches, as well as delicious home baking. See details elsewhere in Chronicles.

#### **6. Sweet Sensations**

A new venture! Summer Saturday afternoon "Pudding Club" at the Community Café.

Come along and enjoy a selection of delicious puddings, prepared by local bakers.

Dates & times to follow.

#### **7. Canonbie Spring Clean!**

The second Annual Litter Pick is currently being organised, for Sunday 3rd April.

As ever, it will not happen without lots of trusty volunteers!

Contact Archie Hyslop on 71370 for more details, and to volunteer.

### **Other news....**

Our **church ceildh** staged last October to raise awareness of the work of the church and associated costs have realised an extra £4k per annum in committed giving. A massive thank you from the Kirk Session from all those who responded so positively to the event. This extra financial resource will help us maintain our Christian ministry in the Canonbie community and secure a sustainable future for our church facilities. We joined with the United Free Church of Scotland for **Mission Sunday** on 28<sup>th</sup> February offering prayer and worship for all our missionary activities both here and across the world. We remembered **Wezi**, the young trainee nurse our Youth Group is supporting in Malawi and **Barrie and Tillie Flitcroft of Equip International**, North Carolina, USA. Barrie and Tillie come from Canonbie and Gretna and have lived in the USA for a number of years after missionary work across the world. Equip International trains students for missionary work in over 170 countries. **Thomas Richard Fisher** was baptised into our faith in our Church on 27<sup>th</sup> February. Mum and Dad Tracey and Nick live near Penrith; Tracey comes from Canonbie. Recent **funerals** of church members and people from our parish include Anne Campbell, Jim Lesley and Robert Irving. Our **Community Café** in the Old Vestry, run in partnership with Canonbie & District Residents Association (CADRA) continues to be very successful. Open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 2-4pm. See the programme of special events elsewhere in Chronicles. The offering from our **Christmas Eve Watchnight Service** has been donated to the Carlisle Floods Appeal. We have held two successful sessions of **Messy Church** this winter. Organised by our Presbytery Youth and Childrens Worker, Donna Hislop and assisted by a strong band of volunteers from our church, these events have plenty of fun, crafts, fellowship and food.

You will see this edition of Canonbie Chronicles has stretched into 4 pages. It's good to have so much on in our church. If you know of any individual or organisation that would like to take up advertising space in future editions to help with our printing costs then please let the Editor know.