

# CANONBIE CHRONICLES

Note the change of date

## Communion

Will be held on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March, 11:30 am. (Not Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March)

All welcome

## Quiz Night

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March

7.30pm @

Canonbie United Parish Church

max. 4 per Team

£3 per person

(inc. refreshments)

BYOB Raffle

Support the [Great Daffodil Appeal](#) so Marie Curie Nurses can care for more people living with any terminal illness.  
[mariecurie.org.uk/get-fundraising](http://mariecurie.org.uk/get-fundraising)

## Canonbie Church Film Nights

### WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND (1961)

Hayley Mills Bernard Lee Alan Bates  
Directed by Bryan Forbes

6:30pm. Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March.

Admission free. Tea & coffee served.

Bring your own supper, beer & wine.

The spring Traidcraft catalogue is full of lots of lovely ways we can support our brothers and sisters throughout the world simply by buying Fairtrade! Please take a catalogue home, have a browse and see if there's something you fancy — for a friend, for the house, for the garden, for you... Order forms are enclosed with the catalogues. And please pass the catalogue on to friends and family.

Also could you have a look through the food section and see if there is something you wish we stocked as a staple that you could then pick up at church on a Sunday. Let me know what you wish we stocked and we'll see what we can do. The more we buy from Traidcraft, the more work they can do to develop Fairtrade and to help tilt the scales of justice.

As always thanks for your ongoing support for our Fairtrade stall.

Kirsteen



Guarantees  
a **better deal**  
for Third World  
Producers

A Morning Gathering on 18th March 2017.

10.00 a.m. at Canonbie Church

## A Friend at Midnight

Jesus' promise to all who follow him is the joyful surprise of discovering spiritual treasures that can never be taken from us. Our gathering is a time for those who seek to be followers of the Way of the Lord Jesus to meet, share and listen with one another.

To be led by Revd. James Gatherer, Church of Scotland Minister for Colvend, Kirkbean & Southwick.

More details on our website.

### From the Manse...

Gradually the days are getting a little bit longer and in the garden at the Manse the crocuses and daffodils are beginning to push through. We can tell that Spring is on its way. It's only six weeks until Easter.

The period of six weeks leading up to Holy week and Easter is known as Lent. It is a time of hope and promise; a time of preparation for new life.

Nurturing and encouraging new life is very much a key aspect of Interim Ministry, and that often results in initiating change and journeying with congregations through a process of transition to new beginnings. We speak about coming to terms with the past, looking at where we are at present, and through transition and change, encouraging a stronger and healthier worshipping community, ready and prepared to call a minister in the future.

Throughout the past 6 months there's been some significant changes, particularly in Liddesdale. However, as part of a linked charge with Liddesdale, it's also important that the folk in Canonbie are kept up-to-speed with where we are at present. There's been much discussion about the past, but importantly, more discussion about the future.

#### **So, what changes have been made?**

\*Better communication and a closer working relationship between Canonbie United Parish and Liddesdale.

\*In Liddesdale we've looked at how we can work more closely with the Refresh Church and the Church Army. Very soon, Paul Smith from the Church Army will be with us at Canonbie to speak about his work in evangelism and looking to see whether the Church Army might have something to offer Canonbie United Parish.

\*Shorter morning service in Liddesdale, allowing for fellowship over tea and coffee following worship.

\*Monthly Communion in Liddesdale on the first Sunday of the month.

\*Four new elders will be ordained around Easter time in Liddesdale. In addition to these new members, we also welcome short-term support from three members of Canonbie United Kirk Session who offer help and encouragement through this process of change, as well as helping to strengthen the linkage.

\*The closure and imminent sale of Saughtree Church and plans for a "Friends of Saughtree" group.

\*A change of constitution at Liddesdale Parish Church. Presently, we have what's known as a Model Constitution – a Kirk Session and a Congregational Board, but soon the congregation will be asked to vote on moving to a Unitary Constitution. The Congregational Board will be dissolved and a Pastoral Care; Fabric and Finance; Worship, Prayer, Bible Study and Mission Groups; and a Communication Group (responsible for Church Magazines, Notices, and Publicity) will be established.

We have spoken about a similar move in Canonbie United, but the current constitution is working for Canonbie United, so it's unlikely that there will be a change in Canonbie's constitution at present.

#### **What issues do we still need to address?**

We need to be thinking about the future. How do we take more responsibility for the life, worship and future of the church, especially in the event of a long-term vacancy? And what can we do to continue to strengthen and unite, not just the Parish Church, but the wider Christian fellowship in this community?

Are there issues which need to be addressed at Presbytery level?

How do you as a community welcome and support a minister and his/her family? Although the minister will be resident in Liddesdale, it's still very important that he or she feels welcomed and part of Canonbie Community. And the importance of always being open to change and new or different ways. We are part of a reformed church which is always reforming, but more importantly, God's Spirit is always moving us in different ways. Nothing ever stays the same.

Thinking of the immediate future, in addition to my responsibilities in Canonbie and Liddesdale, I have been appointed as an Assessor Minister for the Presbytery of Shetland. Presbytery have agreed that Mr Alan Dodds, will be appointed "locum" to oversee Sunday Worship during my times of absence, However, I will be encouraging members of Canonbie United Congregation to take responsibility for Sunday worship.

In the meantime, may I thank-you again for your support for all that we are doing in our churches. In this season of new life and hope, I believe we are seeing new growth and life with God's blessing and your support.

Wishing you a blessed Lent and joyful Easter

Ian Murray

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

**Community Annual Litter Pick.** Sunday 2nd April starting from Canonbie Community Cafe at 1pm. Equipment will be provided. Areas that needs special attention? Can you cover a particular area? Contact Archie Hyslop 71370. Coffee & cake will be available when we finish. Please remember in your prayers the families of those laid to rest in our church: - **Les Lightfoot**, 16/1/17; **Ronnie Mowbray**, 7/2/17. And a joyous welcome into God's Kingdom for **Roan Douglas Mitchell** baptized in our church on 12/2/17. Please also pray for **Lucy Foster** in her gap year with Scripture Union, working in Edinburgh schools. **Soup Kitchen**, Village Hall, Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March, 11:30am to 1:30pm - after the Rotary Club Umbrella Walk, £5. On Saturday 13 May, **Safeguarding Training** at Canonbie Church, 9.30am - 12.30pm for the Elders and those working with young people in church (Sunday school, youth club and holiday clubs etc.). **Stated Annual Meeting**, after Morning Service, Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March. Finally, don't forget **Pint & Prayer**, 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of every month in the Cross Keys Hotel, 6pm. A time for Christians to meet and chat over a drink and a meal if you wish.

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