



THE PARISH CHURCHES OF MAXTON & MERTOUN WITH NEWTOWN WITH ST BOSWELLS

United in serving God, by welcoming you,
sharing His love, and reaching out in service
to our community



Picture by John Martin

SEPTEMBER – NOVEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

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<https://www.facebook.com/The-Parish-Churches-of-Maxton-Mertoun-with-Newtown-with-St-Boswells>

pt Boswells Church hall & vestry bookings: Mrs Sandra Thomas, Tel: 823518
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The Parish Churches of Maxton & Mertoun, Newtown & St Boswells take no responsibility for the advertisers in this newsletter, nor the services or goods offered by them.

HELLO FROM THE MANSE

The beginning of September traditionally sees the start of various activities beginning once again after a summer break. Life begins to get busier for parents and for children. The little ones who started school are settling down (hopefully), in their classes and not feeling too overwhelmed, and those who left primary school at the end of June have managed to find their way around Earlston High School and it doesn't feel quite as large now.

But for all our young people there will have been a change, whether it is a new school, new class teacher or even a new home. When Jesus began his ministry, he moved around from village to village, town to town, so moving is not something new. Jesus however had an important mission. He had news to tell others of a God, our God, who loved them so much. When he sent out his disciples to carry on his work, they moved around, teaching, helping people understand God's love for them, and healing people too.

One of my childhood favourite songs is based on this act of love and healing in Acts 3 from *The Message*, a Contemporary Bible translation: 'One day at three o'clock in the afternoon, Peter and John were on their way into the Temple for a prayer meeting. At the same time there was a man crippled from birth being carried up. Every day he was set down at the Temple gate, the one named Beautiful, to beg from those going into the Temple. When he saw Peter and John about to enter the Temple, he asked for a handout. Peter, with John at his side, looked him straight in the eye and said, 'Look here.' He looked up, expecting to get something from them. Peter said, 'I don't have a nickel to my name, but what I do have, I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk!' He grabbed him by the right hand and pulled him up. In an instant his feet and ankles became firm. He jumped to his feet and walked. The man went into the Temple with them, walking back and forth, dancing and praising God. Everybody there saw him walking around and praising God. They recognized him as the one who sat begging at the Temple's Gate Beautiful and rubbed their eyes, astonished, scarcely believing what they were seeing.'

In the business of our world, the harshness and sometimes uncertainty, there is one constant, God loves you, you are all special to him, Peace be with you.

Rev Sheila

SUNDAY SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2017

	Newtown	Maxton/Mertoun	St Boswells
3 September	9.30am	Mertoun 9.30am	10.45am <i>Coffee after service see below**</i>
10 September	9.30am	Maxton 9.30am	10.45am
17 September	9.30am Communion	Mertoun 9.30am	10.45am
24 September	5pm <i>Coffee after service see below**</i>	Maxton 9.30am <i>Coffee after service see below**</i>	10.45am
1 October	9.30am	Mertoun 9.30am Harvest Thanksgiving	10.45am <i>Coffee after service see below**</i>
8 October	9.30am Harvest Thanksgiving	Maxton 9.30am	10.45am Harvest Thanksgiving
15 October	9.30am	Mertoun 9.30am Communion	10.45am
22 October	5pm <i>Coffee after service see below**</i>	Maxton 9.30am <i>Coffee after service see below**</i>	10.45am Communion
29 October	United Service Mertoun 10.30am Please note time		
5 November	9.30am	Mertoun 9.30am	10.45am <i>Coffee after service see below**</i>
12 November Remembrance	United Remembrance Day service St Boswells 10am Please note earlier time Act of Remembrance Newtown War Memorial 1.30pm		
19 November	9.30am	Mertoun 9.30am	10.45am
26 November	5pm <i>Coffee after service see below**</i>	Maxton 9.30am <i>Coffee after service see below**</i>	10.45am
Thursday 30 November	United Communion Service to celebrate St Andrew's Day and the start of Advent St Boswells 6pm		
	** You are invited to make a small monetary donation for coffee in support of The Vine Trust Project: 'Build a House in Tanzania'		

WHAT'S ON SEPTEMBER:

Friday 1 September: **Organ Recital with 'Pop-up' Choir.** *Please note that, due to unforeseen circumstances, this has been cancelled in the meantime. Watch out for a new date in the future!*

Sunday 3 September: Messy Church, St Boswells Church Hall, 4 – 6pm

Worship on Wednesday 6 September, St Boswells Church Hall, 10am.

Saturday 9 September: **St Boswells Church Coffee Morning,** Church Hall, 10am.

Tuesday 12 September: **Meeting of Newtown Kirk Session,** Newtown Vestry, 7pm.

Thursday 14 September: St Boswells Guild **Tea, Coffee and Chat,** Church Hall, 7.30 - 8.30pm.

Saturday 16 September: **Maxton & Mertoun Church Coffee Morning,** Maxton Village Hall, 10am

Sunday 17 September: **Communion, Newtown Church** 9.30am.

Worship on Wednesday 20 September, St Boswells Church Hall, 10am.

Thursday 21 September: **Newtown Hour of Praise,** Newtown Community Wing, 2pm.

Tuesday 26 September: **Meeting of St Boswells Kirk Session,** Church, 7pm.

Wednesday 27 September: **Meeting of Maxton & Mertoun Kirk Session,** Mertoun Kirk, 7pm.

Friday 29 September: **Quiz Night in aid of the Vine Trust,** Newtown Community Wing, 7pm

WHAT'S ON OCTOBER:

Sunday 1 October: **Harvest Thanksgiving,** Mertoun Kirk, 9.30am.

Worship on Wednesday 4 October, St Boswells Church Hall, 10am.

Sunday 8 October: **Harvest Thanksgiving,** Newtown Church, 9.30am.

Sunday 8 October: **Harvest Thanksgiving,** St Boswells Church, 10.45am.

Sunday 8 October: **Newtown Church Harvest Lunch,** Community Wing, from 12.30.

Thursday 12 October: **St Boswells Guild Chrysanthemum Tea:** Church Hall, 2.30pm.

Sunday 15 October: **Communion,** Mertoun Kirk, 9.30am.

Worship on Wednesday 18 October, St Boswells Church Hall, 10am.

Thursday 19 October: **Newtown Hour of Praise,** Newtown Community Wing, 2pm. This service will include holy communion.

Sunday 22 October: **Communion,** St Boswells Church, 10.45am.

Thursday 26 October: **St Boswells Guild:** Fran Selkirk– her call to become a Reader, Church Hall, 2.30pm

Sunday 29 October: **United Service,** Mertoun Kirk, 10.30am.

WHAT'S ON NOVEMBER:

Worship on Wednesday 1 November, St Boswells Church Hall, 10am.

Monday 6 November: **Editorial deadline for December / January / February Newsletter**

Thursday 9 November: **St Boswells Guild:** Church Hall, 2.30pm – Mr David Frew: pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela

Sunday 12 November: **United Remembrance Day Service**, St Boswells Church, 10am; War Memorial, 11am

Act of Remembrance,

Newtown War Memorial, 1.30pm.

Worship on Wednesday 15 November, St Boswells Church Hall, 10am.

Thursday 16 November: **Newtown Hour of Praise**, Newtown Community Wing, 2pm.

Thursday 23 November: **St Boswells Guild:** Church Hall, 2.30pm – Mr Philip Grant: his time as a pilot (Open Meeting)

Saturday 18 November: **St Boswells Church Christmas Fair**, St Boswells

Village Hall, 10am.

Saturday 25 November: **Newtown Church Christmas Bazaar**, Newtown Community Wing, 11am - 1pm.

Thursday 30 November: **United St Andrew's Day Evening Communion**, St Boswells Church, 7pm.

WEEKLY:

Mondays: **Art Group**, St Boswells Church Hall 2 - 4pm.

Thursdays, **IMPACT After School**, St Boswells School, 3.15 - 4.15pm.

Wednesdays: **Craft Group**, St Boswells Church Hall, 1.30 - 3.30pm.

Fridays: **Lunch Club**, St Boswells Church Hall, noon – 1.30pm. Restarts 8th September

**IMPACT AFTER-SCHOOL
ST BOSWELLS PRIMARY SCHOOL**

During term time for all primary pupils who wish to come along.
Autumn term 2017 will begin on

Thursday 7 SEPTEMBER



The group meets in the multi-purpose room
from 3.15 - 4.15pm

Bible stories and activities

New members welcome

Further information:

Rev Sheila Moir: 01835822255;

SMoir@churchofscotland.org.uk

SHOEBOX APPEAL:

Many of you have taken part in the annual shoebox appeal organised by Blythswood Care. Last year 121,474 people received a Blythswood shoebox. Sadly the need is as great as ever this year. Leaflets for the Shoebox Appeal, this year entitled 'Make someone happy this Christmas' will appear soon in all four churches. If you have not taken part before, please give it a try. Filling the shoeboxes is good fun and they mean a great deal to the needy people in different parts of the world who receive them. To be delivered in time for Christmas, filled boxes should be handed in to churches on or before Sunday 5th November. If you have empty shoeboxes that you do not need, please recycle them by handing them in to any of the churches.

Winnie Milligan

St Boswells Parish Church

invites you and your family to



'Back to School'

Food



St Boswells Church Hall
Sunday 3rd September
4.00-6.00
(includes free tea)

Stories



A different way of experiencing church for all ages through creativity, celebration and the fellowship of sharing a meal together.
(Children must be accompanied by an adult)

Further info: Rev Sheila Moir 822255 smoir@churchofscotland.org

St Boswells Church Reg Charity No: SC010210

ST BOSWELLS CHURCH COFFEE MORNING



will be held on

Saturday 9th September

from 10.00am in the church hall.

There will be cakes, books and bric-a-brac. Contributions will be greatly appreciated.

MAXTON AND MERTOUN CHURCH



AN AUTUMN COFFEE MORNING

will be held in Maxton Village Hall
Saturday 16th September at 10am
in aid of church funds. There will be
the usual stalls, coffee / tea with home-
bakes, and a warm welcome to all.

NEWTOWN AND EILDON SENIORS AFTERNOON CLUB

Monthly meetings will resume after the summer break on Tuesday 5th September in Newtown Community Wing from 2 p.m. Come along and enjoy a chat, a cuppa and a variety of speakers, activities and entertainment.

Steps to reduce greenhouse gas

emissions or lessen the health impacts of climate change could have positive health effects. For example, promoting the safe use of public transportation and active movement – such as biking or walking as alternatives to using private vehicles – could reduce carbon dioxide emissions and improve public health. They can not only cut traffic injuries, but also air pollution and associated respiratory and cardiovascular diseases. Increased levels of physical activity can lower overall mortality rates.

Newtown St Boswells Bowling Club



Coffee Morning Saturday 14th October

10.00am

In the Clubhouse

Cake and other stalls

Raffle

(including raffle for handmade quilt)

CHRISTMAS PRESENT OPPORTUNITY!



Pale blue cotton, gusseted, long handled shopping bags, depicting all four Churches.

£3.50 each – profits to Churches in the Charge. Available at Church events and from:

Maxton & Mertoun: Kathleen Bertram
01835 823781

Newtown: Winnie Milligan 01835 823457
St. Boswells: Mary Sargent 01835 824261

STEEPLECHASE WALK - NEWTOWN, ST BOSWELLS, MAXTON AND MERTOUN CHURCHES

Inspired by the definition of 'Steeplechase' which originated in the 18th century when horses and riders raced from one town's steeple to the next, this 7 mile walk on 13th May 2017 was organised by the churches in the Linked Charge of Maxton & Mertoun, with Newtown with St Boswells, to celebrate the history of their places of worship.



Fortified by bacon rolls at Newtown Church, 35 gallant walkers braved the first rain for weeks to walk the River Tweed path to St Boswells for lunch, to shelter from a hail shower and to visit the Parish Church and learn something of its history.

The sun enhanced the remainder of the walk, firstly alongside St Boswells Golf Course and the riverside, then under Mertoun Bridge (an option only possible during dry weather!), watching wild

life and viewing the erosion of recent years to the riverbank on Fens Haugh. The route continued up Jacob's Ladder to the site of the old St Boswells Parish Church at Benrig where a suitable sing song was enjoyed. Then on to Maxton Kirk for tea and cake and an interesting talk about some of the 1000 year old church's past.



Back to the riverside again and over the suspension bridge into Mertoun Estate. The walk finished at Mertoun Kirk, the younger 'sister' of Maxton Kirk by 25 years! A final cuppa ended an enjoyable day of fellowship and exploration.

Although not primarily intended to generate funds, the generosity of all involved raised the magnificent sum of £656 for the Charge's Tanzania fund raising venture.



Future Focus: THE WAY AHEAD



You may remember that a series of three meetings were planned in May & June for the community and

congregations of our whole Charge (the parishes of Newtown, Maxton and Mertoun, and St Boswells) to meet under the guidance of a professional facilitator and work together through the Church of Scotland Future Focus initiative.

Approximately twenty-three members of all churches met on the three occasions and participated in mixed groups in the discussions and exercises.

Session 1 looked at statistics from the 2011 census and provided interesting facts about the separate parishes. Each group made a pictorial map of their parish, highlighting main, commercial, municipal and leisure features. This demonstrated the places where people in the Charge meet and live in relation to the four churches.

Session 2 involved examining the Church of Scotland's definition of a 'healthy' church: integrity, body and soul, open house, growth, local, love and care. These were ranked individually and tallied. Groups then worked on ideas for measures which would help the strongest characteristic, Love and Care and the weakest, Growth.

Session 3 concentrated on 'Dreams for the future', and how these might be implemented.

What Next? The three Kirk Sessions will be meeting in the autumn, individually and together, to discuss and begin to implement the 'Dreams' under these headings:

- The Church at the centre of the community
- More involvement with young people
- Prayer is a priority
- Greater family participation

There is no quick fix, but over a period of a few years, with vision and faith, it is hoped that the health of our Charge will improve. The Kirk Sessions will report on developments in future Newsletters.

If you would like to read the full reports of the Future Focus Sessions, please contact Session Clerks:

Winnie Milligan: 01835 823457 or Lucy Smith: 01835 822425

VineTrust 'BUILD A HOUSE IN TANZANIA'

We have built one House in Tanzania!

In 2015, the congregations of Maxton and Mertoun, Newtown and St Boswells Churches made a commitment to a 3 year fund raising programme in aid of the Vine Trust's 'Build a House in Tanzania' project. (SC017386). We pledged to raise the £3700 required to fund the building of one family home.

Thanks to the generous support of our communities, we have raised £3716 well ahead of our 3 year target!

Fund raising will continue until at least the end of the 3 years, in September 2018. Maybe we will manage another house, or at least the foundations of a second one!

The next fund raising event is detailed below! Newtown Church is still collecting 5p coins - watch out for other events. You may also donate in any of the following ways:

- small monetary donations in our 'Vine Trust House' collecting boxes which are available in all churches
- voluntary donations towards coffee provided in our churches after worship
- if you wish to make a contribution over £20, completing a Vine Trust Gift Aid form will allow them to benefit from an extra 25p for every £1 you donate (forms available in churches and from Brian Evans)
- donation by cheque, should be made payable to 'The Vine Trust Tanzania Appeal'
- donations may be made in all churches and to Brian Evans, St Boswells Church Treasurer (see page 2)
- to offer suggestions and for further information, please contact Rev Sheila Moir

Vine Trust Quiz

Come along and exercise the old grey matter at our quiz night to be held in Newtown Community Wing on Friday 29th September at 7 p.m. as part of our fundraising to build a house in Tanzania.

The cost will be £5 per person, which includes supper. To help with catering, please contact Winnie Milligan (01835 823457) to book a table for a team of 4/5.

There will also be a raffle and donations of prizes will be greatly appreciated. See posters for further details. We look forward to seeing you there.





Harvest Thanksgiving Services 2017



Sunday 1 October
Mertoun Kirk at 9.30am

Sunday 8 October
Newtown Church at 9.30am
St Boswells Church at 10.45am

All churches will be decorated in the traditional way with flowers, fruit and vegetables.

Harvest gifts are welcome – flowers, non-perishable food and cash/cheque, payable to your own church and in an envelope marked 'Harvest Gift'.

Flowers will be distributed around the parishes. If you could help in this way, please stay behind after worship.

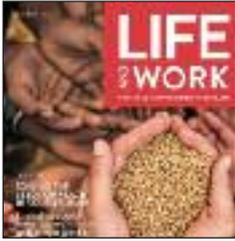
Non-perishable food will be donated to local foodbanks.

Money will be donated to the Borders Children's Charity (SC026072)

If you would like to contribute to the decoration of St Boswells Church, please bring donations of flowers, fruit and vegetables to the church from 9.30am on Saturday 7 October.

NEWTOWN HARVEST LUNCH

Following the Harvest Thanksgiving Service, a Harvest Lunch will be served in Newtown Community Wing on Sunday 8th October from 12.30 p.m. All are welcome to come along and enjoy a simple lunch of home made soup and filled rolls, costing £2.50. The proceeds will be donated to the Borders Children's Charity (SC026072).



Life and Work is the magazine of the Church of Scotland

WOMEN IN THE WORLD CHURCH CONFERENCE

The World Mission Council of the Church of Scotland and the Centre of World Christianity at the University of Edinburgh will host a conference focusing on women in the world church.

The conference will take place at the University of Edinburgh on September 16 and will feature Professor Kwok Pui Lan, a dis-

tinguished theologian, who will deliver the Duff Missionary lecture entitled 'Women, Mission and World Christianity'. There will also be presentations from the Rev Rola Sleiman, the first ordained minister in the Middle East who is a pastor of the national Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon; Dr Nosheen Isabel Phiri, Depute Secretary of the World Council of Churches and Nuam Hutzaw, a Burmese student studying at the university.

The event will be held in the Martin Hall, New College, University of Edinburgh from 10.30am - 3.30pm.

To register please email: wmoutreach@churchofscotland.org.uk



The Afternoon Tea, held in front of St Boswells church in July, was enjoyed by villagers and visitors alike. The lovely sunny day enabled us to raise £210.00 for Church funds.

ST BOSWELLS GUILD NEWS



Our annual Fairday Coffee Morning was held on Saturday 15th July. We were pleased to have several people there from the travelling community and it was well attended by the people of the charge. A very warm welcome is extended to folks in all the four villages and surrounding area to come to our Chrysanthemum Tea to be held on 12th October at 2.30 pm in the Church Hall. We will talk about the speakers who are coming during the session and the project we are supporting this session, after which tea and coffee will be served.

Elizabeth Kitchin

Prayer

In touch.....

FATHER, YOU command us to be holy, to be whole in body, mind and spirit... but how?

JESUS, YOU said ' I and THE FATHER are one. (*John 10 v 30*), and also 'I always do those things that please MY FATHER.' (*John 8 v 29*)

JESUS, YOU finished the work YOU were given to do. YOU said on that cross 'It is finished !' and in that moment a mighty river of grace was released for all who will come in faith to YOU to receive from it. YOUR grace is greater than my sin and each day that I keep in touch with YOU, I am in touch with all that is of YOU, in touch with...

- the ability to ask for and receive forgiveness for my sins and cleansing this day and then to receive YOUR Holy SPIRIT,
- the ability to begin again,
- the ability to trust through this day and all that it contains,
- the ability to bring my difficulties to YOU so that they may become opportunities,

- the ability to resist temptation ,
- the ability to face a challenge,
- the ability to do what needs to be done this day,
- the ability to listen in love,
- the ability to share what is mine
- the ability to love with YOUR love,
- the ability to love YOUR Word, from YOU The Living Word,
- the ability to bless others,
- the ability to receive from others, and oh so much more because it is YOUR power that works within me as I walk with YOU,
- the power to do and to will YOUR will by YOUR grace, for by myself I can do nothing.



So, LORD, grant me the grace to be so flexible in YOUR Hands that I may do the things that please YOU. LORD I remind YOU of YOUR promise. YOU said that 'HE WHO has begun a good work in you will complete it to the Day of CHRIST', and I believe YOUR Word.

LORD, hear my prayer.

A 20th century prayer.

Rev Winnie Munson

STAINED GLASS AND HUMBLE BRICKS

A collection of poetry inspired by a lifetime of public service

Haisley Moore will re-introduce you to Hannibal whose '*elephants flattened the Alps,*' and have you drinking a toast to the JCB which produced the new housing estate ... '*A Labour of love with a shuddering shove*'. You will find yourself sympathising with Julius Caesar who '*Came, saw, and was conned*'; you will admire the Postman... '*Modern ghost of the Penny Post... the ubiquitous one who will not quit*'. You'll find yourself alongside the runner '*Pounding oxygen from the reluctant earth*', and the OAP, bewildered in a modern Supermarket; you will re-live the tension of the first flight with the Wright Brothers then head straight for the Moon with Neil Armstrong, and you'll

end up applauding the prize-winning plucky Utopia, who at the Apocalypse '*Gives Pandora's Box one God-almighty shove*'. Whoever else you meet in these pages, you'll bump into yourself and will get help to unravel your regrets, '*Knots in the thread of time... tightly tied*', and you will be amused at yourself with your '*affection bursting in a spray of laughter*'. Whether you are a stained-glass work of art that has '*Been tempered in High Street heat*', or a humble brick '*With feet of clay and heart of gold*' that holds civilisation together, come inside and meet yourself and these other wonderful people.

Price £5. All sales proceeds will go to the Children's Charity – The Smile Train. Copies available from Edna Wands Tel: 01835 822442 and Winnie Milligan Tel: 01835 823457

Worship on Remembrance Sunday

12 November 2017

- **United service**
St Boswells Church at 10am
Please note earlier time



There is a retiring offering in aid of Poppy Scotland (SCO14096)

This service will finish in time to allow those who wish, to make their way to the War Memorial for **The Act of Remembrance at 11am.**

- **Newtown War Memorial at 1.30pm**
Act of Remembrance

CAFÉ THURSDAY

This summer in St Boswells Church hall we have been holding 'coffee and chat' sessions on four Thursday mornings. The idea behind this was to give people in the village the opportunity to meet up over the summer when so many other organisations are taking a break such as pensioners' groups, playgroup and nursery, lunch club etc.

Café Thursday was aimed at all age groups but we felt it was important to provide some activities for the children who came along to keep them occupied and to give their parents (or grandparents) the chance to relax and enjoy the company of others.

We got off to a slow start but on the second and third Thursdays we had around 7 or 8 children and 13 or 14 adults. This included people of all ages such as parents of young children, pensioners and some people who had newly moved into the village. This was a new venture but we feel that it was well received and supported. (At the time of writing there is one more session to go.)

Rev Sheila, Rachel and Fran were involved



with the children, toys and books were donated and they did a sterling job keeping them entertained and having fun – there was music too. A total of seven volunteers helped on a rota basis with setting up, teas, coffees etc. There was a relaxed atmosphere and a buzz of conversation and people stayed on to chat long after their second cup of coffee! There was no charge but people were very generous with donations and any surplus will go to Church funds.

We intend to review this venture and there seems to be a chance of repeating it next year.

We are grateful to everyone who supported us.

Sandra Thomas,
Mission and Outreach convener

St Boswells Parish Church
Scottish Charity No SC010188

Christmas Fair



Saturday 18 November
10am

St Boswells Village Hall

★ ★ REFRESHMENTS ★ ★

- ★ home baking ★ gifts ★ bric-a-brac ★
- ★ bottle stall ★ raffle ★ competitions ★
- ★ plants & vegetables ★ books & jigsaws ★



Entry £2 (includes refreshments)
School children £1 - Pre school children free

NEWTOWN CHRISTMAS BAZZAR



Saturday 25th November

Newtown Community Wing
(the old school)
from 11am – 1pm
Cake and Candy
• White Elephant

Produce • Books • Fancy Goods
etc

Coffees, snacks and light lunches
(Home made soup and filled rolls)
will also be served

Newtown St Boswells Parish Church
(Scottish Charity No: SC 000575)

St Boswells Parish Church
Scottish Charity No SC010210

Advent Lunch

All Welcome

Sunday 10 December 2017

St Boswells Church Hall
from 1pm



3 course hot lunch & coffee
£12.50



Tickets (limited number) now available
from Mary Sargent tel: 824261

Mark your calendar

Maxton & Merton, Newtown
& St Boswells Churches

Ceilidh Dance

(Neil Hardie's Dance Band)

Friday 19th January 2018

St Boswells Village Hall

Tickets will be available in December