

Diary: March

April

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|----|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | 10.30 Makerstoun H.C. | Smailholm Fellowship 2.30pm |
| 2 | | |
| 3 | | |
| 4 | Smailholm Fellowship 2.30pm | |
| 5 | | 10.30 Makerstoun |
| 6 | W.D.of Prayer, Kelso Old 10am | |
| 7 | | |
| 8 | 10.30 Stichill | |
| 9 | | |
| 10 | Bridge 7pm | 7pm Makerstoun Good Friday |
| 11 | Guild 2.30pm | |
| 12 | | 10.30 Stichill Easter Sunday |
| 13 | | |
| 14 | | |
| 15 | 10.30 Makerstoun | Roxburgh fellowship 2.30pm |
| 16 | | |
| 17 | | |
| 18 | Roxburgh Fellowship 2.30pm | |
| 19 | | 10.30 Makerstoun |
| 20 | | |
| 21 | Guild Coffee Morning 10am | |
| 22 | 10.30 Stichill | |
| 23 | | |
| 24 | Bridge 7pm | |
| 25 | | |
| 26 | | 10.30 Stichill |
| 27 | | |
| 28 | | |
| 29 | 10.30 Makerstoun | |
| 30 | | |
| 31 | | |

The Country Link

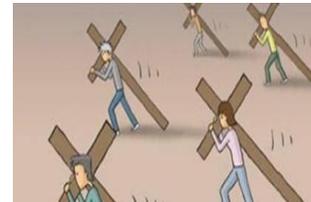


Kelso
Country
Churches

~~~~~**March/April, 2020**

We enter now the Season of Lent. Lent is not something that is talked of so much in the Church of Scotland. In the season of Advent leading up to Christmas we were preparing for the birth of Jesus. In this Season of Lent we are preparing ourselves for his death and resurrection. We go from the fun and excitement of Christmas to the sadness and despair of the cross and death of Jesus.

Lent is a journey. A journey to the cross. We walk with Jesus through the final days and hours of his life. We hear the love he has for his disciples, for us. We see him crying over Jerusalem, crying for all the people of the world. The pain he went through before his death and during his crucifixion. We join with his followers in the excitement of the resurrection.



In all these stories we hear the challenge that Jesus gives to us. To take up our cross and follow Him. We go on the journey to the cross that he challenges us to but we do not go alone. We walk together. As we seek to be disciples of Jesus, to follow Him, we do not do it alone. We

do it together. Supporting and encouraging one another. Helping one another through the hard times, laughing together through the good times, together.

We always need to remember that in church life we are in this together. We have a joint aim - to be the best disciples of Jesus we can be and we encourage and help one another to do this. Also we work together to share the good news, to help other people come to believe in Jesus, come to know Him as their Saviour and Lord.

Let us during this Season of Lent consciously walk together. Let us take up our cross and follow Jesus together. And together when we reach the end of the journey let us celebrate Jesus glorious resurrection on Easter morning.

“If any of you want to come with me, you must forget yourself, carry your cross, and follow me.” **Matthew 16.24**

*Stephen*

## *Parish News and Updates*

A very successful Burn's Supper was held in Makerstoun Hall on February 1<sup>st</sup>. The evening was chaired by Gareth Baird. Piper, Magnus Orr started the evening off by piping the Haggis in. Ian Girvan addressed the Haggis after this and everyone enjoyed a lovely supper supplied by Kirsty and her team. Harry Dodds gave an interesting Immortal Memory and history of Robbie Burns. Recitals were given by John Logan and Ronnie Fleming. Tom Arnott gave the toast to the Lassies to which Averil Dickson gave an able reply.

The singing was supplied by Gwen Mabon and Ian Girvan accompanied by John Mabon, and Jim Fleming gave a vote of thanks. The evening ended with everyone singing Auld Lang Syne. The sum of £796 was raised for church funds.

I would like to thank everyone who helped in any way to make the evening a great success.

*Jim Fleming*

**The Guild Coffee Morning** is on Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> March at 10am in the church hall. (see page 11) I hope you can come and enjoy coffee, home baking, fun and friendship.

Kathy Wilkie has 'hatched' some more Easter chicks and will have them on the day.

The speaker for the February Guild meeting had to call off as the Queensferry bridge was closed due to high winds. In true Guild tradition, the meeting went ahead and we showed an excellent film on the work of Mary's Meals and learned how this Scottish-based charity provides one good meal a day in a place of education. This draws children into a classroom where they can get an education that can set them free from poverty. Around 128 million meals are served to children annually in impoverished countries.

### *Our Church Family*

*Deaths: Blessed are they who mourn for they shall be comforted...*

28<sup>th</sup> January: funeral of Peter Bachelor, Elder, in Roxburgh Church.

24<sup>th</sup> February: Funeral of Pamela Forsyth (Pam) New Smailholm, at Borders Crematorium, Melrose.

Makerstoun welcomes new members, Caroline and Marshall Muirhead.

Minister: Rev. Stephen Manners 470 663  
Email: [smanners@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:smanners@churchofscotland.org.uk)

New Website: [www.kelsocountrychurches.org.uk](http://www.kelsocountrychurches.org.uk)  
Church of Scotland charity no. SC000958

Tue, 18 Feb, 14:08:33 GMT+0000

# KCC Guild

# COFFEE MORNING

## Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> March at 10am in Stichill Church Hall



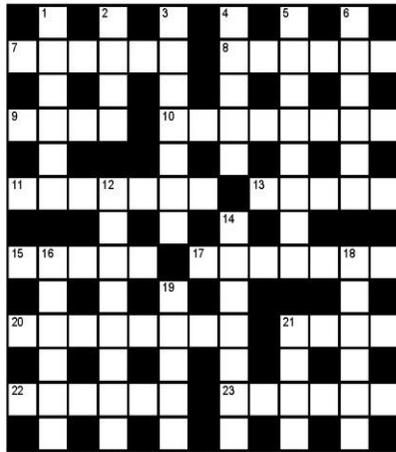
### Sales table and Raffle

Admission: £4

children free

## Preaching Plan for March/April

### Luke



#### Across

- 7 "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye \_\_\_\_\_, ye shall all likewise perish." Luke 13:5 (6)
- 8 The book of this prophet was handed to Jesus to read in the synagogue. Luke 4:17 (6)
- 9 "And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the \_\_\_\_\_s." Luke 21:25 (4)
- 10 The liturgical season celebrated after Christmas. (8)
- 11 An act of devotion to show sorrow for one's sin. (7)
- 13 "That he would \_\_\_\_\_ unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear." Luke 1:74 (5)
- 15 The tetrarch of Galilee. Luke 3:1 (5)
- 17 It's easier for a camel to go through this eye than for a rich man to enter the kingdom. Luke 18:25 (7)
- 20 Feeling regret or sorrow for one's sins. (8)

#### Down

- 21 "Why do the disciples of John \_\_\_\_\_ often ...?" Luke 5:33 (4)
- 22 Jesus compared men of this country with the Jews of the time. Luke 11:32 (6)
- 23 "And it is \_\_\_\_\_ for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail." Luke 16:17 (6)
- 1 "\_\_\_\_\_ it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer." Luke 21:14 (6)
- 2 "And when the day began to \_\_\_\_\_ away, then came the twelve, and said unto him, Send the multitude away ..." Luke 9:12 (4)
- 3 "When I was daily with you in the temple, ye \_\_\_\_\_ed forth no hands against me: but this is your hour, and the power of darkness." Luke 22:53 (7)
- 4 Tempted Jesus for forty days. Luke 4:2 (5)
- 5 Jesus mourns for the hard hearts of the people of Jerusalem saying, "how often would I have \_\_\_\_\_ thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings." Luke 13:34 (8)
- 6 One of the men in the line of Christ from Luke 3:36. (6)
- 12 These people asked for increased faith in Luke 17:5. (8)
- 14 The father of James and John. Luke 5:10 (7)
- 16 The Hebrew name for the Lord. (6)
- 18 The holiday that celebrates the events of Luke 24. (6)
- 19 The prodigal son returned to his father with plans to be this type of servant. Luke 15:19 (5)
- 21 If a son asks a father for this, will he give him a serpent? Luke 11:11 (4)

### March

- 1<sup>st</sup> Makerstoun **Communion** Rev. Stephen Manners
- 8<sup>th</sup> Stichill Rev. Stephen Manners
- 15<sup>th</sup> Makerstoun James Smith
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Stichill Rev. Stephen Manners
- 29<sup>th</sup> Makerstoun Rev. Stephen Manners

### April

- 5<sup>th</sup> Makerstoun **Palm Sunday** Stephen Manners
- 10<sup>th</sup> Makerstoun **Good Friday at 7pm** Stephen Manners
- 12<sup>th</sup> Stichill **Easter Day** Stephen Manners
- 19<sup>th</sup> Makerstoun Rev. Stephen Manners
- 26<sup>th</sup> Stichill Sophia Duncan

### May

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Makerstoun David Harvey

### Churches Together Services for Holy Week

Lunch time reflections will be held in St. Andrew's Church from Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> April – Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> April at 12.45pm. Soup and rolls will be served following the short service. Please join in these inter-church gatherings if you can. All welcome.

Editor: I don't have answers for the crossword on page 10 and so I will be participating too. Let me know how you get on. There might be a small reward for those who complete it correctly!

## Vale Peter Batchelor

Peter Batchelor who died on 12th January was born on New Years day 1928. He first came to live in this area when in 1954 the Duke of Roxburghe appointed him as assistant factor of Roxburghe Estates.

In 1963 he was promoted to Estate Factor, a position he held until his retirement in 1993.

Peter and Charlotte were regular attenders of Roxburgh Church where he often commented on the poor condition of the interior. In 1995 he was ordained as an elder and took on the role of fabric convener. He immediately set to the task of redecoration, even calling on the expertise of the Duchess of Roxburghe to advise on the colour scheme, also the new carpet. He had hoped to have all the dark woodwork lightened but unfortunately the budget would not stretch that far. He also insisted we should have toilet facilities which he duly organised.

When he learned of the proposed closure of Roxburgh Church, his main concern was that it may not be available for his funeral service. His son Robin was relieved to find it was still in use especially as it had been used for Charlotte's funeral and that his children were baptised in Roxburgh.

The size of the congregation at the service reflected his popularity in the area.

*Oliver Stark*

### SPECIAL APPEAL

There is severe drought in South and East Africa. Following years of climate devastation and war, the situation is at breaking point, especially in Zambia and Ethiopia. Crops and livelihoods have been destroyed, children are desperately hungry and in danger. Families were hoping to recover with the new planting season in October, but drought has hit harder than ever.

Congregations are asked to have a retiring offering towards helping these people and there will be an opportunity to do this on Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> March at the Communion service in Makerstoun. The appeal is through **World Vision**, a Christian organisation which aspires to reflect God's unconditional love in all they do.

You may also give your donation to Liz Orr or your elder after Sunday.

## A Prayer for Palm Sunday

Lord Jesus Christ,  
You came not as a king mighty in battle,  
But as the Prince of Peace,  
the promised deliverer  
sent to heal and restore our broken world.  
So now we pray for peace and unity between  
nations,

**Your kingdom come, your will be done.**

We thank you for signs of hope in the world today –  
for the desire to make this planet a safer place,  
for initiatives that have been taken to reduce nuclear arms,  
for breaking down seemingly insurmountable barriers,  
and for a willingness to engage in genuine dialogue  
rather than empty rhetoric.

Grant that a spirit of trust and co-operation may develop among all.

**Your kingdom come, Your will be done.**

We pray for those places where tension continues.  
We pray for all those caught up in the awfulness of war –  
those maimed and injured,  
those who have lost loved ones.

Break down the barriers which keep people apart –  
the prejudice and intolerance, greed and envy.

**Your kingdom come, Your will be done.**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
Prince of Peace,  
Come again to our world and bring the unity that you alone can  
bring.

May the day come when swords shall be beaten into ploughshares  
and spears turned into pruning hooks;  
A day when no one will hurt or destroy  
on your holy mountain.

**Your kingdom come, Your will be done.**



**Amen**

# SNIPPETS

## Prince William has been appointed as the Lord High Commissioner to the 2020 General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

The Lord High Commissioner is the Sovereign's personal representative to the annual General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. During General Assembly week from the 16-22 of May 2020, Prince William will attend on behalf of the Sovereign.



He will make the opening and closing addresses to the Assembly, as well as carrying out official visits across Scotland.

Last year His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch attended the General Assembly as the Lord High Commissioner, serving in the role for the second time.

Her Majesty The Queen came in person to the General Assembly in 1969 and 2002. Previous members of the Royal Family to be appointed to the role include HRH Prince Charles, HRH The Earl of Wessex and most recently HRH The Princess Royal in 2017.

Rev Dr George Whyte, the Principal Clerk of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland said: "We are honoured that her Majesty has appointed Prince William as Lord High Commissioner. We look forward to welcoming His Royal Highness to the General Assembly."

## The Knots Prayer

Dear God,

Please untie the knots that are in my mind, my heart and my life.

Remove the have nots, the can nots and the do nots that I have in my mind.

Erase the will nots, may nots, might nots that may find a home in my heart.

Release me from the could nots, would nots and should nots that obstruct my life.

And most of all, dear God, I ask that you remove from my mind, my heart and my life, all of the 'am nots' that hold me back, especially the thought that I am not good enough.

## The next instalment of 'The Computer Swallowed Grandma':

I was sorry to hear that your Grandma had vanished  
She won't be in the pubs because she was banished.  
So, I checked in my "Junkbox" and low and behold  
You're Grandma was there, alive but quite cold.

Come into my house and we'll give you a heat.  
Put on these woolly socks, we'll begin with your feet.  
Now put this thermal seemit on top of your vest  
This will most certainly warm up your chest.

Come and sit by the fire, as it roars up the lum  
But don't get too close, or it might burn your bum.  
Sup this hot tea which is loaded with gin  
and use this fresh tissue to dicht your wet chin.



This home-made soup will warm the cockles of your heart  
but eat it quite slowly or may cause you to burp!  
A hat, scarf, and gloves will keep you warm on the coldest day  
and the best part of this is, you won't have to pay.

Now that your warm, nicely clothed, and well fed,  
you need a good night's sleep in a warm, comfy bed.  
This beats spending days in a stranger's "junkbox"  
But please be respectful, and remove your woolly socks.

I've contacted your Grand-daughter and she'll be here soon.  
Knowing that you've been found, Sophia's over the moon.  
Sophia had asked 'Jeeves' and 'Google' to find you  
but had she asked me, I would have known just what to do!

*Thanks to Jeanette Mackie*

## Laughter Lines

*Knowing that the minister was very fond of cherry brandy, one of the church elders offered to present him with a bottle on one consideration - that the minister acknowledge receipt of the gift in the church magazine. "Gladly," replied the good man.*

*When the magazine came out a few days later, the elder turned at once to the 'appreciation' column. There he read, "the minister extends his thanks to elder Brown for his gift of fruit and for the spirit in which it was given."*

## **A meditation for Easter; from the vantage point of Mary Magdalene**

'Risen from the dead?

Don't be ridiculous, woman!

That was what the disciples said when we gave them the wonderful news. We tried to explain, to make them see, to persuade them to go and look for themselves.

And they did in the end, but at first they wouldn't believe, just as we didn't believe

when we arrived at the tomb to find the stone rolled away.

We'd gone to the garden very early, as soon as the dawn had begun to break,

taking the spices and perfumes we'd carefully prepared before the Sabbath had begun.

We walked in silence, each of us lost in our own thoughts, still reeling from Jesus' death.

We were speechless

when we saw the stone moved and the tomb empty.

Two men were standing there.

We were very frightened and fell to our knees in fear.

'What had happened?'

'Where was Jesus?'

'Who were these people?'

Questions we would have asked had we the courage.

Then the men spoke to us, "Why are you looking for the Living One in a tomb? He is not here, he has risen!"

And we remembered Jesus' words, words that had faded from our minds

as the events of three days ago took over.

'The Son of Man must be handed over and be crucified, and three days later he will rise to life.'

We all began talking at once.

'*Could it be true?*'

'Was it possible?'

We hardly dare imagine that it might be.

We hurried back and found the disciples gathered together in one room,

discussing all that had happened,

talking about a future without Jesus.

Once they dismissed our news as nonsense, we began to leave, but Peter, who had gone off to look for himself, returned.

"The tomb is empty," he said,

"and I hardly dare say it.

Jesus must be alive!

**It's all true, every word he said to us is true!"**

### *Prayer for Easter Day*

*Risen Lord Jesus,*

*We adore you and praise your name.*

*Today, you defeated death and rose again.*

*You died on the cross that we might be free.*

*Thank you, Risen Lord, that you did this for us,  
So that we might enjoy the freedom of eternal life.*

*Risen Lord Jesus,*

*We love you, we worship you, we adore you. Amen.*

