

The Church of Scotland
Dryburgh District Churches
(United Charge of Maxton & Mertoun, Newtown and St Boswells Churches)
Scottish Charities No: SC013481, SC000575, SC010210

Easter 2021

Dear friends

This past year has been difficult and strange in many ways. It is a year since worship services were put on hold, but of course last September for a brief time we were able to meet again, although not as we were used to worshipping. Our numbers were restricted, people were required to sit 2 metres apart, wear masks and not permitted to sing. And then in January this year, once again our worship services in Church were suspended.

One of the reasons that we do meet together in Church regularly is for fellowship, but in that fellowship we can also find the strength to be part of God's people everywhere. We don't stop being Church when we leave the building, and as we have come to realise, we don't have to be in the building in order to worship and pray. At present we come together in different ways, whether that is by listening on the telephone line or watching on Zoom, Facebook, or even on You Tube, but there is still a sense of gathering, of fellowship for us.

Although Helen and I miss seeing you all in our buildings, and we really miss singing as it is the music and the singing that bring us together as one as we sing the hymns and songs that give glory to God in our worship. At times they help us say the words we want God to hear, the thoughts that we are feeling at any one time, but find it hard to put into words, and they can bring us into a closer relationship with him. Helen and I have enjoyed using the hymn that Fanny Crosby wrote as part of our worship with you over Lent and it will be part of the Good Friday Service too.

The good news though is that we shall have in-person worship for Easter this year. The details come at the end of this letter and Lucy has designed a very colourful poster to intimate the services. However the services will still be streamed for those who are unable to be with us in person, as there will still be restrictions on numbers as before.

Easter is something to look forward to, and as we go through Holy Week, we journey each year reflecting on just how much we are loved by God and that great sacrifice that he made for us. Given that our Easter services last year did not happen and we hadn't quite got round to using technology, I feel that it is important for us in our journey of faith this year to take the time as we worship together to think about what it means to be a Christian in today's society. Perhaps this may lead to an awakening, a spiritual growth in faith, the seed of faith becoming alive, rekindling growth and our relationship with our Lord.

Last year in our Charge, we set a challenge to display Easter Crosses, and many of you did this, and of course there are pictures on the website showing the many different crosses. We would like to ask you to do the same this year, the details are on the website, but if you don't have the internet, the idea is to make a cross and decorate it for Easter – if you can get a picture to me, even better – or phone and we can have someone come and take a photo for you, it would be good to have even more this year to compliment the children's Easter garden pictures.

Some Thank Yous

Thank you to the children who took part in the Easter Garden competition. The winning gardens along with all the other entries will be displayed on our Churches website.

May I also thank John Martin for his colourful and pertinent picture he designed for the Easter card this year again. We look forward to seeing his design for the front cover when our newsletters begin once again.

Over this past year there have been all the usual checks of our buildings and I would like to thank all the folks in our Churches who are doing this, which ensures the services are able to go ahead by keeping on top of all the guidelines and permissions required.

And thank you to all our elders and especially Winnie and Lucy for all their work in liaising with the Presbytery Planning Committee to see that all the relevant papers were posted out to you in order that you could vote on the Basis of Union. On Tuesday 23rd March, at a meeting of Presbytery we heard that concurrence of the vote had been given by the Presbytery Planning Task Group within the Church Offices in Edinburgh, and therefore the plans for our Linked Charge to become a United Charge is going ahead. The name for our United Charge is Dryburgh District Churches, although we will still have all our buildings, and we will still keep each Church name. Thank you to you for your support in ensuring that this was done smoothly. There will be a special service to mark the Union at some point in the year, perhaps when the restrictions are eased further.

In the meantime however, I wish you a blessed Easter, as we look and step forward in faith knowing the Risen Lord in our lives.

Shalom

Rev Sheila

Easter and April Worship in our Churches			
Date	Where	When	Notes
Wednesday 31 March	Online Zoom	7pm	link on website; www.4kirksonthetweed.org
Thursday 1 April, Maundy	St Boswells Church	7pm	Due to continued restrictions in numbers, please book in advance for all these services. Booking may be made from Monday 29 March .
Friday 2 April, Good Friday	Newtown Church	7pm	
Easter Sunday 4 April	Mertoun Kirk	9.30am	
	St Boswells Church	10.45am	
Sunday 11 April	Newtown Church	10.30am	Please book in advance for all these services. Booking may be made from 6pm on the Friday before the services .
Sunday 18 April	St Boswells Church	10.30am	
Sunday 25 April	Mertoun Kirk	10.30am	

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