

Oxnam Parish Page



NOVEMBER 2014

Oxnam Parish Church of Scotland
Registered Charity Number SCO10593
www.oxnamkirk.co.uk

From the Minister ...

Dear Oxnam Friends,

It has been such a pleasure for me to find myself looking after the folks just over the hill from my grandfather's former farm - Overton Bush! Many of you were already known to me personally, but it is also good to catch up with the off-spring of families known to my family. The most interesting aspect of life in and around Oxnam for me is trying to find the various houses. On my first visit up to Newbigging, I had been told the house was either the third or the fourth along from the Old Schoolhouse. What fun I had driving along this country road, trying to work out if that was indeed one house or two, or indeed just a driveway! And I finally discovered that Oxnam Mains was the village!

Anna told me that in one of the years she was with you, she had no funerals at all. That must be a record! I had commented that I hoped to have considerably less funerals than I had in Galashiels over the last two and half years! How much nicer it has been to arrive and be asked to do three baptisms and two weddings!

As you can imagine, worshipping in that beautiful church is a joy for me. I am gradually getting to know you all by name and hoping to begin to go round visiting with the elders soon. My hope is that in time I will help you discover that many of the new hymns have great words and lovely tunes - oh, and also how to sing them at a slightly smarter pace!

I look forward to sharing Communion with you all.

Blessings to all

Marion

From the Interim Moderator ...

As I sit at my desk to write this, the sun is shining, there's a brisk wind blowing, multi-coloured leaves are blown to the ground or waved aloft still attached to their branches and I look out over stubble fields and ploughed soil. A truly wonderful autumn scene for which I give thanks every year!

Thirty eight years ago a former bank clerk and a former teacher moved with their 6 month old son from a tenement flat in East Edinburgh to an estate cottage at Mertoun as the former bank clerk took up his new job as a boatman/gardener on Mertoun Estate near St Boswells. It was a steep learning curve for the "townies" but one which was embraced and appreciated as we learned so much about country life and country ways - but, of course, we were always "incomers"! And so it is that I now still find myself learning about other country ways and country folk, but in the different rural setting of Oxnam Parish.

One thing that particularly struck me about Oxnam at the Kirk Session Meetings, was the agenda item "Elders' Reports" when we heard of any news, be it good or bad, affecting any church members. How good it is to be able to share in this caring ministry in the Kirk Session! In Kelso North and Ednam, we have 60 District Elders with an average of 17 houses in each district, so the sharing that Oxnam has just isn't possible. So not only are town and country ways different, but so, also, are churches in their size, in their resources of people, talents and money and in the different needs in the community they serve.

Different though we may be, however, in our churches, or in our way of life, let's always remember, as Paul tells us in Corinthians:-

"There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work."

So may God continue to work in each one of us, where He has placed us, using the gifts He has given us that we might show His love to all whom we meet and all whom we serve.

Winnie Robson

From the Session Clerk ...

As was reported in the July Parish Page, the Reverend Marion Dodd would bring stability back to Oxnam when she took up the Locum appointment in August. Since then Marion has been extremely busy not only visiting our parishioners but conducting our Sunday worship which has included the baptism of Benjamin Proudfoot, the grandson of George and Ann Shiell of Renniaston Edge. It was so nice having Rebecca and her husband, Christopher back at Oxnam where they were married and also had their eldest, Eve, baptised. This service coincided with our Harvest Thanksgiving which made it extra special. The Church looked wonderful with flowers, fruit, vegetables, grain, jam and during the first hymn four sheaves of corn were brought in by Peter Scott, Jamie Cairns, Tom Wardrop and Ian Richardson to make a stook by the Communion Table. Many thanks to Beryl Barbour and her team who decorated the Kirk; their efforts were much appreciated by the congregation of over a hundred who attended the service. Marion has another baptism on 21st December and yet another on 18th January. Two weddings have been arranged, one in August 2015 and the next in June 2016. The message is book early to avoid disappointment!! On St. Andrew's Day, Sunday 30th November, we are holding an evening service instead of the normal morning service. Session agreed in early September that when there was a 5th Sunday in the month this would be an evening service. If this proves to be a success then that would mean four evening services every twelve months. We will make sure there are large print order of service sheets, but do bring a torch, especially to guide your way from the car park to the Kirk!

On Sunday 3rd August we commemorated the beginning of World War I. At the entrance to the Kirk now hangs a very special wreath remembering 1914-1918 and this will stay until 11th November 2018. It has been discussed at Session that our memorial to the twenty two sons who lost their lives during this conflict requires attention if it is to last a further one hundred years. David Rumble, a well known marble and stone carver from Greenlaw, has been to look at what upgrading requires to be done, however, it is quite an expensive project so two other quotes are being asked for and indeed other suggestions being looked at. **HAVE YOU ANY VIEWS?** If so, please email me on colin.hogg25@btconnect.com or phone me on 01835 850394.

As always the Kirk requires maintenance and our toilet has recently been painted and at present the entrance porch is being given a facelift. Many thanks to Steve Delebecque who is our painter 'par excellence'. A lot of people have remarked on our very smart new notice board as you enter the Kirk grounds. Thanks to Bob Young, our Fabric Convenor, who organised this.

In July Moira Land organised a fun day with lunch at Langlee Park, Anything organised by Moira is always a great success and this was no exception with profits going towards the summerhouse project. A committee has been formed to look into the feasibility of erecting a summerhouse within the car park which can be used, not only by the Sunday School, but also by the children within the Oxnam communities. Lothian Estate, who own the field, have agreed that such a structure may be built so at present the committee are looking into the cost of such a structure and indeed what it should look like. Hopefully the weather can also be arranged by the committee! By the way, the Langlee Park Fun Day raised £185 in donations which was wonderful.

The Harvest Supper which had been provisionally arranged for 17th October had sadly to be cancelled as we were not able to put together a small committee to run the event. Although this was a shame it was not a catastrophe as we held a Harvest Supper last year and in the past it had been held on a biennial basis so it is fully intended to hold this event in October 2015. **STEP FORWARD IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP!**

Val Hunter is organising a Christmas Fayre on Saturday 22nd November in Oxnam Village Hall and if you would like to take a stall please get in touch with Val. If not, please support the Christmas Fayre which will be from 10 a.m. until 12 noon. The 2012 Fayre was a huge success and no doubt this one will be as well.

Looking forward, our Christmas Eve Carol Service will be held on 24th December as usual but this year starting at 5.30 p.m.

If you have children a must for your diary is 11th January when the Northumberland Theatre Group will be producing the fairy tale Rumpelstiltskin at 4 p.m. in Oxnam Kirk. This is bound to be a sell out so book early to avoid disappointing your young. The pantomime is not just for children and adults are very welcome too.

Lt. Col. Colin Hogg



Fun and games at Langlee Park



The Rodwell Family sack race!!

Sunday School

Just a short report as we've only had two sessions of Sunday School since the summer holidays. We're always delighted to see our three loyal members in Church where they often participate in the service under the guidance of Rev. Marion Dodd. A lovely colourful poster celebrating the harvest was made in September and displayed, along with all the other beautiful exhibits at the Harvest Festival. As that service we were joined by six visiting children and they all worked happily together in the confined space of the vestry. Plans are afoot to establish extra space for the children and young families in the form of a summerhouse in the field, but fund raising has to happen first.

Val Hunter

Sunday Club

Some months ago the Kirk session set up a 'Sunday Club'. This caters for those who live on their own and have no one to go home to after a Church service. It is intended, 3 – 4 times a year, to have an informal lunch on a Sunday for these people. So far there have been two such lunches which have been a great success and provided good company. The next Sunday Club lunch will be before Christmas and those it concerns will shortly be told the date and venue. If we have left anyone out do let an elder know.

Ann Fraser

Christmas Fayre

This year we are holding another Christmas Fayre in the village hall. Entry is free and it's on Saturday 22nd November from 10 a.m. until 12 noon. You'll find a good variety of craft and gift stalls, superb country Christmas baking, competitions and children's activities, a raffle and, of course, coffee, tea, scones and cakes. So put this date in your diary: SATURDAY 22ND NOVEMBER and come along to find some wonderful Christmas bargains.

Val Hunter

This poem was sent to us by Jane Simpson

I am safe, safe down here,
Chaos above,
Shouting, screaming, crying,
Bombs and explosions fill the air.

I am safe, safe down here,
Guns and shot fire, mums and children
Horses hooves gallop and neighing,
Wailing for the unknown.

I am safe, safe down here,
Quiet all around,
Digging, digging everywhere,
Wondering.

I am safe, safe down here,
Tossed around,
A breath of air,
Growing roots.

I am safe, safe down here,
Peace, fresh air,
I have blossomed,
Into a whole new world.

I am safe, safe down here,
A blur of red,
I am now among friends
But nothing will ever be the same



Library Cafe

The Library Cafe continues to flourish with both regular and occasional visitors. This has really become “a must” in the Oxnam social calendar and is always a jolly event.

If you have not been before, do give it a try – you will not be disappointed. You do not have to belong to the library to come in. You will be assured of a warm welcome, and as much coffee/tea and cake as you like all for £2.

The next Library Cafe is on Wednesday November 29th – 11a.m. Hope to see you there.

Margaret Clayton

Oxnam Valley Voices

Following a survey carried out by the Kirk to see what the Community would like to see happen in the Parish, a singing group was set up two years ago. Now known as the Oxnam Valley Voices it meets every Wednesday evening in Oxnam Village Hall at 7pm. At first everyone thought that they would be able to have a sing-song, a cup of tea and plenty of chat. However, they had not bargained with the endless enthusiasm and talent of their Choir Master, Jamie MacKenzie. Soon it was made plain that everyone was there to improve their singing, a tea break was allowed but chat was very minimal. The choir is now financially independent of the Church as it became apparent that funds would be needed to support the group. Soon OVV was out singing at weddings, charity concerts, singing carols in Sainsburys and performing at many other venues. Their repertoire is very wide, singing religious music, classical compositions, music from films and theatre and pop music. OVV are always looking for new members and are currently especially short of male singers. So if you like to sing, why not come along on a Wednesday night 7pm and join in. It is fun!!

Future singing arrangements for OVV

20 th November	Teviot Smokery 6-8pm
4 th December	Teviot Smokery 6-8pm
5 th December	Jedburgh Square around Christmas Tree 5.15pm
7 th December	RNLI Concert in Kelso Old Parish Church (by the Knowes Car Park) 7pm
14 th December	Concert in St Johns Church, Jedburgh in aid of St Johns and OVV 3pm £5.00

Ann Fraser

OWLS

Next meeting Tuesday 4th November when Mrs McNichol will be talking too us about Danish open sandwiches – hopefully with samples. The group continues to thrive with usually between 25 and 35 ladies attending meetings. As usual our Christmas meeting will be held at The Caddyman when, on a Tuesday evening, we will have the place to ourselves and enjoy a lovely meal and a jolly good get together getting the Christmas season off to a good start. The following meeting will be the first Tuesday in March with no meetings in either January or February.

Margaret Clayton

Pantomime

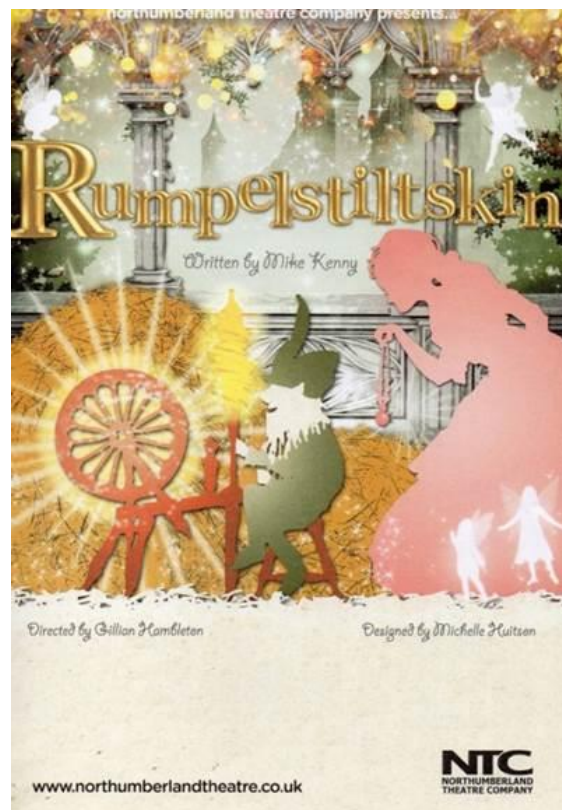
We are a professional, small scale touring company based at the Playhouse, Alnwick, Northumberland. Our policy is to provide high quality theatre to small, predominately rural, communities whose access to professional theatre would otherwise be restricted; theatre which is relevant, innovative....and of course entertaining .

We are performing in Oxnam Kirk at 4pm on Sunday 11th January 2015

Tickets: £7 for adults, £4.50 for children **or** £20 for a family ticket.

All welcome -- do come and see Rumpelstiltskin !

And we hope to return every year with something new.



Kids In The Kirk

At present the elders are looking into getting grants to put up a summer house in the car park field. We feel that this would give us a great space not only for kids on a Sunday morning but also a focus for other church and community events such as barbecues, picnics, social gatherings and meetings for folks of all ages. We would appreciate any feedback and ideas. Can we also remind everyone about the Northumberland Theatre Company's Pantomime 'Rumpelstiltskin' being held in Oxnam Kirk on 11th January, 2015. A great event for everyone - put the date in your diaries now!

Morag McKeand

Oxnam Quilters

This group continues to meet on the first Saturday of each month with members busy on diverse projects – lots of Christmas themed work being done currently. Our next show will be in May 2015 and already work has started on the first raffle prize, a double bed quilt.

Margaret Clayton

Carpet Bowling

Oxnam Carpet Bowling Club gets back underway at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 2nd November and weekly thereafter on a Monday evening. The cost is £2 per week so why not come along for a bit of fun. Any enquiries to Liz Spowart on 01835 862672

DAISY'S COOL KID'S PAGE



Lady elder called Francis needed here



Waiting, waiting for Christmas Eve



Lewis Ralston showing Hamish of Edgerston



Who could say no to those eyes???

KIRK SERVICES

16th November 2014	Sacrament of Communion
30 th November 2014	Third Sunday in the month evening service at 6.00 p.m.
7 th December 2014	Sunday Service – Hospitality Afterwards
21 st December 2014	Christmas Family Service – Sunday School
24 th December 2014	Family Candlelight Carol Service at 5.30 p.m – please note time change this year (A special collection will be taken as usual)
25 th December 2014	Christmas Day Service at 10.30 a.m.
4 th January 2015	New Year's Service – Festive Hospitality Afterwards
18 th January 2014	Sunday Service – Sunday School

Services will continue on the 1st, 3rd and, if applicable, 5th Sundays of each month with hospitality on the 1st Sunday and Sunday School on the 3rd Sunday. The services on the 1st and 3rd Sundays will be at 10.30 a.m. and the 5th Sunday will be 6.00 p.m unless otherwise stated. The Easter Service will be on Sunday 5th April 2015.

DIARY DATE FOR 2015

Saturday 21 st February	Annual Coffee Morning in Jedburgh Royal British Legion at 10.00 a.m.
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BAPTISMS



- 25th June 2014 Harriet Elizabeth Mary Barker and Magnus Andrew
Harry Barker, twins of Dr. Joel and Caroline (nee
Lyll).
- 19th October 2014 Benjamin Douglas Proudfoot, Son of Christopher and
Rebecca (nee Shiell)

DEATHS



- 3rd July 2014 James Murray Yourston, Cleuchside, Oxnam,
Jedburgh

OBITUARY

James Murray Yourston was born on 9th October 1934 at Lanton Hill. He was the only child of Janet Tennant Neil and James Murray Yourston. James senior farmed at Lanton Hill and as the young James grew, he was immersed in the everyday life on the farm.

School days started for Jimmy at Lanton Primary and from there he progressed to Jedburgh Grammar School, however, it would be fair to say that Jimmy was not an enthusiastic scholar – he couldn't wait to leave school. He would help out around the farm at home but hated hens! When he left school he got a job working on the lorries, loading them up and scrubbing them down. Jimmy loved the independence this job brought, but come harvest time, he had to go back and help out on the farm.

Jimmy would look forward to the dances at the weekend. Most nights out would start in Hawick. He would meet up with friends and together they would head off for whichever hall the dance was in. Jimmy was a social creature and loved the music and the dancing. He was also a keen bowler and would happily tell the story of the night, one New Year, in Denholm where he played against 96 pair and won! The prize was the beautiful clock which sat on the mantelpiece at Cleuchside.

Work was hard and hours were long but there was a rhythm and beauty to it. Hired help moved from farm to farm and when the threshing mill arrived it was all hands on deck. Water, or the lack of it, drove Jimmy away from Lanton and took him to Cleuchside. This was a good move – it was a better farm. It was also a mixed farm, sheep, cattle and arable.

Jimmy was blessed in life with two wives, four children and three step-children. Neil, Colin, Dot and Joyce grew up on a busy farm with Jimmy heavily involved with the village life. He played carpet bowls in the village hall and was the m.c. at the whist drives. Jimmy, as you all know, had a larger than life character! Full on one liners and great fun was had when he was around.

When the family managed to take a holiday and headed to a cottage by the sea, they were contacted by their faithful postie, 'Murdie', to say that their hay was overheating and Jimmy would have to get back – there was no escape!

A hard winter and the foot and mouth outbreak really convinced Jimmy it was time to retire. In 2002, he made the hard decision to give the farm up. Now, finally, there could be proper holidays. Jimmy and Gill took off on a Baltic cruise and were smitten. Next they headed to Norway then a river cruise. He certainly loved these adventures, exploring the world, but was still passionate about his homeland. Oban and Mull were particular favourites.

In 2006 Jimmy started to need help with his breathing, but he went on gamely. The last year was particularly difficult and he was frustrated by his lack of strength and ability to do the things he wanted to do.

Jimmy will be dearly missed. He loved people visiting the house and was blessed by many family and friends popping in. The door was always open and there was always a welcome.

KIRK TRUSTEES & OFFICE BEARERS

Interim Moderator

Mrs Winnie Robson
Tel: 01573 226594
Email: winrobson@btopenworld.com

Locum Minister

Rev. Marion Dodd
Tel: 01896 822446
Email: mariondodd@btinternet.com

Elders

Lt Col Colin Hogg (Session Clerk)
Tel: 01835 850394
Email: Colin.Hogg25@btconnect.com

Mrs Moira Land (Presbytery Elder)
Tel: 01835 864776

Mrs Valerie Hunter (Sunday School Leader)
Tel: 01835 840358

Mrs Jan Scott (Press & Website Convenor)
Tel: 01835 840225
Email: jan_scott@talk21.com

Mr Robert Young (Fabric Convenor)
Tel: 01835 862181

Mrs Ann Fraser
Mrs Geraldine Strickland
Mr Andrew Dodds
Mr Robert Anderson
Mrs Francis Armstrong
Mrs Morag McKeand

Treasurer

Miss Fiona Geddes
Tel: 01835 865106 (*work*)
Email: fionageddes@crba.co.uk

Parish Page Editor

Mrs Fiona Ralston
Tel: 01835 840600
Email: overtonbush@tiscali.co.uk

Flower Convenor

Mrs Beryl Barbour