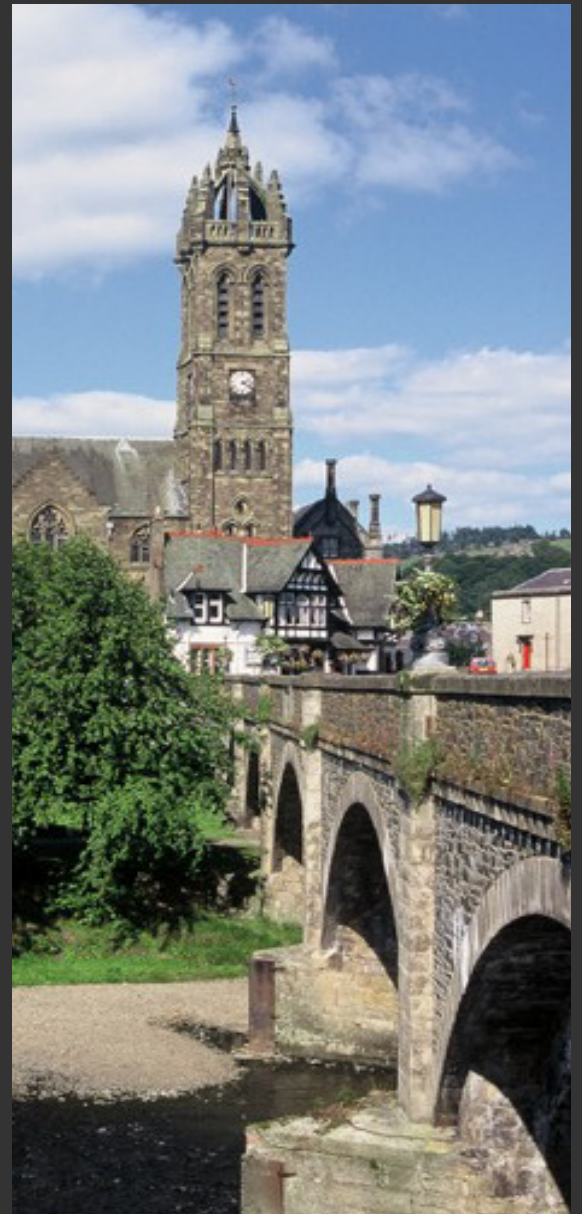




the magazine



**Peebles Old Parish
Church of Scotland
with
Eddleston Parish
Church of Scotland**



February 2012



Daily Worship

in Peebles Old Parish, 10am Daily Worship Leaders Feb/Mar

Monday 6 th	John 7:37-52	Lily Swinney	February
Tuesday 7 th	John 7:53-8:11	Tom Fairbairn	
Wednesday 8 th	John 8:12-20	Douglas Kesting	
Thursday 9 th	John 8:21-32	Calum Macdougall	
Friday 10 th	John 8:33-47	Diana Brown	
Saturday 11 th	John 8:47-59	Elizabeth Parker	
Monday 13 th	John 9:1-17	Marjorie Renton	
Tuesday 14 th	John 9:18-41	Tom Mills	
Wednesday 15 th	John 10:1-18	Janet Macdougall	
Thursday 16 th	John 10:19-30	Sheena Edgar	
Friday 17 th	John 10:31-42	Elsbeth Knowles	
Saturday 18 th	John 11:1-16	Wilma Barrett	
Monday 20 th	John 18:15-18,25-27	John Fairless	
Tuesday 21 st	John 18:28-38	Isabelle Coghill	
Wednesday 22 nd	Luke 18:9-14	Jim Edgar	
Thursday 23 rd	John 17:1-8	Geoff Goldstraw	
Friday 24 th	John 17:9-19	John Moore	
Saturday 25 th	John 17:20-26	Tom Fairbairn	
Monday 27 th	Mark 1:1-13	Alistair Robertson	
Tuesday 28 th	Mark 1:14-28	Sally Thorburn	
Wednesday 29 th	Mark 1:29-45	Janette Cameron	
Thursday 1 st	Mark 2:1-12	Cathy Davidson	Mar
Friday 2 nd	Mark 2:13-22	Diana Brown	
Saturday 3 rd	Mark 2:23-3:6	Pauline Copeland	

From early in their history, the church has developed forms of daily worship. At the Reformation, the people were encouraged to join in daily worship in their parish churches, and the 1564 book of Common Order made provision for daily services

Pastoral letter

February 2012



What are you worth?

It's interesting but very sad that so much of the current controversy over executive bonuses might tempt us answer that question only, or at least principally, in monetary terms. A few high profile cases which have made the headlines over recent months have led to bitterly divided opinion both in the media and in the wider community but the real tragedy is that much of the debate fails to challenge the tacit assumption that a person's worth can actually be measured in money.

What price could possibly be put on that indescribable bond between two people that we call human love?

How can we attribute monetary value to the devoted care of a husband or wife for a spouse who has become completely dependent? How might any of us begin to measure the worth to us of the people whose love and understanding sustains us through the thick and thin of daily living? Can we ever measure the value of friendship? How do we put a price on our health? Could money ever buy happiness? And what of faith, what monetary tag could purchase that inner assurance of the presence of God in our every waking or sleeping moment?

How might any of us begin to measure the worth to us of the people whose love and understanding sustains us through the thick and thin of daily living?

Through the years of his earthly ministry, Jesus constantly attributed worth to individuals and groups, many of whom were deemed near worthless by mainstream society. The chief tax collector Zacchaeus, the woman caught in adultery, the Samaritan woman at the well and who knows how many people suffering from leprosy and others possessed by evil spirits, each and every of

them not only transformed through encounter with Jesus but also given a new sense of self-worth greater than they could ever calculate.

The love of God is the ultimate source of all human value. If we were left to earn value for ourselves we would be deeply impoverished. Instead, through the limitless and unconditional love that brings God into the very heart of human being in the person of Christ, we are accorded the priceless bonus of knowing that Divine concern for every single life on earth is constant and infinite.

What are you worth? To God, you are worth everything.

With love

Calum Macdougall.

News from Peebles & Eddleston What we're up to.



Lent Study

Following the success of the Advent Study there will be opportunities at both Eddleston and the Old Parish Church to share in a Lent Study Group. Full details will be given in the weekly intimations but they will take place as before at 11am each Tuesday in the Old Parish Church Song School and at 7.30pm each Wednesday at Eddleston Church and will run throughout Lent starting on Tuesday 28th February and on Wednesday 29th at Eddleston. Each meeting will last an hour and will be very informal and you are invited to attend as and when you are able.

MOTHERING SUNDAY (18th March)

It is five years since members of both our congregations paid a Mothering Sunday visit to Glasgow Cathedral. Though the weather was not of the best that day we had a most enjoyable time including guided tours of the cathedral and participation in the evening service.

We are planning a return visit on Sunday 18th March. A coach has been booked and Dr Laurence Whitley, Minister of the Cathedral is greatly looking forward to welcoming us back.

Fuller details will be given in the course of this month but in the meantime put the date in your diary.



The Eddleston Guild

The Guild will meet on Wednesday February 15th at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. The meeting will take the form of a 'D.I.Y.' Members Night. The theme for the evening is 'Thanking God for Creation.'.

A warm welcome awaits anyone who would like to attend.



CHAT IN THE HAT

This friendly and informal discussion group meets on Monday 27th February at 7.30pm in the church.

Bring along a topic to put into the hat and enjoy the enfolding discussion over a glass of wine and nibbles.



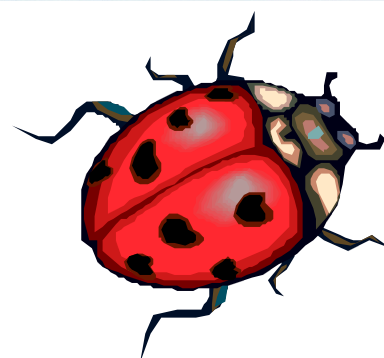
Beetle Drive For Zomba

Friday 9th March at 7.00pm

In Eddleston Village Hall

All ages are welcome and admission is by donation.

Suggested minimum is £5.



All Tweeddale Churches are invited to:

SONGS OF PRAISE

At Peebles Old Parish Church of Scotland

On Sunday 1st April 2012 at 6pm

With Peebles Silver Band

Nominate your favourite hymn using the forms available from your local church and hand them in by 18th March.

Coffee & tea will be served in The MacFarlane Hall afterwards

Please Support us

Yorkhill Children's Foundation was established in 2001 and since then they have enjoyed over 10 years of support from individuals, community groups, schools, churches, trusts, foundations and volunteers. Over the last ten years the foundation has provided over £8m towards the cost of innovative medical equipment, improvements in child and family facilities, paediatric research and training among many enhancements.

www.yorkhillchildrensfoundation.org

There will be a talk about the work of the Foundation at Peebles Old Parish during Morning Worship on 25th March at 10am



Yorkhill
Children's
Foundation

Presbytery of Melrose and Peebles Zomba Partnership Committee Container for Zomba



The Partnership Committee has been collecting goods to send to our partner Presbytery and associated churches in Zomba. Amongst other items, we have stacking chairs, a considerable amount of school books, theological books, pieces of IT equipment and shoes. These are presently being stored at Walkerburn Church and the intention is to send this container out in April.

You may well ask why we should spend such a large sum in solely transporting what are mainly used goods. The answer is three fold: firstly experience has shown that if we sent money the chances of it being used for the purposes it was raised are small, secondly it would not be possible to purchase many of the items in Malawi and thirdly, after much discussion with our colleagues in Zomba they have expressed a preference for goods which are not readily available there rather than money.

We shall be using the Raven Trust which had considerable experience in sending containers to Malawi and good connections with a trustworthy Malawi freight company and local churches. More information about the Raven Trust can be found at www.theraventrust.org.

Presently we have about half a container full of goods stored at Walkerburn. We shall be looking for further items such as:

- Spiritual literature
- Office equipment
- Musical instruments
- Woodworking tools
- Knitting needles
- Wool for knitting
- Sets of Football / Netball strips
- Bicycles
- Garden tools
- School text books
- Sewing machines.

These should be second hand items in working condition although non-functioning bicycles can be considered. Pick-up and delivery to Walkerburn Church can be arranged if needed.

Walkerburn Church will be open on Saturday mornings in February from 10.00am to 1.00pm for you to bring donations directly.

"The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook." *1 Kings 17 verse 6*



A warm welcome to Our Organisations



You'll receive a warm welcome at any of our groups, whose details are given below. For further information about each organisation, please see our website www.topcop.org.uk

Group	Where and when we meet	Contact
The Ten o' Clock Club	All children welcome. MacFarlane Hall Sundays in term time 10.00am	Cathy Davidson 01896 830419
Choir	Song School Thursdays 7.30-9.00pm (not July and August)	Sarah Brown (Director of Music) 01896 831 406
Choristers	Song School Thursdays in school terms 6.00-7.00pm	
Girls' Brigade	MacFarlane Hall Wednesdays in school terms Explorers (P1 – P3) 6.00-7.00pm Juniors and Brigaders 7.00-8.15pm	Janette Cameron 01721 722528
Flower Committee	Meets once a year as a whole group, Members take their turn at arranging the flowers in church each week and at major religious festivals.	Janet Macdougall 01721 720568
Bellringers Group	Members take their turn on the Sunday Bellringing rota and ring on other community occasions if they wish.	Anne Derrick 01721 721075
Guild of Friendship	Members meet together twice a year. The Guild visits housebound members of the congregation. The number of homes and frequency of visits is flexible and can easily be arranged to suit the availability of the Visitor	Marjory Gregory 01721 723266
Traidcraft	Members take turns at the purpose-built cupboard selling Fairtrade goods after morning worship each Sunday	Diana Brown 01721 720817
'Green Team'	Help to provide ideas for each of us to better care for God's creation.	Diana Brown 01721 720817
Toddlers' Group	MacFarlane Hall Tuesdays in school terms. 10.00-11.00am HELPERS URGENTLY REQUIRED	Elsbeth Knowles 01721 722860
Bacon Rolls	Friday mornings. Join a team taking your turn preparing and serving Bacon Rolls. Each team is 'on' once every 6 weeks. Great fun !	Diana Brown 01721 723266

A Year in the Bell Tower

by Anne Derrick, Bellringers' Group Leader



It would be easy to say that we have had an uneventful year in the Bellringers' Group but that doesn't mean it wasn't a busy year. Each and every Sunday the bells are rung before services, and this is much appreciated by everyone. In addition, we contribute to a number of community events, and this year has been no exception.

These events have included:

- *Beltane Saturday morning* – the Beltane was well and truly 'rung in' at 8am
- *Arts Festival Open Day* – this was its usual success with our 'Bells Across Scotland' recital in the morning, attracting many comments from shoppers on the High Street, and our 'Come and Try Bellringing' event in the afternoon. It is always amazing to see how many people turn up to this event, given that it's been running for years now!
- *St Andrew's Day* recital of Scots tunes
- *Christmas Lights* 'switch-on'
- *Christmas Shoppers* 'ring' on Christmas Eve, when we must have scored a first with an arrangement of Slade's 'Merry Christmas' pealing out from the Tower!

What's interesting to note is that our repertoire has expanded considerably and for each of us as Ringers our expertise and confidence has grown immensely over the past few years.

It's been great to welcome Mary Hudson from St Joseph's and Fiona Sinclair from our own congregation to the team. Both of these ladies now 'ring solo' after a short apprenticeship.

Next Month: Read all about the Bellringers' Expedition to the Top of the Tower!

If you would like to join the Bellringers' Group, contact Anne Derrick (01721 721075) or annederrick@sky.com. New Ringers are always welcome and although the ability to read music is a huge help, it's not absolutely essential if you have a good ear for music and familiarity with hymn tunes.

A Visit to The Scots Kirk in Paris

Anne Derrick



On a recent visit to Paris, we were fortunate to be able to visit The Scots Kirk in Rue Bayard, just off the Champs-Elysee. I have a second cousin Dorothy who has lived in Paris for many years, having studied French at University then later marrying Pierre, who rose high in the ranks of the Paris police. Dorothy and I had lost touch for many years (over half a century, in fact !) and it is a great joy to us both to be re-united.

Because of her fluency in French, Dorothy, to her own astonishment, found herself in the office of Session Clerk, and just about everything else as well ! The congregation is flourishing, but by its very nature, many of the worshippers are passing through or staying in Paris for a relatively short time.



The Paris congregation was established in 1858. In 1885, the congregation moved its place of worship to the former American Episcopal church in rue Bayard. Some famous people have worshipped here. They include American President Woodrow Wilson, British Prime Minister David Lloyd George, and Eric Liddell the famous Scottish Olympic athlete (who preferred to preach in the Scots Kirk rather than race on a Sunday in the 1924 Paris Games). His life, missionary work and tragic death, are recounted in the book and film "Chariots of Fire".



After WW2, it was discovered that there had been damage to the structure of the building and a new church was built. However, this gave serious structural problems and in the 1990s the decision was made to do a deal with a property developer, luxury flats being built on

the site but with premises for the church on the ground floor and basement.



At the entrance is a beautiful metal screen depicting a Celtic cross and inlaid with stones from Scotland. Inside there is office accommodation, a small hall, a pleasant outside courtyard and the church itself. Although simple in its interior design, it is a peaceful and beautiful sanctuary.

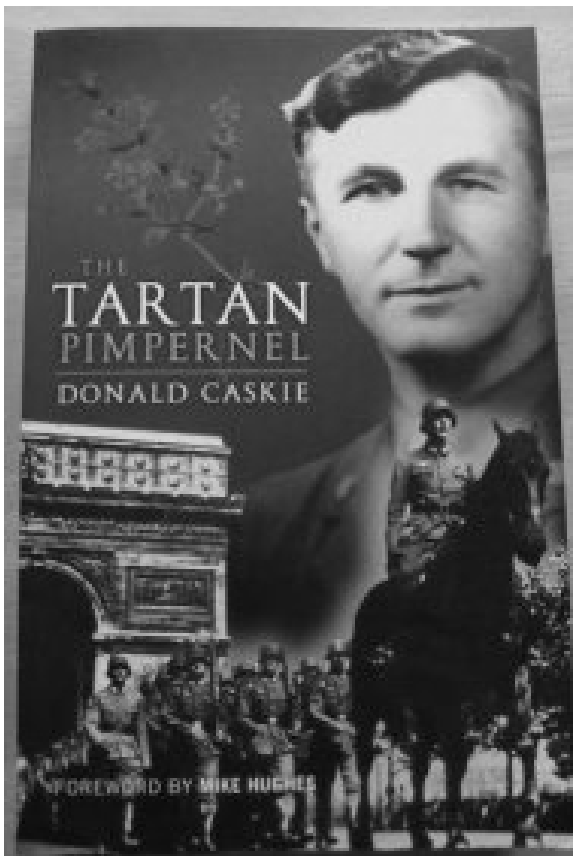
No visit to the Scots Kirk would be complete without a mention of their former minister, Dr

Donald Caskie, the 'Tartan Pimpernel'.

In 1940, following the forced closure of the church due to the German occupation of Paris, Donald Caskie moved to Marseille where he held services in the Seamen's Mission. He became a member of the French Resistance and a vital link in helping allied soldiers and airmen to safety in neutral Spain. Betrayed, arrested and sentenced to death by the Gestapo, his life was saved by a German pastor. His fascinating story is told in the book *The Tartan Pimpernel*, and this link is one of which the Kirk is particularly proud.

For more information about The Scots Kirk, visit their website www.scotskirkparis.com

As Session Clerk, Dorothy sends greetings to the congregation of Peebles Old and was kind enough to donate a copy of Dr Caskie's book to our church, available for anyone who wishes to read it.



Words of Wisdom

The Importance of Waiting



'Let Patience have her perfect work...' James 1:4

Have you been asking God, 'Why do I have to wait so long?' If so, here are four important things you need to know:

1) **Waiting trains you.** Time spent waiting can be time spent learning. And if you're learning, you're not losing. God will train you for battle because He's a good general. 'Praise be to the Lord my Rock, who trains my hands for war, my fingers for battle' (Psalm 144:1) NIV).

2) **Waiting corrects you.** The Psalmist wrote: 'Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep Your word. (Psalm 119:67 NKJV). Pain can be profitable. Adversity can lead to spiritual advancement if you're willing to glean from it. Pain forces you to look to God for answers, to lean on Him instead of others, to learn where you went astray, to hunger for His presence and His healing touch, to listen for His instructions and be sensitive to the changes He wants to bring about in your life. Yes, you can turn your pain into progress.



3) **Waiting reveals those around you.** Motives are not easily discerned. Trust God but test people. That's scriptural.

...'the Lord your God led you...forty years, to humble you and to test you in order to know what was in your heart' (Deuteronomy 8:2 NIV). People can keep their intentions and motives covered for a long time, but waiting generally forces the truth to the surface.

4) **Waiting gives God time to solve the problem.** He's a miracle-working God, so don't get ahead of Him and rob Him of the opportunity to demonstrate His power in your life.

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They can be reached on 0845 6040401 or at www.ucb.co.uk





Fairtrade Fortnight Recipe Chocolate and Pear Sponge

Ingredients

6oz (175g) Fairtrade caster sugar
4 ½ oz (125g) margarine or butter
chocolate (chopped)
4 large beaten eggs
9 oz (250g) self-raising flour

1 ¾ oz (50g) Fairtrade cocoa
1 ¾ oz (50g) Fairtrade plain
chocolate (chopped)
2 pears, peeled and chopped
5 fl. oz. (150ml.) milk

Method

Grease and line a loose bottom 7" cake tin and pre-heat oven to Gas Mark 4 (180C/350F). Cream the sugar and margarine till light and fluffy. Sift the flour with the cocoa. Beat in the eggs a little at a time adding a little flour each time to stop curdling. Fold in the pears and chocolate pieces. Fold in the milk and pour the mixture into the prepared tin. Bake for 30-40 mins. in the centre of the oven. Dust with icing sugar to serve.



Fairtrade Fortnight 27th. Feb.- 11th. March

Thousands of people up and down the country will be taking a Step for Fairtrade in 2012. They'll be baking cakes, holding coffee mornings, pledging to drink Fairtrade tea for a year, persuading their office to switch to Fairtrade beverages and taking a step to buy more Fairtrade cotton clothing. Last year more than 5,000 events took place around the UK. Keep your eyes open around the church and church hall for steps you can take

Did You Know;

- Fairtrade is a thriving and growing campaign movement with over 500 Fairtrade Towns including Peebles, over 600 Fairtrade Schools, over 140 Fairtrade Universities and over 6,700 Fairtrade Faith groups, including synagogues, mosques, Hindu temples and Peebles Old Parish Church
- 19 million glasses of Fairtrade wine were enjoyed in the UK in 2010. You can buy Fairtrade wines in most major retailers and selected wine merchants

- Three of the top chocolate brands in the UK are now Fairtrade. Look out for Kit Kats and Cadbury Dairy Milk bars with the FAIRTRADE Mark and from next summer, Maltesers too.
- Chichester Cathedral is the world's first public building to display Fairtrade and Fairmined certified gold. In October 2011 a 3ft cockerel was gilded in Fairtrade certified gold and positioned atop the 270ft Cathedral spire.
- Three out of 10 bananas sold in the UK are Fairtrade. All bananas in Sainsbury's are Fairtrade – they sell 1,200 Fairtrade bananas a minute adding up to 650 million a year. Most people don't make an effort to preventing climate change or fighting poverty because they think their small contribution won't make a difference. Fairtrade has proved that just by changing your brand of bananas, you can help a poor farmer to send his children to school.

12 January marked the official launch of the [UN 2012 International Year of Cooperatives](#), and the start of a vigorous debate about alternatives to business as usual. Fairtrade's roots also lie in the co-operative movement, and today 75% of all Fairtrade producer organisations are co-operatives of small-scale farmers.

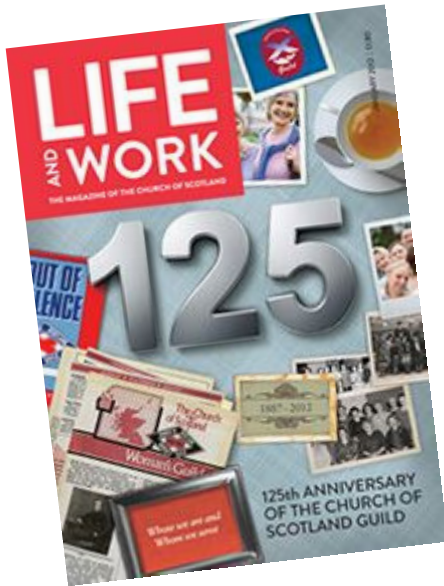
It was from co-operatives of small scale coffee farmers in Mexico that the appeal to NGOs and churches in the North to establish the first Fairtrade label came.

Every small step you take this Fairtrade Fortnight towards using more fair trade products can make an enormous difference to a small farmer's life.

Thanks to all of you who have kindly contributed to this magazine.

It's the contributed articles, stories and photos that make this magazine more interesting. So please get thinking as you've got plenty time to send in your travel story, poem or recipe for the next edition. It would be a great help if articles or intimations for the next magazine be sent in by **20th of the month** to David on 07711 851611 or preferably e-mail because he's not that good at typing: magazine@topcop.org.uk

News from the Magazine babes.



Remember you can see this magazine in full colour on our website.

Large print copy. Thanks to our new printer we can produce a large-print copy of this magazine so if this would be helpful to you, please ask your magazine distributor for this service.

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To:

Miss Marianne Ewart, 23 Cuddyside, Peebles EH45 8EN (721964) or
Mrs Ruby Buchan, 14 Kingsland Square, Peebles EH45 8EZ (721048)

Your name

Your address.....

I'm happy to enclose a donation of £..... towards the cost of the Magazine.

Please make cheques payable to "The Old Parish Church of Peebles"

CHURCH ORDERS (PEEBLES)

READERS

Feb	5		Souper Sunday
	12	Dean of Guildry	2 Kings 5:1-14 St Mark 1:40-45
	19	Isabelle Coghill	2 Kings 2:1-12 St Mark 9:2-9
	26	Tom Fairbairn	Genesis 9:8-17 St Mark 1:9-15
Mar	4		Genesis 17:1-7 and 15-16 St Mark 8:31-38
	11	Pauline Copland	Exodus 20:1-17 St John 2:13-22
	18	Alastair Fleming	Numbers 21:4-9 St John 3:14-21
	25	Fiona Fleming	Jeremiah 31:31-34 St John 12:20-33

DUTY ELDERS

Feb		North	South
		Tom Swanston Maureen Collier	John Moore Barbara Crawford
Mar		Alastair Fleming Fiona Fleming	Graeme Murray Pauline Copland

SHORT ORDERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Feb	26	Graeme Coulthard Alastair Fleming	Fiona Fleming Elizabeth Fairless
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Please note: Elders unable to undertake any of the above duties are asked to arrange for a substitute

RINGING OUT

Feb	5	Roger Trueman (am) Kirsty Davidson (pm)
	12	Mary Hudson
	19	Fiona Sinclair
	26	Anne Derrick



FORTHCOMING SERVICES EDDLESTON

February

Sunday 5th	11.45am	Souper Sunday. Service conducted by Elders.
Sunday 12th	11.45am	Morning Worship. Second Sunday before Lent.
Sunday 19th	11.45am	Morning Worship. Sunday before Lent.
Sunday 29th	6pm	Monthly Evening Service. First Sunday in Lent. Speaker from Edinburgh City Mission.

March

Sunday 4th	11.45am	Souper Sunday. Service conducted by Elders.
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FORTHCOMING SERVICES PEEBLES

February

Sunday 5th	10am 6pm	Souper Sunday. Service conducted by Elders. Monthly Evening Service.
Sunday 12th	10am	Morning Worship. Second Sunday before Lent
Sunday 19th	10am	Morning Worship with the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Sunday before Lent.
Sunday 26th	11am	Morning Worship followed by Short Order of Holy Communion conducted by The Rev Barry Hughes. First Sunday in Lent.

March

Sunday 4th	10am	All-age Morning Worship. Second Sunday in Lent.
	6pm	Monthly Evening Service.

Daily Worship at Peebles Monday to Saturday at 10am.

OFFERINGS

EDDLESTON

Total Offerings for January 2012	£595.51
Total Offerings for January 2011	£709.30
Decrease in giving over 2011	(£113.79)

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTERS

PEEBLES

DEATH

24th January Miss Jessie Skelton, Peebles Nursing Home
(formerly of Kirkland Street, Peebles)

Flower Calendar

Convenor: Janet Macdougall 720568

Treasurer: Diana Brown 720817



February

March

- | | | |
|-----------|-------------|--------------------------------|
| 5 | Donors | Mr and Mrs Williamson & Family |
| | Arranger | Anne Ross |
| | Distributor | Eileen Williamson |
| 12 | Donors | The MacFarlane family |
| | Arranger | Audrey Annand |
| | Distributor | Mrs Anne Derrick |
| 19 | Donors | Mrs Lamont |
| | Arranger | Maureen Collier |
| | Distributor | Maureen Collier |
| 26 | Donors | Mrs Rachel Forsyth |
| | Arranger | Liz Trueman |
| | Distributor | Mrs Rachel Forsyth |

The Flower Committee would like to thank all who donate flowers throughout the year and all our distributors throughout the winter months. If you would like to add your name to the donor list or become a distributor then please speak to me at church or phone me on 720568.

Best wishes Janet Macdougall

- | | | |
|-----------|-------------|----------------------|
| 4 | Donors | Mr & Mrs T McAndrew |
| | | Mrs Irene Williamson |
| | Arranger | Margaret Percy-Robb |
| | Distributor | Mr Tom McAndrew |
| 11 | Donors | Mrs Agnes Macdonald |
| | | Mrs Valerie Morton |
| | Arranger | Elizabeth Douglas |
| | Distributor | Mrs Barnettson |
| 18 | Donor | Wedding |
| | Arranger | Margaret Ireland |
| | Distributor | Margaret Percy-Robb |
| 25 | Donor | Mrs McBain |
| | | The Bennet Family |
| | Arranger | Stephanie Porter |
| | Distributor | Mrs Elizabeth Palmer |

Who's Who at Peebles & Eddleston

Minister:

The Reverend Calum Macdougall
The Manse, Innerleithen Road,
Peebles EH45 8BD
01721 720568
calum@topcop.org.uk



Joint Session Clerk: Barbara Crawford

Belton, Springhill Road
PEEBLES
Tel: 01721 720309
barbara.t.crawford@btintemet.com



Joint Session Clerk: Sheena Edgar

5 Jubilee Park
PEEBLES
Tel: 01721 723327
sheena@topcop.org.uk



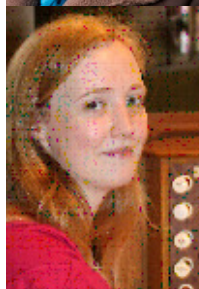
Treasurer: Jim Edgar

5 Jubilee Park
PEEBLES
Tel: 01721 723327



Organist & Choir Leader: Sarah Brown

music@topcop.org.uk



Church Administrator & Roll Keeper:

Alison Duncan
House: 721033
Mobile: 07752 633287
admin@topcop.org.uk



Beadle:

Edward Knowles
56 Elliots Park, Peebles.
01721 722860



Local Minister: Barry Hughes

Dunslair, Cardrona Way
Cardrona
01896 831197



Eddleston Session Clerk, Organist & Choir Director: Lorraine Mulholland

Millbank, Eddleston.
01721 730332
Lorajazz@aol.com



Eddleston Treasurer: Archie Smellie

Hattonknowe, Eddleston.
01721 730282



Eco-congregation & Fairtrade Co-ordinator, Eddleston:

Vivienne Wilmot
Manse Road Eddleston
01721 730335



Eco-congregation & Fairtrade Co-ordinator, Peebles:

Diana Brown
Springhill Road, Peebles.
01721 720817



Registered charities (Peebles) SC013316 (Eddleston) SC010081

The Ministers' Training

They told me in my training all the things I ought to do:
How to read the lessons clearly, and to give the hymns out too.
They said that every sermon the listeners should enthral,
With three clear points of doctrine and no long words at all.
I must never fall asleep if the PCC should be a bore,
And if I did, be very, very careful not to snore.
As for marriage preparation, I had the answers pat,
And I thought the job would work out just like that.

Very soon, with my new collar, and a Bible in my hand,
I made a point of visiting one of our faithful band –
A very nice old lady, though she had a lot to say,
And I found that she was having a rather nasty day.
'My chest is something cruel, there's a swelling on my knee,
And my back's all red and swollen – oh, would you like to see?'
'No, I really couldn't help, I'm not a doctor, where's my hat?'
I didn't think the job would be like that.

I needed some refreshment, so I made another call
On a regular church member, once a colonel in Bengal.
He made me very welcome, and to put me at my ease
Showed me photographs of tigers, and men with guns in trees
'Now I think a drop of whisky would be just the thing for me.
I know you won't touch it, Padre, but do have a cup of tea –
And then we can continue with our cosy little chat.'
I didn't think the job would be like that.

The Sunday School seemed easy – each charming little mite,
If I told some Bible stories, it would fill them with delight.
'What team did Samson play for?' asked a cheeky sort of lad.
'Johnny's been and stole my pencil', said another. 'Oh, that's bad.
You must not pull Susan's pigtails, it isn't very nice.
Yes, we love all living creatures, but you can't bring your white mice.
No, we haven't room for skateboards, Oh be quiet, you horrid brat!'
I didn't think the job would be like that.

I went into the vestry just to get a bit of quiet.
When the verger said, 'Come quickly, you've got to stop a riot.
Two ladies here are fighting about where to put the flowers,
And the bellringers would like to ring a peal for sixteen hours.
The chancel roof is leaking, and the boiler will not light,
The Archdeacon says he wants a word with you tomorrow night,
And a piece from off the tower has just killed a neighbour's cat.'
I didn't think the job would be like that!

Thanks to Tom McAndrew