

CANONBIE CHRONICLES

Edition 3

News from Canonbie United Parish Church

Autumn 2009

www.canonbiechurch.org.uk

We shall be celebrating
The Lords Supper
Sunday 6th December
11:30am
Please join us!

*** Solway Singers ***

Christmas Concert

Canonbie Church

Saturday 19th December

*** 7:30pm ***

The programme will be a good mixture of well loved carols interspersed with a few lesser known ones and some beautiful traditional Christmas music. Also taking part are the talented Gait sisters, Emma and Sarah, playing violin and cello.

Tickets £8 (£4 for under 16's).

Includes mulled wine and mince pies at the interval. Proceeds to the organ fund.

Please put the date in your diary and do come!

Tickets available from Chris Jagger (71362), Lorraine Jardine (80719), Chris Jackson (71900), Liz Findlay (71769) or at the church.

Dates for Communion return to the quarterly basis - the first Sunday in March, June, September and December.

Sunday evening services are held weekly in Newcastleton.

Our Youth Group meets every Sunday evening.

Contact Ruth Foster (71583) or Margaret Bouhitem (71263).

Steve would like to hear from anyone interested in forming a **new prayer and bible study group**. Contact details below.

A MESSAGE FROM STEVE – OUR NEW MINISTER

Tel. 013873 75242

Dear Friends,

The Manse, Langholm St., Newcastleton, TD9 0QX

Thank-you for all your support as we settle in. We are enjoying being in Canonbie, and looking forward to our first Christmas here.

One of the features of Christmas is the "Round Robin" photocopied letter; we get lots, from people we have not heard from since last Christmas. Some are great, brief and full of news; others are long and full of tedious detail. And I ask myself, what sort of friendship is this? Relationships should involve more than just the exchange of information across the divide.

Some people think that is how God is too. Detached from us, up in Heaven, which is at least a million miles away! As a child, I thought of my prayers as telling God what was going on, like a round robin letter!

But God does not want to be the recipient of our round robin prayers. The Christmas story is that He crossed the divide, and lived among us. Then, when He had returned to Heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit to keep the contact going.

This Christmas, why not ask God if you can experience His presence a little closer?

Hidden away in the letter of James in the bible, is a verse "Come near to God, and He will come near to you"

May we discover that reality anew this Christmas.

Happy Christmas, and God bless, Steve.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT CANONBIE CHURCH

Sunday 13th December. 7pm. Blue Christmas.

Thursday 17th December. 9:30am. Canonbie School End-of-Term service.

Sunday 20th December. 11:30am. Nativity Play.

Christmas Eve. 8pm. Christmas Service.

Christmas Day. 10am. Short Family Service.

Sunday 27th December. 11:30am. Sunday worship.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT NEWCASTLETON CHURCH

Sunday December 20th. 10am. Morning Worship
4-6pm 'Messy Church' with the Nativity.

6.30 Carol Service at Saughtree including
baptism of Archie Dowson.

Christmas Eve. 11.30pm. Watchnight Service.

Christmas Day. 11am. Christmas Morning All
age worship - about 30 minutes.

Sunday 27th December. 10am. Morning

Worship but no evening service.

TED JACKSON

We lost a true friend and brother in Christ when Ted died on 17th October. Coping with poor health, he became a well known and loved person in our congregation since coming to Canonbie with Chris six years ago. Ted brought with him a wide experience of Christian leadership from the churches in which he had worked throughout his life. He had real passion and zeal to share the Gospel and scripture with those around him and encouraged us all to do the same. It has been an honour and blessing to have Ted in our fellowship and community. On the Sunday following Ted's funeral Steve preached on God's Plan. We can declare with confidence that Ted's life was very much part of that Plan. Our prayers, thoughts and helping hands go out to Chris, Cliff, Hazel and their families at this time of sadness.

MESSY CHURCH AT NEWCASTLETON

The Nativity Service on December 20th will take a different format. We are going to invite all the children who attend the mid-week groups, and their families, to a 'Messy Church'. Messy Church is not necessarily messy! It is a time of worship, mixed in with creative sessions, and some food. We hope that children and adults together will have a relaxed time in church, thinking about the Christmas story and what it means, having fun, and learning about what worship is.

LIVING WITH LOSS AT CHRISTMAS

**Canonbie Church. Sunday 13th December. 7pm.
Conducted by the Revd. Pauline Steenbergen.**

If you have suffered the loss of a loved one or friend at any time and would like to remember them in a short service of readings, music and poetry, then please join us. If you know of a friend or neighbour who may benefit from, or just enjoy, this quiet service, then please do extend this invitation to them.

Ethical Pledges – Conscientious Christmas

Around the church are scattered pledges to encourage us to think of ways we can help promote Fairtrade. Whether you buy Fairtrade coffee to follow Christmas dinner, a decoration for the Christmas tree or a gift for Christmas day every purchase makes a difference to the life of the producer and to the amount of support and campaigning Traidcraft can do.

SITS VAC

Voluntary help with clerical support to the Congregational Board.

Can you use a computer or are you willing to learn? We need some help with taking minutes at the 3 meetings held each year, typing them up and distributing them.

Interested?

Please speak to the Editor.

Serving Tea & coffee at the Sunday Morning Service.

Please add your name to the rota in the foyer if you can help.

In 'Life and Work' recently: -

Working with the homeless in Edinburgh.

The release of the Lockerbie bomber.

Loving self, neighbour and God.

Church work in the prisons.

Alex Fergusson MSP, son of the Manse.

Have a look at the spare copies left in the foyer.

Speak to Kirsteen Davies (71725) about a subscription.

Sunday shopping @ Canonbie Church

.....from the Traidcraft cabinet.

Come to church early or linger afterwards to have a look at what we stock including: ground coffee, instant coffee, tea, cocoa, chocolate spread, runny honey, set honey, muesli, biscuits, chocolate, sweets, jewellery, jewellery rolls, purses, bags, scarves, vases, decorative plates and bowls, aprons, tea-towels, Christmas cards, nativity figures, Advent calendars, Christmas decorations, calendars and candles. Wow, what a lot!

The Chronicles. Christian life and work in Canonbie August to November 2009.

KIDZ GAMES provided a week full of summer holiday fun for over 30 children in the village in August. Presbytery Youth Worker Richard Morrison worked with 'Youth for Christ' to provide similar activities in Newcastleton, Langholm and Lockerbie. **Steve Fulcher BA MA** preached in Canonbie as Sole Nominee in the vacancy on 16 August. He was unanimously accepted by the congregation and inducted as Minister for the joint charge of Canonbie and Liddesdale on 2 October. **Dan Jacobs and Joe Deakon**, two Gap-Year students from 'Youth for Christ' started work with Richard Morrison in September. Their time will be spent working in local schools and with youngsters across our area through Christian sports and youth events. Members of our church are providing accommodation and meals. A **Fairtrade Coffee Morning** in Canonbie Church on 17 October was a great success raising over £350. The monthly **Soup Kitchen** started in the Village Hall in October and will continue through the winter (except December) – last Saturday each month 11:30am-1:30pm. Our annual **Craft Fayre** was held in the Village Hall on 7/8 November. Our Sunday night **Youth Group** has weekly activities as well as joining in the local **Engage** and **Langholm Youth Café** events staged by Richard Morrison..

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK. Comments, criticisms, questions to: Anthony Lane, Beechwood, Canonbie, DG14 0SY. Tel. 013873 71386, e-mail: antolane@hotmail.com

This newsheet can be made available in accessible format for partially sighted and blind persons.

Please contact the Editor, Anthony Lane. Tel. 013873 71386.