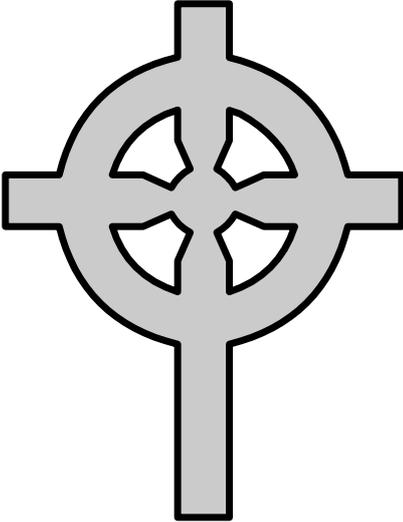


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February 2018

The Magazine of Teviot and Roberton
Church of Scotland

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From the Manse...

Pastoral Letter February 2018

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

2 Thessalonians 2:16,17

The first anniversary of my induction as Minister of St Mary's & Old Parish linked with Teviot & Robertson falls on 3rd February. So at the end of this first year I thought it would be good to make some observations on our life together in Teviot & Robertson Church.

This has been a busy and quick year! There has been plenty to do in this linked charge, with the various services, and two parishes to cover. The linkage with SMOP is working well from my perspective. Relationships are good between us, but the differences there are between the congregations mean that the linkage continues to be a good way of providing ministry to them. My prayer is for spiritual renewal and growth in both congregations.

I am grateful to all of you for opening your hearts to us as we have come among you. My thanks especially to the Kirk Session, to Pat Sutherland as Session Clerk and all the office bearers, for all your work, your help and support, and the good relationships we have enjoyed. We will shortly be approaching a number of people to ask them prayerfully to consider becoming elders and joining with us in the Kirk Session. Your prayers for that process are appreciated.

We continue this year with the 9.30am and 11.00am service times between the two church buildings in the town, with the four monthly alternating pattern. I know some find the earlier time difficult but it is a pattern that has worked well in general up to now. We also have the united services on the first Sunday morning of each month. We have sought to simplify things a bit this year by trying to have as far as possible the united Communion services on the first Sunday of a month to avoid having too many Sundays when the 9.30am and 11am pattern is dislodged, for the sake of continuity, particularly of our children's work. The only month that will not happen is June, due to the Common Riding. In the summer, we will mainly be in SMOP in July and Teviot in August.

Our praise on Sunday mornings in Teviot was accompanied by Francis Bostrom until he left in the autumn to move down south. We are delighted that Dave McKay was appointed in December as our new organist. A hope I have is that those within our congregation who play an instrument or sing will also be able to be involved in leading and accompanying our praise as appropriate. More on that in due course.

The Kirk Session have agreed in principle to move towards installing a new audio visual system in Teviot which would allow the projection of words and pictures on monitors/screens and an improved sound system. We are in the early stages of this.

It will be necessary to ensure that whatever is installed is aesthetically appropriate as well as practically effective. Again, more on that later!

Our monthly café style service on a Sunday evening has proved popular and has allowed us to worship together in a more relaxed environment, with new songs being introduced and the possibility of interacting with each other during the talk and the prayers.

Our occasional South Grouping services with Trinity and Cavers and Kirkton have given an added dimension of fellowship across the south of the town. A very successful venture organised via our South Grouping was the celebration service we held in the Volunteer Park in August when we were joined by members of the Baptist Church, the Salvation Army and others churches in the town and our praise was led by the Salvation Army Band augmented by members of the Saxhorn Band. It would be good to partner more with the other churches in Hawick in our common goal to reach the town and area for Christ.

It would good in the coming year for us to move towards running an Alpha or Christianity Explored course for the purpose of outreach, to which our members can invite friends and family to come and investigate Christianity in a non-threatening context.

Our Holiday Club was a great success last summer and the team led by Gwen Champion did a great job for which we give thanks to God. When I came to be minister here, I noted how significant it was that the Holiday Club had continued not just to function but to flourish during the vacancy. This coming summer, the Holiday Club team will be led by Sheila Cook. Keep praying for this great outreach initiative. A new venture—Megamix—under Sheila's leadership has begun once a term on an in-service day. It is effectively a mini-holiday club to which all who came to the Holiday Club in the summer are invited. It is going well with 24 there last time. Rock Solid continues for teenagers once a month, again under Gwen's leadership. It is designed to be a place where young people who are now too old to attend holiday club can come along and continue learning about the faith in a fun environment. It is much enjoyed by the small group of young people who come.

Our Sunday School—under Donna Inglis leadership—has had up to eight children. Keep praying for more families and children to come among us—we have seen a few. Our Teens' Group—under Jo and Andy Maybury's leadership—meets monthly on a Sunday and has two or three teenagers attending. We give thanks for these small but important aspects of the spiritual life of our church—and we seek God for growth.

A word about Roberton Church, which is much on my heart. When I came here I was unaware that the plan had been to close it and I saw it as a means of outreach to the part of the parish where it is set. I know this brings more work, and time and resources are indeed stretched in the church these days, but I remain up to the challenge. We have increased the number of services at Roberton including three *Praise for a Summer Evening* services in August. Attendances at all the services have been encouraging, not just at *Harvest* and *Carols by Candlelight* but also at all the other services during the year. Do pray for the Borthwick valley in all its large

extent that God will be at work there through the gospel. Pray too for good contacts with people and for us to know how best to develop and resource this work.

Our Prayer Meeting on a Thursday evening is a key part of our congregational life. Though small—there are usually six or seven of us—it is vital that we bring to God the work of the church, our concerns for others and our personal concerns to God in prayer. The two Bible Studies also continue each week and are a blessing to those who attend. It would be great to see more of us involved in midweek gatherings for worship, Bible study, fellowship and prayer. Over the coming months I will be giving thought to how that might happen.

There are some of my thoughts at this time. I haven't mentioned everything, just some of the important aspects of our life together. These are demanding days for the church. We are pulled between the need to keep things going and the urgent demand to engage in prayer and action to see the church renewed and growing. In all of it our prayer is for God to sustain, renew and revive.

I have been challenged over recent days reading about missionary friends of ours who work in a country in South East Asia, where it can be dangerous to be a Christian. This very week they are involved in providing training to Christian workers on church planting and multiplying small groups. Their vision is to see a church within easy access of every person. Isn't that a great positive encouragement to us in the very different challenges we face here and in our often low expectations? Let it fuel our prayers.

Your friend and minister

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alistair Cook', with a horizontal line underneath.

Alistair Cook

Megamix

The main aim of Megamix is to build and develop relationships with Holiday Club children and their families throughout the year. Holiday Club children and our own church families are the core of who comes and some of the children are now inviting friends along. We pray that God will give us contact with many more children and families and our work among children and young people will grow and develop. We also pray that many more families will join with us on a Sunday to worship God together.



The next Megamix is on **Friday 9th February, 9.00am-3.00pm** and, at the time of writing, we have 20 children signed in, along with seven leaders and two junior leaders, for an action packed day!!

If this is something you would like to be involved with please speak to me anytime.

Sheila Cook

The news...

...that doesn't reach 'The News'!

Pakistan

On Sunday 17th December, two terrorists attacked the morning service at Bethel Memorial Methodist Church in Quetta, forty miles from the Afghan border. At least nine Christians died at the church or in hospital from their injuries. Many lives were saved by the two courageous men who held back the attackers at the church gates. Realizing they were about to be attacked they quickly locked the gates and warned others to get into the church building. Among the extra-large congregation at the pre-Christmas service were some of the poor and needy families who receive monthly food parcels from Barnabas Fund.

Lift up the families and loved ones of those who have lost their lives.

Ask that the Lord will be their Comforter in the midst of sorrow.

Give thanks for the great bravery of Sultan and George who laid down their own lives for their friends and fellow believers.

Pray that the powerful statement of faith that Pakistani Christians make each Sunday by courageously meeting together, knowing they might be targeted, will draw their non-Christian neighbours to come and know the true and living God.

From the Barnabas Prayer Sheet–January 2018

More information can be found on the website www.barnabasfund.org

Sheila Cook

Christmas appeal 2017

Macmillan Centre extension

The final total for our Christmas Appeal was £1425, with £190 of this amount also being covered by Gift Aid declarations which should add another £50 or so to the

total benefit. I have received a letter of thanks from the Macmillan Centre Extension Fundraising Office. Thank you to all who contributed to our appeal, with the total raised re-emphasising the generosity of our congregation at harvest and at Christmas for the many needy causes.

*Ron Smith,
Congregational Treasurer*

Gift Service

And in response to the Gift Service:

To the Congregation at Teviot and Robertson Church.

Many thanks for your generosity at your Gift Service. Most of the toys and gifts have been delivered and the rest will go over the next few days.

The families have been really appreciative and it is one of our favourite jobs in the year delivering the parcels!

Have a wonderful Festive Season.

Best Wishes from
the Long Term Team East
Children and Families Social Work.

Pat Sutherland

Breathing space

The Song of The River

The snow melts on the mountain
And the water runs down to the spring,
And the spring in a turbulent fountain,
With a song of youth to sing,
Runs down to the riotous river,
And the river flows to the sea.
And the water again,
Goes back in rain
To the hills where it used to be.
And I wonder if life's deep mystery
Isn't much like rain and the snow
Returning through all eternity
To the places it used to know.
For life was born on the lofty heights
And flows in a laughing stream,
To the river below
Whose onward flow

Ends in a peaceful dream.
And so at last,
When our life is passed
And the river has run its course,
It again goes back,
O'er the self-same track,
To the mountain which was its source.

So why prize life,
Or why fear death,
Or dread what it is to be?

The river ran its allotted span
Till it reached the silent sea.
Then water harked back to the mountain top,
To begin its course once more ,
So we shall run the course begun
Till we reach the silent shore.
Then revisit earth in a pure rebirth
From the heart of the virgin snow.
So don't ask why we live or die,
Or whither, or when, we go,
Or wonder about the mysteries
That only God may know.

...

... On February 25th, 1941, In the column titled *In The News*, which he wrote daily in his newspapers, William Randolph Hearst published a poem of his own composition. It was *The Song of The River*. That poem was read by the Right Reverend Karl Morgan Black, Episcopal Bishop of California, at the burial services for Mr Hearst.

Evelyn Macauley

Crosstalk @ Drumlanrig

Crosstalk is a group for P5-7's, which meets in Drumlanrig St Cuthbert's Primary School on a Thursday at lunchtime. It is run under the umbrella of Scripture Union to reach out to young people with the good news of Jesus.

We restarted the group on 25th January – a week later than planned due to the snow – and were pleased to welcome a lot of the children back after the holidays. We spent some time looking back over 2017 at all the things, good and bad, that had happened and then looked forward to all that 2018 might bring. It was good to commit the year ahead to God in prayer, confident that he will be with us in all that lies ahead.

Next week we are starting a new series called **Jesus News** which will take us to Easter and beyond. Each week we have a newspaper headline which is a clue to a story about Jesus.

Our first three headlines are:

READ ALL ABOUT IT:

'Fishermen follow Jesus!'

Jesus calls the first disciples

'Man picks up bed and walks!'

Jesus heals a paralysed man...and much more

'Tax collector hands back money!'

Zacchaeus' life is turned around after meeting with Jesus.

Please pray that they children will meet with Jesus as they come week by week.

Sheila Cook

Fishermen
follow
Jesus!

Sports Equip

Join us for our first ever Sports Equip, where we take a look at how we, as the local church, can connect with our communities through sports.

The event will be held on Saturday 24th February 2018 from 10.00am-3.00pm in Bankfoot Church Centre, Tulliebelton Rd, Bankfoot, Perth, PH1 4BS.

The keynote speaker is Mark Fleming from Sports Chaplaincy UK and there will be a number of workshops aiming to encourage us as the local church as to how we could use sport as a way of connecting with our communities.

The event costs £20 and people who wish to come along should register on the Resourcing Mission website: <https://www.resourcingmission.org.uk/sports-equip>.

(See poster in Crush Hall.)

*Church Without Walls
Mission and Discipleship Council, The Church of Scotland*

Lunch @SMOP

An exciting venture for 2018—**Lunch @ SMOP**—will take place on the last Friday of each month and will start on **Friday 23rd February, 12.00-1.00pm** in the small hall at Buccleuch Street.

There will be homemade soup and sandwiches with tea/coffee and cake to follow—the next month will be soup and sweet.

It will be a chance to get together and enjoy the company of others over a bite of lunch—to meet up with old friends and to make some new ones! It will give us the opportunity to invite others along who we know are on their own or don't get out much. **All are welcome**—not just members of the church. Transport can be arranged if required.

These are not fundraising events—there will be no charge made for the lunch but a bowl will be put out for donations to cover costs.

Although this is a SMOP venture it is hoped that Teviot and Robertson folk will also come along and bring family, friends and neighbours. People from both congregations are involved in the organisation of **Lunch @ SMOP** so if you would like to help in any way (not necessarily every month) please speak to Sheila Cook.

For your diary:

Fri 23rd February, 12.00-1.00pm

Fri 30th March (no lunch as it's Good Friday)

Fri 27th April, 12.00-1.00pm

Fri 25th May, 12.00-1.00pm

Fri 29th June, 12.00-1.00pm

Hope to see you there

Move More



Move More is a physical activity programme for people affected by cancer, it is funded by Macmillan and the activities are free for people to attend. We offer activities like walking, Gentle Movement classes and can provide people with exercise DVDs to use in their own home.

*Charlotte Young
Macmillan Move More Development Officer*

Finding the new magazine difficult to read?

Contact Jo Maybury on 01450 or 07977 565097 to let her know. A larger print version can be made available to you.

Special services activities and events

Prayer meetings: Thursdays at 7.00pm in Teviot Church lounge. All welcome.

Bible studies: Tuesdays at 7.00pm or Thursdays afternoons. If you are interested, please contact Pat Sutherland.

Sunday School: has begun, during the morning service in the church lounge.

Teens: meeting upstairs February 25th.

Rock Solid: 2nd March, 7.30pm main hall.

Church contacts

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Day off Mondays, except for emergencies.

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Safeguarding Officer: Mary Walker (372549)

Treasurer: Ron Smith (374216) rhs@ellistrin.com Please make all cheques payable to: Hawick Teviot & Roberton Parish Church

Doorkeeper: Eileen Glendinning (374775)

Magazine Editor: Jo Maybury (375750) joannemaybury@googlemail.com

Church website: <http://www.smop-tero.org.uk>

Church Facebook page: @SMOPTERO (under the name "St Mary's & Old Parish Church linked with Teviot & Roberton Parish Church")

St Mary's & Old Parish Church linked with Teviot and Roberton Parish Church

Date	Service	Teviot	SMOP	R'ton	Theme
4th Feb	United Service Café Style Service	6.00pm	11.00am		<i>Listening to Luke: The Temptation of Christ Luke 4:1-13</i> <i>Walk in the light Ephesians 5:8-14</i>
11th Feb	Morning worship	11.00am	9.30am		<i>Listening to Luke: Jesus begins his ministry Luke 4:14-30</i>
18th Feb	Morning worship Worship at Roberton	11.00am	9.30am	2.00pm	<i>Listening to Luke: The authority of Jesus Luke 4:31-44</i> <i>Building the church Haggai 1:1-11</i>
25th Feb	Morning worship	11.00am	9.30am		<i>Listening to Luke: The call of Jesus Luke 5:1-11</i>
4th Mar	United Communion service Café Style service	11.00am	6.00pm		<i>Listening to Luke: Jesus cleanses and heals Luke 5:12-16</i> <i>Be filled with the Spirit Ephesians 5:15-20</i>
11th Mar	Morning worship Mothers' Day	11.00am	9.30am		<i>Listening to Luke: Paralysed man healed! Luke 5:17-26</i>
18th Mar	Morning worship Worship Group	11.00am	9.30am		
25th Mar	Morning worship Palm Sunday Rev Warner Hardie	11.00am	9.30am		
29th Mar	Maundy Thursday Communion	7.00pm			<i>Jesus' words from the cross: Forgiveness and welcome Luke 23:34, 43</i>
30th Mar	Good Friday		7.00pm		<i>Jesus' words from the cross: Trust Luke 23:46</i>
1st Apr	Easter Day United Celebration All-age service Roberton Easter service		11.00am	2.00pm	Luke 24:1-12 1 Corinthians 15:1-11