

# Hawick Burnfoot Church of Scotland



SC004517

Forget the former things;  
do not dwell on the past.  
See, I am doing a new thing!  
Now it springs up; do you not  
perceive it?



Isaiah 43:18-19

## Newsletter

## October 2025

## From our Interim Moderators ...

My name is Fan Heafield and I have recently been appointed as Assistant Interim Moderator. During this period, The Reverend Kwame Ahaligah, who is currently the Minister at Selkirk and Ashkirk Parish Church linked with Ettrick and Yarrow, will serve as the Interim Moderator for your church until a new Minister is appointed. Both of us are here to provide you with all possible support and guidance to ensure the continued smooth running of your church, and to help you navigate the complexities that come with the vacancy process.

Your Kirk Session, along with many others who have stood by you throughout this prolonged period without a Minister, deserve immense gratitude. Their commitment and Christian practice over the last few years have been remarkable and should be recognised and appreciated.

As we enter the Autumn season—a time typically associated with tidying gardens, preparing for Christmas, and reminiscing about the distant summer holidays—it is easy to feel that the world is heading towards greater uncertainty and hardship. Nevertheless, I am reminded of how much we, as a Christian community, owe to those willing to take on the responsibility of organising and caring for our church and congregation.

We are all aware that many within our community are experiencing difficulties such as inflation, food and fuel poverty, unemployment, and a shortage of suitable housing. All those involved with the Nomination Committee and the Kirk Session are also conscious of the challenges facing the Church itself: buildings that have become burdensome, financial pressures, and the complexity of administrative requirements from the central Church in Edinburgh. It is clear that there are obstacles to be overcome in every direction.

In Isaiah 45:3, we are reminded: "I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name." These words were spoken in a time of disruption and conflict, yet they carry a message of hope and challenge. Isaiah assures us that freedom is coming, though it may not arrive as the exiled people in Babylon expect. As we look ahead, we recognise that the coming months will bring their own challenges and surprises, but there is reason for hope. Your church has been granted permission to call a minister for the next five years—a privilege many churches do not have at this time—and for this, we give thanks and look forward with hope.



## Our Vacancy



Things are at last progressing with our search for a new minister. We have formed a Nomination Committee, who, in conjunction with the Kirk Session are putting the finishing touches to our Parish Profile which will be used to advertise the position.

We are also making good progress on the refurbishment of our manse. Huge thanks to the many people who have worked hard to clean, strip and prepare all the rooms ready for the tradesmen who have been in over the past few weeks.

Grateful thanks also to the Congregation and Kirk Session of Leitholm Church for the generous donation they have given us towards the costs of renovating our manse.



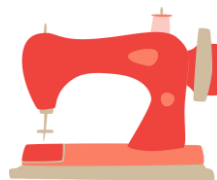
## Knit, Sew & Natter

Knit, Sew and Natter is run by a group of ladies from Church who love to knit and who enjoy to chat. We are joined by others from our community who enjoy getting together for a blether as we work on our own projects or join with others to make items to sell. There is always someone willing to help if you get stuck on something or would like to learn a new skill. And we make time for coffee and biscuits.

Over the past few weeks we have cut out and sewn Draft excluders and Door stops, Tote Bags, Peg bags and Cushion Covers and have completed lots of knitting as well as Christmas Decorations. These items will be on sale at our Coffee Morning on Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

If anyone would like any more information about our Knit, Sew and Natter group please speak to Marlynn Kerr. Everyone is welcome to come along and join us. We will be meeting in Burnfoot Church on a Tuesday morning from 10am to 12 noon on the following dates –

**21<sup>st</sup> October**  
**4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> November**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> December**



We were saddened to learn of the passing of our member and friend Mrs Elaine Tait. Elaine's family continue to be in our prayers.

*Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die".*

*John 11:25-26*



The Boys' Brigade has approx 20 boys across our three sections: Company (ages 11-18), Juniors (ages 8-10), and Anchors (ages 6 and 7).

The older boys have been actively working from the BB program and up-coming activities will include food preparation, electronics and woodwork.

The Company section has achieved remarkable milestones, with five boys earning the President Badge award in May and all of them striving for the King's Badge. These boys are also attending some Sunday services and are being encouraged to help with setting up, IT and serving tea and coffee. They are doing a good job so far.

During the summer holidays, the Company section participated in a week-long camp at St. Annes near Blackpool, where they enjoyed different sports, games and challenges. Over the coming weeks and months, plans include a sleepover, a pantomime trip, and a visit to Craikhope Outdoor Centre.

Spaces are available in all sections and our Boys' Brigade Company invites more boys to join with us and benefit from the valuable experiences, friendships, and personal growth opportunities on offer. We meet weekly during term time in Burnfoot School on Wednesday evenings. For more information, or to sign up, please contact our Company Captain, Keith Anderson on 07763 081453 or through our facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/people/5th-hawick-boys-brigade/100064405550721/>

## Messy Church



We took part in the Harvest Celebration in Burnfoot Hub and their Community Garden

recently along with the other Burnfoot Churches. We celebrated Harvest and God's creation with families from our Community. 50 people came along and enjoyed games, crafts, songs and food with us.

Our next Messy Church will be held on Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> November in Burnfoot Hub from 3pm to 4.30pm and will be helping us to

'Shine like a Star'



Everyone welcome but children must be accompanied by an adult.

## Our Finances



Our Finance team say a huge thank you to everyone for your continued giving to the work of our congregation here in Burnfoot. We appreciate everything you give.

Our FWO Income to end of September 2025 is £5,905 and our Open Plate offering is £1,532 giving us an income from members of £7,437

To end Sept 25	Budget Figure	Actual Figure
Total Income	19,015	13,722
Total Expenditure	19,015	16,332
<b>Overspend</b>	0	<b>£2,610</b>

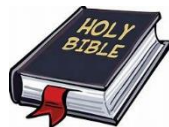
We are excited about being able to call our own minister once again but we also realise the cost implications to this. Why not take this opportunity to review your giving and help us to be able to sustain financially the costs of having our own minister .



## Coming up in Church ...



### Our Sunday Services



Held at 10.30am every Sunday morning in Church followed  
by Coffee and Tea.

Everybody welcome, we'd love to see you.

We have a variety of different preachers and speakers on a  
Sunday morning, all of whom bring something different.

While we don't always know very far in advance who our  
weekly speakers are, they are usually advertised in the  
Hawick Paper each week.

### **Knit, Sew & Natter**

#### **Coffee Morning & Craft Sale**

Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> November

10am to 12 noon in

Burnfoot Church

All Welcome

### **Did you know ...**

We serve tea & toast  
on a Sunday morning  
from 10 am

Why not come and join  
us.





A little reminder that if you are a UK tax payer you can sign up for **Giff Aid** which means that we can reclaim from the Government the tax you have paid on your offering to us. **This means for every £1 you donate we will receive £1.25.**

If you would like to sign up for this or would like more information please speak to Joyce Short or Scott Elliot.

If you would like more information about what we do in Church, or if there is something we can help you with please get in touch with

*Our Interim Moderators*

Rev Kwame\_Ahaligah –

[kahaligah@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:kahaligah@churchofscotland.org.uk)

Fan Heafield – [heafieldfan@gmail.com](mailto:heafieldfan@gmail.com)

*Our Session Clerk*

Marlynn Kerr - [marlynn.kerr231@btinternet.com](mailto:marlynn.kerr231@btinternet.com)

*Or check out our facebook page*

[www.facebook.com/BurnfootParishChurch](https://www.facebook.com/BurnfootParishChurch)