

HUMBIE PARISH and COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Produced bi-annually for May and November

May 2018



Minister's letter

Dear Friends

The Tale of the Country Mouse and the Town Mouse is one of Aesop's Fables. It has been worked and reworked in classical and in modern times but the core story doesn't change all that much. The country mouse goes to visit his sophisticated friend in the town. Scared by the cat and the traffic, he retreats back to his country home, content in a new way.

My pastoral ministry was all as a town mouse! Cats and traffic troubled me very little. So this is my very first experience of rural ministry. There are obvious differences - for one thing, the car gets much dirtier with all the farm tracks, What makes the news, is quite different too. And people are much closer to each other. Without being intrusive there is a network of support that seems entirely appropriate for a community of Christian people.

Of course, I'm not naive enough to think that rural folk don't have the same stresses and strains as townies. And there are additional stresses and strains that are unique to the country. Farming, transport, possible isolation to name a few. As a place to minister, I have to say that it is quite superb, and I am having a wonderfully engaging time thanks to the good and friendly people of these parishes.

So I must really be a country mouse at heart.

One of the things I enjoy is being back in the regular pattern of preaching in the same situation from week to week. That is a very wholesome and challenging (in a good way) experience. And also the great privilege of visiting people in their homes. Such welcomes! So, these next two months will continue as an unalloyed blessing to be enjoyed and given thanks for.

I know how happy Aniko and David are with their beautiful boy, Finn. I also know how much joy his birth had brought to church and community. My task, and Interim Moderator Sandy's, is to ensure that your Christian well-being continues smoothly through this time. When Aniko returns, I know that you will welcome her with big smiles. Hopefully not to be rid of your locum minister! But for the resumption of the team in that special and strong fellowship that drives the ministry and mission of Humbie.

Yours in Christ

JOHN R SMITH, Locum Minister

Until mid-June, please contact Rev John Smith, the Locum Minister, for any enquiries about services, including baptisms, weddings and funerals, and any pastoral enquiries you might have. He can be reached on 01721 724 464 or 07710 530 193, and by email on office@jrsmith.eu.

The Interim Moderator during Anikó's Maternity Leave is Rev Sandy Horsburgh, who can be contacted on 0131 653 3318 or ahorsburgh@churchofscotland.org.uk

Anikó is planning to return to work in mid-June.

List Of Elders

Session Clerk:	Liz Hunter	2 Leaston Farm Cottages
	Elizabeth Bayne-Jardine	Hattonhill
	David Cunningham	East Peaston
	Janice Dagg	Saltoun Station, Pencaitland
	Donald Hardie	Chesterhill
Treasurer:	Margo Hodge	Humbie Mill
	John Mair	New Mains
	George Pate	Stobshiel Mains
	Max Ward	Stobshiel House

Church Roll

DEATHS George Elder 25 February 2018

BAPTISM Hugo Peter Hidalgo-Clyne 18 February 2018

MARRIAGES There has been one wedding conducted by a Minister from outwith the parish

Church Services
May 2018 –October 2018

Date	Where	Reader	Coffees/ teas	Flowers
6 May Communion	Humbie Church	Liz Hunter	Moya Marshall	
13 May	Humbie Church	Max Ward		Carolyn Pate
20 May	Humbie Church	Sandy Wilson		
27 May	Humbie Church	Paddy Scott		Ann O'Donovan
3 June	Humbie Church	Joan Sampson	Linda Laycock	
10 June	Humbie Church	Lynn Lowrie		Fiona Dalrymple
17 June	Humbie Church	Patrick Edwardson		
24 June	Humbie Church	Jonny Gibbs		Anna Edwardson
1 July	Joint at Humbie 9.30 am	Patrick Flockhart	Anne Mair	
8 July	Humbie Church	Jill Kinloch		Jessie Gibb
15 July	Humbie Church	Alastair Salvesen		
22 July	Humbie Church	Lois Bayne-Jardine		Joan Sampson
29 July	Humbie Church	Andrew Bayne- Jardine		
5 August	Humbie Church	Al Beck	Janet Beck	Lois Bayne-Jardine
12 August	Humbie Church	Margo Hodge		
19 August	Humbie Church	Janice Dagg		Sally Heaphy
26 August	Humbie Church	Jim Hunter		
2 September	Humbie Church	Janet Beck	Sophy Campbell	Janet Hancock
9 September	Humbie Church	John Heaphy		
16 September	Humbie Church	Muriel Pate		Margo Hodge
23 September	Humbie Church	George Pate Jnr		
30 September	Joint at Bolton 11 am Coffees beforehand	n/a		Ann O'Donovan
7 October	Humbie Church	Max Ward	Muriel Pate	
14 October	Humbie Church	Colin Lowrie		Janice Dagg
21 October	Humbie Church	Sandy Wilson		
28 October	Humbie Church	Paddy Scott		Sophy Campbell

A detailed monthly service list can be found at the church entrance, on our notice board at the Humbie Hub, and on our website.

Gift Aid

Thanks very much to John Mair who has been our gift aid convener for more years than he cares to remember and is now taking a well earned rest. We are very grateful to him for all his work in this important role.

And welcome to Alex Campbell, who has kindly agreed to be our new gift aid convener. Alex and Sophy moved from London to Humble in 2016 with their children Lucy and George. Alex works for Aberdeen Standard Investments. In London he had been on their church council, so has had some experience of church finances.

If you are a taxpayer and not yet signed up for Gift Aid, will you please consider doing so and help increase our income.

Gift Aid is good news for the Church and an essential part of our income. If you gift aid any donations to the church, we can claim back the tax and thus increase our giving by 25 per cent.

No minimum contribution is required, no particular amount has to be promised and there is no fixed term during which contributions must be made.

All that is required is that the donor must pay UK income tax or capital gains tax, at least equal to the amount of tax being reclaimed, and give their offering or donation through offering envelopes, by bank standing order or by cheque to establish the necessary audit trail.

Please take an opportunity at this time to review your giving and help to ensure that our ministry is well resourced.

Messy Church

It is now over three years since we began holding Messy Church, rotating around Humble, Saltoun and Gifford.

We have just been to Gifford. Our theme was "New Beginnings". Very apt for Spring and just after Easter. What fun we had – the children were able to cuddle newborn lambs (thanks to Mrs Muriel Pate), feed the hens (thanks Jenny)

and make some super paintings as well as decorate lovely butterflies. After our story, Sharon taught everyone a fun song and then it was supper time. Food always seems to be very important at Messy Church, not just the decorated biscuits, but supper too (thanks Mrs McCreary). Shepherd's pie and delicious fresh fruit for pudding (nearly forgot the chocolate fountain!)

Watch out for our next Messy Church and come and join us. No charge, adults you will love it (bring the kids too!)

Margo Hodge

Humble Orchard

The cold weather hasn't been helpful, but the trees have had a good prune and are waiting for spring, like the rest of us. We will shortly be giving the rest of the orchard a good weed ready for the growing season.

Our exciting news is that the children of Humble School are going to be building four hexagonal planters to take up residence in the orchard. These were designed by Jim Hunter who is going to be working with the kids on this venture. The planters not only offer the children lots of room to learn about growing their own food but have handy attached seating for outdoor learning (and resting). Windymains Sawmill has really kindly donated the wood for this project. As always, we greatly appreciate the support of our lovely neighbours.

Humble Community First Responders

There are currently seven active responders providing local support to the Scottish Ambulance Service. New volunteers are always required to extend the number of hours the group can be "on call".

To volunteer and for more information, contact Rab Sneddon (833391) or Al Beck (833647).

Humbie Box Office

The HBO 15th season has seen some record attendances, with guests and members coming from far and wide. By the time you read this, the final film for the season – La La Land – will have been shown on 27 April at 8 pm.

Many thanks to members, guests and to Lothian Broadband and other sponsors for their support.

Our next season will kick off at the end of September and planning will start over the summer. If anyone would like to suggest films to include in the season please email your suggestions to info@humbieboxoffice.co.uk

SWI

Thirteen ladies celebrated our 98th birthday party in the newly opened Juniper Lea on 2 November, where we had a lovely menu and Morag provided a birthday cake decorated like a large cup cake.

The final meeting of 2017 on 7 December was entitled Me Time Therapy by Geraldine McCullagh, who gave a fascinating talk on how to look after our wellbeing when we are stressed and busy. She had prepared an aromatherapy workshop with leaflets describing the properties of essential oils and how to blend them. We were given the chance to smell and blend three that we liked.

The first meeting of 2018 was taken by two of Humbie's First Responders, Rab Sneddon and Janet Beck. We were guided through what to do if we came upon someone who had collapsed and shown how to do CPR if necessary. We also had the chance to try the defibrillator that is available at the Hub.

The February meeting was a demonstration by Muriel Pate and Margo Hodge on gluten-free cooking and baking. One of our members spoke of the problems she and her husband had with managing diet and how she bakes.

The "beast from the east" - major and minor - put paid to the March and April meetings. It is many years since we have had to cancel two in a row.

Our cancelled speaker from Nairns Oatcakes has kindly agreed to come on 6 September instead, if there is no snow!

Our AGM and a wine and cheese on 3 May completes this year.

All are most welcome to join us at our meetings.



The Hub continues to thrive, offering a service to the community seven days a week and attracting visitors from throughout East Lothian and the Borders. We currently provide 19 full and part-time positions, most of which are filled by people who live locally or other nearby "rural" areas. We have probably lost count of the number of people who have worked in the Hub, many of whom experienced their first or very early job opportunities with us.

The recent heavy snow presented a huge challenge, but somehow Morag, supported by her husband Tom and those Hub staff who made it in, kept the show on the road and the shop never closed, providing the community with essential supplies. This was all the more impressive, as some of you will be aware that this period coincided with the death of Morag's father, George Elder. George, you may recall, unveiled the Humbie Hub sign at our official opening in March 2015 and was a great supporter of the Hub.

All parts of the business continue to grow and we look forward to continuing to serve the community. If there are any special items you would like us to stock or have other suggestions of how we might improve our service to you please contact any member of staff or email morag@humbiehub.com

Keith View, the flat above the Hub, is available for short term/holiday let so if you are having an influx of visitors for a special event it's an ideal solution. Contact Morag to confirm our rates for local residents.

Currently a number of therapists are offering services from the Therapy Room. Therapies available are:

- Massage
- Reflexology
- Bowen Therapy
- Podiatry

For contact information regarding each therapist please contact the Hub

The Electric Vehicle Charging Point has been commissioned and the two connectors are available for use. This is part of a Scottish Government-funded project and the installation was managed by East Lothian Council. Hub customers may park in the bays for up to 20 minutes but should be prepared to move if a customer requires to charge up during this period.

The Humbie Hub Team
01875 833262 or 0771661451
morag@humbiehub.com info@humbiehub.com

Humbie Primary School PTA

The Easter holidays are already over and we're well into 2018 now. The children of Humbie School have had another busy term as always!

The Burns Supper in January went down a storm and raised some valuable funds for the school. It was brilliantly attended and everyone enjoyed an evening of eating, socialising and dancing (courtesy of the Haddington Players). Again our thanks go to Glennon Brothers for supporting our event.

The children hosted a great Community Cafe in March in Support of Toilet Twinning – their chosen charity. There was a great turn out from both parents and community alike. It's so great that everyone supports the children and their school so enthusiastically. The fund-raising for Toilet Twinning was outstanding and the children raised enough money to twin their school toilets

with toilets in developing countries – something they should be really proud of!

The children put on a brilliant art exhibition in the Hub before Easter. The opening night was well attended and the art was fantastic. The artwork looked beautiful in all its colourful glory in the Hub and we'd like to thank them for their support with this exhibition. The children were very proud to have their work on display and I know that their artwork was enjoyed by many people.

A new term has started and it's now the count down to the summer holidays! This is the time that the PTA looks to get their energy reserves up for the autumn term which brings with it most of our major fund raising events for the year.

Again, we'd like to just extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone in the community who supports our school and encourages our children by attending their events and coming to the bigger fundraisers. It means a lot to all of us at Humbie and we look forward to sharing our next events with you when we announce them.

Lothian Broadband

We hit 800 Customers!

Lothian Broadband celebrated a milestone last month as we now provide our service to over 800 customers in Mid and East Lothian. Although most of our team work out of our office in Humbie, we have now branched out to a new office in Gifford. This office will predominantly be used as our sales office, but don't let this stop you dropping in if you're passing!

We have recently started rolling out our service to Midlothian with the erection of our new mast which can now serve parts of Pathhead, Crichton and Edgehead. This is an exciting new area for us and we are looking forward to providing a Superfast broadband connection for many more residents of the Lothians.

We have welcomed new staff this year as well as saying goodbye to some old staff. We now have

12 staff working from our Humbie office and 2 from our Gifford office.

We are excited to continue to grow our customer base, especially as we move in to what appears to be warmer weather – bring on the sunshine!

Community Council Update April 2018

There have been several developments on the planning front:

- The proposed housing developments at Humbie and East Saltoun have been deleted by the Reporter in his review of the East Lothian Local Development Plan. Both proposals had been the subject of significant local opposition, though their inclusion in the draft plan had the support of local East Lothian Council (ELC) councillors.
- ELC Planning has ruled that the quad bike track constructed at Bughtknowe does not entail a change of use and therefore does not require planning permission so long as 'usage' does not exceed 28 days annually. This decision has taken two years, during which time excessive noise levels have been recorded by ELC. The Community Council has argued that 'usage' is an imprecise term given the mix of events. No information is available regarding the Council's stated intention to classify motor racing as an activity requiring a public entertainment licence.
- The application to develop a residential training facility at Mansefield was the subject of a well-attended public meeting in the Humbie Hub. The reservations expressed (access, regulation, scaling-up, sewage, nominee-ownership and parking) formed the basis for an objection by the Community Council. It is understood that the application will be considered at the Planning Committee meeting on 1 May.

Road surfaces have deteriorated seriously over the winter weather and we would ask everyone

to report defects such as dangerous potholes to ELC. A specific request was made to ELC that repairs at the junction of B6368 and Fala road should be swiftly undertaken and be coordinated with the closure and resurfacing of the final section of that road by Midlothian Council in March. These repairs were undertaken in April during a second closure.

The Ironman event, which caused considerable disruption to some local communities in 2017, is being repeated this July. Disruption will again be considerable, particularly in East Saltoun. The Community Council has raised concerns about the absence of any effective consultation with affected communities before road closure orders were promoted (just as in 2017), and has asked ELC to explain why it considers this commercial event deserves a further £12,500 contribution from council funds, in addition to that paid last year.

Construction of the Pogie Windfarm has started. A contribution to the community was promised when the project was first outlined by the landowner in 2009 and reiterated in 2015 when the project was sold on. The project has since been sold on once more and the ultimate owners, 'Our Power' (a not-for-profit community interest company) have recently offered the surrounding community an equity stake of £75k, carrying a coupon of RPI +4% and with the shares redeemed at face value in twenty years. There will also be an opportunity for local residents to purchase bonds financing the project (see <http://mongoose.energy/current-share-offers/>). The proposals will be put out for local consultation once the details have been finalised.

Monthly Community Council meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month, other than July and August, and commence at 7.00 pm. Copies of minutes can be provided by email. Please contact Alastair Beck, Margo Hodge or Frank Kirwan for more information or if you wish to raise any matter with the Community Council.

Humbie Community Fund/Dun Law Community Benefit Trust

Humbie Community Fund

Since the last newsletter, the following awards have been agreed:

- Humbie PS PTA – £972 to hire marquees to support the 2017 Winter Market
- Humbie Church – £154.80 website fees
- Humbie Christmas Community Lunch (Anna Young) – £280.63

The Fund holds significant reserves and the Trustees welcome applications for new projects and initiatives. Applications can be submitted from individuals as well as from formally constituted groups – the only proviso is that there must be a recognised benefit to the whole Humbie community and events/groups must be open to all. If you have an idea which you think might bring benefit to the community and you would like to deliver it then please contact any of the Trustees.

The application process is simple but a formal letter stating the amount requested and with appropriate supporting information including details of other funding and how costs have been arrived should be submitted to Al Beck – humbie-becks@zen.co.uk

Dun Law Extension Community Benefit Trust

Since the last Newsletter, the Trustees have approved the following awards:

Oxton & Channelkirk CC – £6,000 to support the establishment of a new community shop

Heriot Broadband – up to £20,000 to extend the provision of wireless broadband to all parts of the Heriot community

Bird Gardens Scotland CIC – up to £10,000 to meet planning and professional fees for the further development of the project

Each of the four participating communities has been awarded £1,500 to support smaller projects. For Humbie, this award has been made

to the Humbie Community Fund and any applications from local groups/project sponsors will be considered by the Fund's Trustees.

The application process for the Dun Law Fund is more formal: strict application deadlines apply and applications must be submitted from formally constituted organisations. For information about the closing date for the September and November Trustees' meetings, contact Al.

We would like to thank all those who contributed articles to this issue. All views are the contributors' own. Thanks also to the Humbie Community Fund for covering the printing costs. Large print copies are available on request. Comments or suggestions for future issues would be most welcome.

Please contact Janice Dagg on 01875 341800 or daggjanice@gmail.com