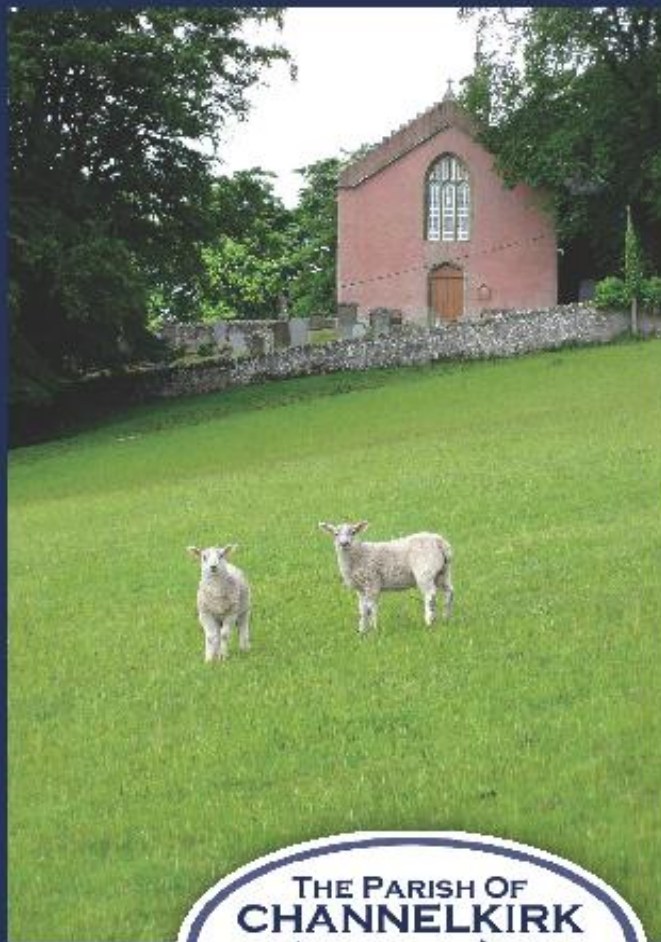


Channelkirk and Lauder Church

Parish Profile



LAUDERDALE

A title of some historical significance protected by a House of Lords decision in 1975



WHERE WE ARE

Lauderdale, with its rich and varied history, sits in the north west corner of the Scottish Borders. The A68 (Edinburgh to Scotch Corner trunk road) runs right through the lush valley of the River Leader to where the river joins the Tweed at Leaderfoot. The Leader rises from an area of land once known as Oxtan Common. The valley of the Leader is not of regular shape but widens and narrows as the gentle rolling hills on either side permit. To the north east lie the Lammermuir Hills, to the south west lie smaller hills between the Leaderfoot and Galawater valleys. Lauderdale's northern boundary is on Soutra Hill where the A68 crosses the Lammermuirs. As you move through "the dale" the village of Oxtan lies off to the right and then Carfraemill on the left, on through the Royal and Ancient Burgh of Lauder and shortly afterwards the village of Blainslie to the right.

BACKGROUND

This rural charge, united during a successful ten year ministry to July 2007, is situated in the Scottish Borders some 25 miles south east of Edinburgh. The charge became vacant again in April 2010 on the translation of the minister to another charge. The Presbytery of Melrose and Peebles granted permission to seek a replacement on a five year reviewable tenure. We are looking for someone who will guide and encourage us as we continue to promote and extend our vision for the church in Lauderdale.

In 1973 a decision was taken by joint Session meetings of Channelkirk and Lauder that the two churches should be linked. In June 2005 this well established linkage became a happy and successful union.

The Parish boasts two historic churches each registered with Historic Scotland as category A listed buildings.



Channelkirk, the Mother Church of Lauderdale, was dedicated to St. Cuthbert. First founded between the 7th and 9th centuries AD, the present building dates from 1817. St Cuthbert spent his early years tending his sheep on the Lammermuir Hills and instructed the local people in the holy ways of God. The church stands on a hill approximately one and a half miles from the village of Oxtou; a lovely little church with lots of character and very well kept. The 750th anniversary of the consecration of the church was celebrated in 1992.

Lauder Old Parish Church (St Mary's) dates from 1673 on its present site; built by King James III's master mason Robert Milne from architecture by Sir William Bruce the King's architect. The Church is cruciform in plan, in the shape of the Greek cross with all four arms of equal length. It is recognised far and wide as one of the finest ecclesiastical buildings in Scotland.



THE WAY AHEAD

“Ask, and you will receive; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you.” (Matthew 7.7)

We plan to build on foundations laid over past years, which have greatly enriched and extended the life and work of our congregation, both in our individual churches and together as a successful union. We will continue to be open to new ideas, and be forward-looking to the next stage of our Christian life together.

Without totally compromising our traditional approach to worship and the longstanding commitment and support of our congregation, we seek to find someone who can lead us and ensure our Church, worship and pastoral care continues to be relevant to the changing needs of the 21st century for all ages. We also recognise the need to reach out into our vibrant and enlarging community, many of whom are young families or new to the area.

In identifying the type of ministry we would wish to see established in the years ahead, we acknowledge our willingness not only to be led but also to share the load of organisation. The parish has many hard-working and devoted volunteers from both Channelkirk and Lauder, all of whom are happy and keen to work with the new Minister in support of his/her work to help achieve our plans for the future.



Whilst many of the goals that were identified at the 2008 planning “Away Day” have already been successfully achieved, we are keen to continue to move forward under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

We are open to developing Mission and Ministry through the following in particular :

- increasing membership and attendance at Sunday services
- developing our contributions to worship through the enlarging and active worship group and praise band, and the desire to form a church choir
- giving more prominence in our annual worship to the importance of Easter
- encouraging prayer and understanding of God’s word through house groups, prayer sessions and courses such as Christianity Explored
- working with young people, both children and teenagers, in a range of settings including the practical difficulties of accommodating a Sunday school at Channelkirk
- continuing to build on the work of our recent “Gifts for God” stewardship campaign to help promote a clearer and more prominent Church profile as well as stimulate fellowship that helps attract new people to come and join us
- increasing accessibility to the wider Lauderdale community through links with other groups and involvement in community events and Lauderdale traditions
- developing the Church website and providing recorded services to those who are unable to attend weekly services
- managing progress and growth beyond the forthcoming tenure, and the increasingly vital role that the Elders might play.

THE KIRK and the CONGREGATION

The population of the parish is c.2000. The churches of Channelkirk and Lauder have a congregational roll of 446 inclusive of 12 adherents; an average of 95 attend worship regularly.

There is no supplementary roll. Most members live in Oxton, Lauder, Carfraemill or Blainslie with the rest residing on farms around Lauderdale. Members are from all age groups; many have lived here from birth, whilst an ever increasing number are new to the area. All four settlements have increased in size, particularly over the past ten years, with many of the new residents bringing new skills and interests to the area. We are pleased and encouraged by the increase in young families joining the congregation.

The Kirk Session of the united charge comprises 31 elders (from 40 years of age). The Congregational Board, comprising elders and a further 11 members, delegates projects to sub-committees, supported by enthusiastic volunteers from the congregation. There is a thriving Guild, a Sunday Club and crèche in Lauder Church, a youth café, a praise band, three house groups, a weekly prayer session, a monthly prayer diary, study courses (previously Alpha and now Christianity Explored) and an art club.

WORSHIP

Currently, services are held every Sunday at 10am at Channelkirk and 11.30am at Lauder (five miles apart). From January to March, services for Oxton move from Channelkirk Church to the War Memorial Hall in the village to avoid travelling up the hill in bad weather. In response to the make-up of each congregation, the service at Channelkirk has tended to be more traditional, while the service in Lauder has been more oriented towards all ages: an all-age family service is conducted in Lauder on the first Sunday of most months. Volunteer readers read the lessons each week and services are recorded for the benefit, in the main, of those unable to attend the service. Tea/coffee is served immediately after all services. On the second Sunday of the month, with the exception of communion Sundays, a service is held at 2.15pm in the Lounge at South Garden, independent living residences in Lauder. Residents and members of the wider community are welcome to attend. Evening services are occasionally held at both churches, including services led by members of visiting churches.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is celebrated in both churches in May and November, as well as in South Garden. It is also celebrated as part of the Easter and Christmas services. Additional services are held during Holy Week and at Christmas. Hymn/song books in regular use are CH3 and Mission Praise, with Songs of God's People and Common Ground also available. The congregation has also been learning new hymns from CH4. Worship in Channelkirk is accompanied by a two manual electronic organ and in Lauder by a four and a half stops, two manual pipe organ. The Praise Band contributes to worship on occasions and a choir leads praise on special occasions.

(The full story of the history of the area, its people, community and churches can be found in a number of the publications listed at the end of this profile.)



In Lauder the children currently stay in church for the first 20 minutes of the service, leaving after the children's address to go to Sunday Club in the Church Centre .The creche (babies-3 year olds) also meets in the Church Centre, supervised through a rota of parents. There has been no Sunday School in Channelkirk since 2009, and there is much scope for the development of a ministry to children and families in the village of Oxton. In Lauder, the Sunday Club (age 3 -11) and Double Numbers (teenagers) meet weekly during school term time. On the first Sunday of each month children are invited to remain with their families in church.

Children are encouraged to participate in services and in the life and decisions of the church wherever practical. They currently enjoy leading the final services of the summer and Christmas terms in Lauder. Children participate actively in the Harvest Thanksgiving (now Shoebox Appeal) service and in the service of lessons and carols at both churches at Christmas.

A well informed, active Worship Team often leads the services with the minister and when the minister is out of the parish.

In recent years our minister has conducted a small number of adult confirmations and an annual average of 6 weddings, 8 baptisms and 21 funerals.

Currently our resident Locum Minister has provided stability, leadership and a clear sense of direction.



LAUDER WAR MEMORIAL



The War Memorial in Oxton forms part of the entrance to the village hall. Pupils from the local primary school lay crosses annually, below the memorial stone, the week after Remembrance Sunday. A similar service takes place in Lauder. Both are led by the Minister and supported by the Ex-Servicemen's and Probus clubs

The War Memorial Hall, Oxton is the venue throughout the winter months for the popular Wednesday Club; a social occasion for a blether over, for example, a game of cards or indoor bowls

PROPERTY and BUILDINGS



The Church Centre in Lauder

Both Churches and the Church Centre in Lauder have been well maintained in recent years and, through a combination of funding and self-help, the facilities upgraded to meet the needs of our community, including installation of a loop system and improved provision for wheelchair users. The external walls of Lauder Church have been repainted, the sound systems enhanced and a Garden for Reflection and Thanksgiving established.

The “Hearse House and Vestry”, which was built in 1831, became the Session House and is now the Church Centre accommodating a meeting hall, vestry and kitchen. From 1970 – 73 prior to the ter - centenary, extensive stone-work and plaster work was carried out externally and the Centre refurbished within.

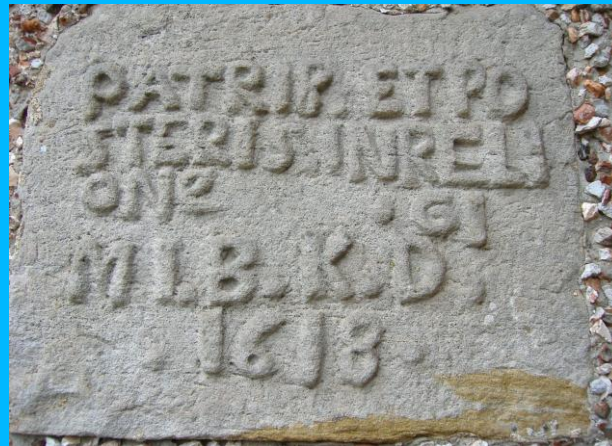
Church bells in both Channelkirk and Lauder remain in use each Sunday. The Lauder bell bears the Lauderdale Arms, being gifted in 1681 by Charles Maitland Hatton; it has been recast twice, firstly in 1751 and then in 1853. The 1677 Communion Silver, gifted by the Duchess of Lauderdale, is the oldest of a range of furniture and equipment gifted to the church over the years by individuals.

The Manse



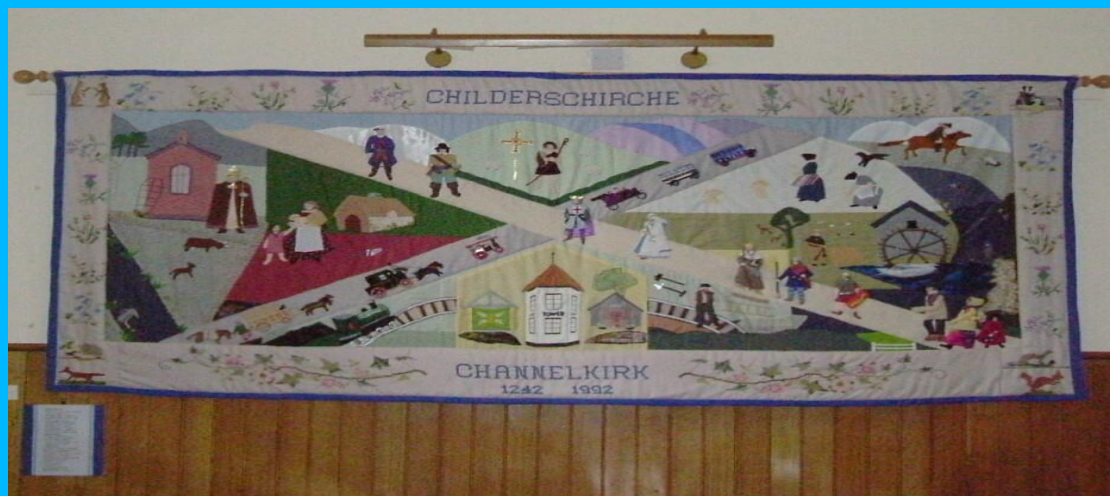
The manse, situated in Brownsmuir Park, forms part of a pleasant residential area situated on the north edge of the Royal and Ancient Burgh of Lauder. It is within easy reach of the town centre and local facilities, some ¼ mile from Lauder Church and 5 miles from Channelkirk Church.

The manse, which was built in 1982, is a recently re-furbished, three bedroom detached bungalow with integral garage. It is fully double glazed with gas central heating and carpeted throughout. A well established garden to the front, side and rear is easily manageable. An interesting feature is that a stone from the original Lauder manse, inscribed 1618, is incorporated into the front wall.



The accommodation comprises the following coming off the vestibule and hallway: a study with direct access from the vestibule; a good sized lounge; open plan dining-room/kitchen; utility room opening off the kitchen and giving access to the garden, master bedroom with en-suite shower room; two further bedrooms and bathroom. The study and a fourth bedroom have been combined to create a larger study but can be separated easily. The single garage, with rear door through a general purpose outhouse, gives access to the back garden. Plans to convert the garage into an additional room are under consideration.

The Channelkirk Wall Hanging



The Channelkirk Wall Hanging, which depicts the history of the parish over the ages, was embroidered by ladies and gentlemen of the parish and completed as part of the 750th anniversary of the consecration of the church.

FINANCE

Our financial position locally is robust. The 2009 accounts showed a surplus on our unrestricted funds, which now represent more than four months' ordinary expenditure. The General Trustees hold further funds on our behalf in excess of £70k, which the Board regards as sufficient to cover foreseeable capital expenditure, particularly given the extensive renovations completed in recent years.

A full statement of finances is available in the Annual Report of the work of the Church.

The elders are trustees of the Doughty Bequest, a legacy for the benefit of the young of the parish.

STEWARDSHIP

2010 saw Channelkirk and Lauder organising a highly successful Gifts for God stewardship campaign. Not having the leadership of a minister spurred the whole congregation on to work together to make the event a success.

In June, following a week's exhibition of the Church's work both in Oxton and Lauder, 190 people attended the two congregational/family meals in Lauder Public Hall. A superb meal followed by some in house entertainment from all ages and a variety of presentations about the past and the future, made for two excellent evenings of fellowship. Everyone went home well fed and with some food for thought on the way forward. A brochure and an excellent DVD of the entertainment and speeches are available.

The real success of the campaign is the fact that almost everyone in the congregation was involved in some way; either in the organisation or by attending the events. In addition on the financial side, standing orders have almost tripled and there have been many requests for Gift Aid envelopes. We await the Financial Reports over the next couple of years to confirm the financial success, but in the meantime, we have all grown in knowledge and fellowship and, as a result, the profile of the Church and its people in Lauderdale has been raised.

Feedback has been very positive and has endorsed the view that similar events which bring people together would be welcomed and exceedingly worthwhile.



SCHOOLS

The primary schools for the area lie in the catchment of the highly acclaimed Earlston High School. Both local primary schools and the high school have recently undergone very positive HMIE inspections. (<http://www.hmie.gov.uk/>).

Earlston High School, which has a current roll of 952, is a comprehensive, non denominational, secondary school for pupils from first to sixth year. Earlston is a rural town which stands on the A68 about 7 miles to the south east of Lauder and pupils from the Oxton and Lauder area are transported by bus to the school. The percentage of students with 3 to 5 passes at higher grade is greater than the national and Scottish Borders averages, as is the students stay on rate from fourth to fifth year. Staff offer a wide range of extra-curricular activities and many pupils take part in these opportunities.

Both Oxton and Lauder have highly regarded local primary schools. Channelkirk Primary School, which is in the village of Oxton and takes its name from the parish of Channelkirk, has a roll of 70. Lauder Primary School has a roll of 205. In addition both schools have nursery provision for pre school children from 3 to 5 years of age. Both Earlston High School and Lauder Primary School have just completed their first year in new purpose built school buildings.

Information booklets on all of these schools are available and further information may be obtained from the school websites

www.channelkirk.scotborders.sch.uk
www.lauder.scotborders.sch.uk
www.earlstonhigh.scotborders.sch.uk

CHAPLAINCY

The Church has a close working relationship with the Primary Schools in Oxton and Lauder with the Minister regularly taking assemblies. The primary school children attend special services in Church and the P7's have their own Remembrance Services at the War Memorials which are conducted by the Minister.

COMMUNITIES

Community life throughout Lauderdale, particularly in the settlements of Oxton, Lauder and Blainslie, is very strong. Two active Community Councils serve the area, eager to work with the public agencies to protect and develop services across Lauderdale. A Community Development Trust was established five years ago to work in partnership with community organisations to promote social, economic and environmental development. In excess of fifty clubs and organisations meet in Oxton, Lauder or Blainslie catering for all ages and interests from local history to a variety of sports. Lauder has a leisure centre, public and other halls, bowling green, tennis courts and a nine hole golf course. The public park has a full sized football pitch and floodlit training area, children's play and adventure area and sports changing facilities. Oxton has a well used community hall, public park and football pitch. Other sporting facilities as well as the theatre and cinema are available in neighbouring towns.

School and private nurseries, play clubs and after school clubs are available alongside the usual children's organisations. Local childminders work closely with the local schools and parents. A soft play area and café within the Leisure Centre provides fun for the younger children and respite for the parents.

The Lauderdale News, published three times a year by a voluntary community group, carries much information on the Church, community group activities and news.

The Women's Rural Institute is represented in Lauder and in Oxton. Both communities have Amateur Horticultural Societies which host annual shows.

Each year the programme for Lauder Common Riding Week involves a fancy dress parade, games and activities for all the family and the gathering of some 350 horses at the War Memorial on Common Riding Day. The minister leads the Kirkin' o' the Cornet service on the Sunday prior to the week long programme and at the end of the celebrations takes the traditional service at the War Memorial.

Church activities in the community are varied and regularly include adult social gatherings in the form of a Burns/Scots night and quiz nights; in addition we have a summer family barbeque, a family ceilidh, a family Easter egg painting competition and egg rolling event, the Parish Party in December and carol singing as the Christmas lights are switched on.

Community Facilities



The Flat Cat Gallery has regular exhibitions by local artists and provides a relaxed atmosphere for coffee and cakes.

Two local hotels and a general store serve the Oxton area while in Lauder there is a pharmacy, a post office, bank, three grocers, and a fruit shop, a deli, a newsagent, a butcher, a baker, two hairdressers, a petrol station, three garages, a garden shop and three hotels. The area also boasts a number of good eating establishments. A wide range of tradesmen serves the area of Lauderdale. There are two medical practices due to move into a new Health Centre in 2012 with Borders General Hospital and the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary within easy reach of Lauderdale.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Informal enquiries -

may be addressed to the Interim Moderator,
the Rev. Alistair Bennett, The Manse, Tweedmount Road, Melrose. TD6 9ST
01896 822217 agbennetmelrose@aol.com

Further information -

may be obtained from the Clerk to the Nominating Committee:
George Megahy, The Cottage, Factors Park. Lauder TD2 6QW
01578 722339 gmmegahy@talktalk.net

to whom applications should be submitted in letter form accompanied by curriculum vitae and the names of two referees.

Publications

www.clchurch.gov.uk
www.scotborders.gov.uk/life/comunitycouncils
www.lauder.bordnet.co.uk/organisations
The Lauderdale News

Available on Request

Welcome to Lauderdale

A pack of information which includes the A-Z of Community Organisations and Local Businesses; the Lauder Town Trail; Walks in Lauderdale; a map of the town of Lauder with information on Lauderdale; the 2009 Annual Report for Channelkirk and Lauder Church; information leaflets on Channelkirk and Lauder Churches; the most recent edition of the Lauderdale News; copy of the Common Riding Magazine and the Community Council Information leaflet.

Other Points of References

Lauder and Lauderdale by A Thomson FSA Scot. 1902

Lauderdale in the Twentieth Century – Edited by McLeish and MacKay. 2003

The History of Channelkirk by the Rev Archibald Allan. 1900

Channelkirk Clippings by Rosemary Murray

Extracts from the meetings of Lauder Town Council: 1894 – 1975.

Lauder its Kirk and People by Rev RF James. 1973 and
an update by Mrs Sarah Dodds 1973 – 2001

King Lauderdale by Raymond Campbell Paterson. 2003

Through Time and Place and Some Facts and Figures by Andrew Mercer.2005.

The History of Blainslie by Col. WH Oliver MBE. 1981

Channelkirk Talks – a Social History by Henry Borthwick 2010



CHANNELKIRK and LAUDER CHURCH

*In the Scottish Borders
(5 year Reviewable Tenure)*

A Congregation Open to Developing its Mission and Ministry

Ask, Seek, Knock

Our warm and enthusiastic united charge seeks a minister with the attributes and experiences to –

- Assist with further exploring faith and spirituality through inspiring, well structured worship;
- Offer a parish ministry which will communicate clearly and compassionately with all across the wider community;
- Work with members to share the life of our church through the delegation of worship and organisational tasks.

With your help we seek to –

- Balance respect for our traditions with new ideas and approaches to understanding God's will;
- Promote a more prominent profile of our church in the wider community;
- Work with young people (particularly the 12-25 age group) in a variety of settings;
- Develop the role of elders to meet the needs of the parish and members of our church.

Closing date – February 5th 2011

Our Parish Profile is available on our website www.clchurch.org.uk
and from the Clerk to the Nominating Committee

George Megahy, The Cottage, Factor's Park. Lauder TD2 6QW 01578 722339.
to whom applications should be sent in the form of a CV with names and contact details of two referees.

Further information may be obtained from our Interim Moderator
Rev Alistair Bennett 01896 822217

