Parishes of Upper Tweeddale

KIRK MATTERS

Christmas 2016

CHURCH'S VISION STATEMENT

The vision of the Church of Scotland is to be a Church which seeks to inspire the people of Scotland and beyond with the good news of Jesus Christ through enthusiastic worshipping, witnessing, nurturing and serving communities

UPPER TWEEDDALE WEBSITE

www.uppertweeddale.org.uk

@parishesofuppertweeddale

Charity No. SC0014617

SUNDAY SERVICES

Tweedsmuir 10am

Broughton 10am

Stobo 11.30am

Skirling 11.30am

Dear Friends

Retirement has got me in its grip and like so many before me my question is "How on earth did I find time to work before?" Although there have been many benefits not least when very early on we were visiting friends and when the hour was growing late we could take up their offer of accommodation without a second thought knowing there was no reason to rush back for anything.

I would though like to express my profound gratitude for the parting gift you presented to Sheila and me at my last service. I am not usually the most emotional of people although no doubt you will have noticed a catch in my voice occasionally during a prayer of address when something has touched me deeply. I give thanks though that I did not open my envelope straight away or you would have seen a meltdown I and Sheila were completely taken aback by your generosity and the love that it signified. It was far more than I ever expected and utterly more than I deserved. Some of it has been salted away for a treat or two during our forthcoming trip to Canada, I have bought a very high spec laptop, and upgraded a lot of my walking and cycling gear now that I am able to indulge these pastimes more.

Once more from the bottom of out hearts Thank you Thank you and Thank you

With love and a prayer for God's Blessing on you all

Bob Milne

HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT FOR KIRK MATTERS

When Peter Worthington asked me to write a report for the Kirk Matters I was delighted to be asked and looked forward to being able to showcase our school achievements within this wonderful community. Well, time certainly flies when you are having fun and we have been having lots of it in school which I blame entirely for my failure to meet both publishing deadlines! Aplogies to Peter and thank you for his patience. Having started as Head Teacher at Broughton Primary last August I have repeatedly been reminded of the importance of a school as part of the community it serves and weekly opportunities provide evidence of the strength of partnerships we have with our parents and some members of the wider community. It is incredibly important to us in Broughton Primary that we are helping our children to become lifelong learners who demonstrate a lasting commitment to their own community as responsible citizens and we are increasingly looking to create links with our local community moving forwards. We are a small school with 4 classes but a big heart and bags of enthusiasm. Our Pupil Parliament this session have decided on 3 priorities for inclusion in our School Improvement Plan:

1. Improving our use of the outdoors and outdoor learning.
2. Increasing Pupil Leadership of Learning.
3. Celebrating our Achievements more.

It is with this first priority that we are looking for some help! We have some very keen pupils and some willing staff although not necessarily of the green-fingered variety and so if you have a spare few hours and would like to get more involved with what we are doing or would simply like to pop along and offer some advice, we would love to hear from you.

It is a great privilege to come to work here every day and what an incredible setting for our children to grow up in. I look forward to seeing what we can all work together to achieve to provide our children in this community with the very best possible experiences.

NEWS FROM THE GUILD
NOVEMBER 2017

Our talk at the last Guild meeting in October was from Borders Street pastors. Every week in Galashiels and once a month in Hawick, three of their number are out on the streets on a Saturday night offering help and support to anyone in whatever way they can, from handing out lollipops (a tasty way to defuse arguments) to flipflops (after a few hours in high heels, ladies are inclined to go bare footed which leads to cuts and bruises on vulnerable soles). The Guild has been supporting this project for the past two years and it was a good opportunity to hear first-hand how our money is being used in this organisation. Thanks to money raised from Guilds all over Scotland, they have been able to do more training of volunteers among other things. This is a good example of the Church putting its faith into action and we're pleased to be able to support it.

We have plans for two fundraising ventures this winter. The first is our Christmas hamper raffle which will be drawn on Friday 1st December as part of the Broughton Craft Fair in the Village Hall. Please come along and support us and other local organisations, buy your Christmas presents and maybe even come away with the hamper prize.

In February we are also planning a beetle drive in Broughton Village Hall. No beetles will be harmed during the evening but as well as the usual ones, prizes for the best drawn beetles will be given out. It's a good evening for all the family so watch out for the notices of when it will be held and we hope to see you there. And of course, everyone will be made very welcome to any of our usual meetings held in Broughton Village Hall on the third Wednesday of the month from September till March at 2:30pm.

Fiona Burnett

AN ALTERNATIVE GRACE

Please bless the food
Please bless the wine
And let's have blessing
From that Son of thine
Who turned the water into wine
But Lord, oh Lord,
Preserve us from those evil men –
Who wish to turn it back again.

This Grace comes courtesy of Mary Smith who heard it from Alec Murray of Camsernay Farm, Aberfeldy in 1996 when on a study tour to New Zealand to study sheep farming methods.

HARVEST SUPPER 2017

From the comments received, this year's harvest supper held at the end of September in Broughton Village Hall was the best yet. The entertainment was provided once again by Clarisma, the very talented clarinet group from Peebles and Stramash, the Ukulele band whose repertoire is growing each year, thank you to both groups for making the evening such a success. We also had for the first time, Broughton School Choir who were brilliant and hopefully this will be the first of many performances at these suppers. And of course it wouldn't be a harvest supper without some fiendishly difficult quizzes to keep the brain entertained. Judging by the groans when the answers were read out, Neil's quizmaster skills are as good as ever.

Good food, good entertainment, good chat, what more did we need? This year we asked for donations to go towards buying a polytunnel for the school. This will enable the school to grow their own fruit and vegetables even when the weather is typically Scottish. After expenses, we were pleased to hand over £500 to the school and look forward to hearing about and getting involved in the school's gardening endeavours next year. Can we put an early order in for salad leaves for next year's harvest supper? Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to making the evening such a success, hopefully we'll see you all again next year.

Fiona Burnett

REGISTER

Christenings

Sunday 1st October in Broughton Church

Izzy Grace Thornborrow, daughter of Craig and Helen Thornborrow of Symington

Granddaughter of Annette Parker of Broughton Parish and Maureen Thornborrow of Tweedsmuir Parish.

Saturday 21st October in Stobo Church

Beatrix Daisy Mahon, daughter of Myles Mahon and Elizabeth Campbell

Granddaughter of Andrew and Fiona Campbell of Stobo Parish

Marriage

Saturday 7th October

Broughton Church

Dr Jennifer Rose of Broughton and Calum Turnbull

Renewal of Vows

Saturday 30th September

Skirling Church

Tony and Joanne Wilson

California

Funerals

We offer deepest sympathy to the families of those who have died recently

Interred in Skirling Graveyard
Isobel Spence – age 96 years
Skirling
Died 21st October 2017

Funeral Mortonhall Crematorium
Alistair MacIntyre – age 73 years
Muirburn
Skirling
Died 6th November 2017

HELLO FROM THE MANSE

I was in a conversation recently with some young people who expressed their frustration and despair at the way we do politics in our nation. I told them that I believed that politics is ultimately an act of the imagination and that if they wanted a different kind of politics then they should imagine it then seek to implement it. Then they asked the $64,000 question.

"What do you think we should emphasise?" they asked.
I said, "Emphasise the development of character, without character you simply become eloquent blowhards".
"What kind of character traits would you recommend?" they asked.
I said, "You could worst than starting with what the New Testament has to say about character traits that should mark every healthy community, especially the community Jesus came to build, character traits like Gentleness, Kindness, Patience, Generosity and Integrity."

We are close to experiencing our first Christmas in the Borders. It will be my first as the minister for the parishes of Upper Tweeddale and to be honest I can't wait for the 'multitude' of carol services I will be attending. There is something about communal singing that brings out the best of feelings in all of us. When we join in the joyful singing of large groups of people we can't help but feel part of something bigger than us, part of something that matters more to us than we sometimes let on - being part of a community that cares. When we celebrate this Christmas it might help us to remember that the reason the babe in the manger came was, in his words, to "build my church". Church in the Bible is another word for a community of caring people. The community that Jesus came to 'build' is one that is to be marked by year-round good will, year-round joyful generosity and year-round openhearted hospitality. Why don't you join us this Christmas at one of our Carol services? You never know it might be the spark that inspires you to help us to build a better kind of church one where you can to imagine building, a better kind of world as part a community of character that works for the good of all.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN UPPER TWEEDDALE OVER THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

Money raised at the events marked with CHAS and will be donated half to CHAS and half to the Broughton Primary School Vegetable Growing Project

"Walking Backwards to Christmas" Monday 27th November, Monday 4th December, Monday 11th December and Monday 18th December

At 7pm in the small Skirling Village Hall on four evenings we plan to get together to study Stephen Cottrell's short book "Walking Backwards to Christmas". Join us for one evening or all four, you will find fellowship, discussion and a warming cup of tea. See more at page --.

Christmas Craft Fair – Friday 1st December 6.30 to 8.30pm Broughton Village Hall

Evening starts at 6pm with switching on of the Christmas Lights at the school, followed by the garage and then the village hall. Come along and browse the craft stalls, have a go at the tombola, enjoy a hot drink and visit Santa's Grotto, entrance by donation.

Gift Services in each of our churches - Sunday December 3rd

A chance to gift something to those who have little at Christmas. Gifts for all ages welcome, unwrapped please, separate wrapping paper is a bonus. The Parishes of Upper Tweeddale support two charities with gifts. Warm clothing and toys will go to Edinburgh The Old Kirk and Muirhouse to be distributed in the West Pilton area of Edinburgh. There is a hostel in the parish for young people (16yrs to 25yrs) who find themselves homeless. Gift vouchers are particularly appreciated for young people supported by the Borders Young Carers Trust. We sent over £400 of Store Gift Cards last year which enable the young carers to choose their own gift.

Weekly Listening Hour - Tuesdays from 10.30 to 11.30am at the Laurel Bank Café in Broughton

Rev Tony Foley will be available once a week on Tuesday mornings for an hour, join him if you want to talk or have any questions for him.

Skirling Lunch Club Christmas Lunch – Thursday 7th December 12.30pm Skirling Village Hall

The Fourth Annual Christmas Lunch, home-cooked Turkey with all the trimmings followed by Christmas Pudding or Trifle.
Just £3.50 for adults, £2.00 for children under 11 years or donation. All money raised will go to the Children's Hospice Association. Good food, good fun, good value, let Isobel know if you plan to come along. isobel@skirlinghouse.com or 01899 860 274.

Playgroup Christmas Show – Wednesday 13th December 10.30am Banana's Playroom Broughton

Bananas invite family, friends and neighbours to join our 3 and 4 year olds as they present their Christmas Show in the Banana's Playroom.

Fundraising Quiz in aid of Tweedsmuir and Upper Tweed Community First Responders – Friday 15th December 7pm Broughton Village Hall

Hosted by Broughton W.I. get a team together to tackle this quiz and enjoy a glass of wine for a £5 donation to this good cause.

An evening of Carol Singing, Mince Pies and Mulled Wine – Wednesday 20th December

In Skirling Village Hall from 7pm to 9pm a Family Carol Singing evening with Anne Dawson on the keyboard, homemade mince pies, spicy mulled wine or apple juice, what's not to like. All donations to the Children's Hospice Association.

Broughton Primary School end of term service – Thursday 21st December 1.15pm Broughton Kirk

An open invitation to the community to join the school in this Christmas end of term service.

A Traditional Candelit Service of Carols and Readings – Friday 22nd December 6.30pm to 7.30pm Drumelzier Church

An atmospheric and traditional service of carols and readings in the candlelit church. Remember to bring a torch to light your way there and back, no street lights here.

A Candlelit Service of Carols and Readings – Sunday 24th December 6.30pm to 7.30pm Tweedsmuir Church

You will need your torch again as you approach Tweedsmuir Kirk for a Christmas Eve service with children reading the well-known Christmas lessons from scripture, and families singing a mix of traditional and modern carols bathed in candlelight.
Please note there will be services in all four churches on Christmas Eve at the usual times.

Christmas Morning Family Service - Monday 25th December 11am Stobo Church

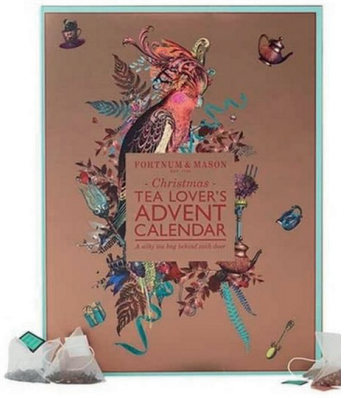
Children please bring along a favourite Christmas Gift, grown-ups too if you like. There will be carols aplenty to sing as we celebrate the happy morn, the birth of the Christ child.

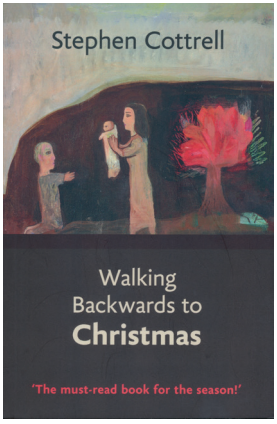
HOW DO YOU PREPARE FOR CHRISTMAS?

Maybe you make lots of lists, cards to write, presents to buy, Christmas meals to plan. Do you enjoy to count down to Christmas with an advent calendar? There are so many to choose from nowadays, not just a chocolate a day like it used to be, you can choose a different beauty product, wine, toy, cheese or even gin to see you through December to Christmas Day.

Or you could prepare yourself by spending four evenings in the run up to Christmas looking again and in a new way at the Christmas story. A chance to reflect on the amazing news that God so loved us humans, flawed as we all are, that he chose to join us here on earth on that first Christmas Day. At 7pm on four Monday evenings from the 27th November to the 18th December we will be looking at Stephen Cottrell's book 'Walking Backwards to Christmas'. The nativity story is retold from the perspective of people as diverse as Mary, Herod and Moses. This telling encompasses darkness as well as light and is for all those who think they know the story well, maybe from carols and school nativity plays.

There are copies of the book available from each church (donations welcome) or contact any of us whose details are on the inside back cover. And you can still enjoy your advent chocolates or gin!!





TO THE SKELETON COAST

On Friday 20th October 90 people crowded into Drumelzier Hall to hear an illustrated talk on Namibia by Sandy Welsh and Julian Birchall, and to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the opening of the Hall.

Sandy and Ann Welsh had been there in the dry season when animals congregate at the waterholes. Sandy showed wonderful pictures of giraffes and zebras drinking, the rare sable antelope and rhinos in the moonlight. They witnessed a dramatic cheetah kill very close to their car. His bird portraits included the African Fish Eagle and a Crimson-breasted Shrike.

We were there in the wet season with the animals more scattered and enjoying the lush grass. We managed to see 32 species of mammals in our two weeks and we failed to see an elephant! The rains rarely reach the coast and one place we stayed had not seen rain for seven years. The sand dunes stretch for hundreds of miles along the coast and for up to 50 miles inland – giving little chance of survival to any shipwrecked mariners.

Many thanks to all who contributed to a most enjoyable evening. Over £1,300 was raised – shared between AMREF Health Africa, Stobo and Drumelzier Kirk, Tweedsmuir Kirk and Drumelzier Hall

A POLY TUNNEL FOR BROUGHTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

As a result of the very successful Harvest Supper £550 has been raised towards this project., and presented by Rev Tony Foley to a Monday morning School Assembly. The proposed area for erecting the poly tunnel, in front of and to the side of the old scout hut, while presently being partly used as a vegetable plot, is greatly in need of some major TLC. Investigations are underway towards the possibility of applying to one of the Wind Farm Trusts for funding to convert this whole area into a school gardening site, with the poly tunnel at its heart.

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RECAPTURING THE SPIRIT OF REFORMATION

As this edition of our Kirk Matters is being printed in the month that we celebrate 500 years since Martin Luther posted hid 95 Theses on the door of a church in Wittenburg, Germany, and thus began our Reformation, two articles in the October issue of Life and Work seem to me to be of supreme importance, and sadly all too true.
The Very Rev Albert Bogle : Recapturing the spirit of Reformation
The Very Rev Dr John Chalmers : A Living Church
Albert Bogle :" We as a denomination could easily be sleepwalking into oblivion.

The temptation is to pretend all will be well, when in fact we are being urged by the Spirit to 'Waken upon and strengthen the things that still remain – while we still have time!' (Rev 3:2)
A great cultural tsunami has turned the social and spiritual landscape of church life, certainly in the western world, on its edge. A whole generation of church ministers and elders are feeling that they are reading maps that no longer relate to the terrain in which they find themselves as leaders.

Very few people today live and work and socialise in one small community. I wonder if the days of parochial ministry as we know it are in fact already long gone? Could we as a denomination be seeking to hold on to the past because we are afraid our shape won't fit the future?"

John Chalmers – In the first of a three-part series explains why the Church of Scotland needs to reform to meet the challenges of secularism. "Figures recently published by the Registrar General for Scotland show that the number of weddings conducted by humanist celebrants last year exceeded, for the first time, the number of weddings conducted by Church of Scotland ministers."

'We need to stop talking numbers and instead we need to let the people of Scotland know that they belong to God and that the church belongs to them.'

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

999 For suspected stroke or heart attack, serious illness or injury

111 NHS 24 provides comprehensive up to date health information and self-care advice for people in Scotland. Borders Emergency Care Services and NHS Lanarkshire are the out of hours GP service, providing urgent care to patients who cannot wait until their own GP surgery is open.

A&E Departments are open 24 hours a day 365 days a year and should only be used for serious illness or injury

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Borders General Hospital	01896 826000
Sick Children's Hospital Edinburgh	0131 536 0000
Royal Infirmary Edinburgh	0131 536 1000
Minor Injury Units	
Kello Hospital, Biggar	01899 220077
Neidpath Medical Centre, Peebles	01721 722080
Dentists	
High Steet, Biggar	01899 220486
Kingsmeadows, Peebles	01721 722320
Health Visitors	
Janice Rutherford (lead for Peebles)	01721 722080
Kate Cringles (lead for Biggar)	01555 667176
Local GP surgeries	
Biggar Medical Practice	01899 220383
Neidpath Practice Peebles	01721 720380
Tweed Practice Peebles	01721 720601
West Linton Practice	01968 660808
Church Place, Moffat	01683 221320

High Street, Moffat	01683 220062
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Locum:
Rev Tony Foley, Old Joiners Croft, Skirling Ml12 6HD
Tel: 01899 860709 Email: foley.tony@gmail.com

Secretary to the General Kirk Session:
Mrs. Isobel Hunter, Skirling House, Skirling ML126HD
Tel:01899 860274 Email: isobel@skirlinghouse.com

Treasurer of the funds held jointly:
Mr. John Burnett, Glenholm Cottage, Broughton, ML126JF
Tel:01899 830303 Email: john@glenholm.co.uk

Interim Moderator:
Rev Calum Macdougall The Manse, 7 Clement Gunn Square, Peebles EH45 8LW
Tel: 01721 720568 Email: MMacdougall@churchofscotland.org.uk

Broughton, Glenholm and Kilbucho

Session Clerk:
Mrs Pat Middlemas, Ninth Acre Broughton, ML12 6HQ
Tel: 01899 830366

Treasurer:
Mr. Murdo Elder, Burnholm, Broughton, ML12 6HQ
Tel:01899 830359 Email: meldereastercalzeat@btinternet.com

Skirling

Session Clerk/Treasurer:
Miss Betty Eastland, 3 Carmichael Bank Skirling ML12 6HD
Tel: 01899 860295

Stobo and Drumelzier

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Mrs Jane Gillham 8 Gallow Hill, Peebles EH45 9BG
Tel:01721 720910 Email: Janegillham@hotmail.com

Treasurer:
Mr. Andrew Campbell,Old Manse, Stobo Peebles EH458NU
Tel:01721 760252 Email: fandac@btinternet.com

Tweedsmuir

Session Clerk:
Mr Digby Welch, Polmwood,Tweedsmuir ML12 6QP
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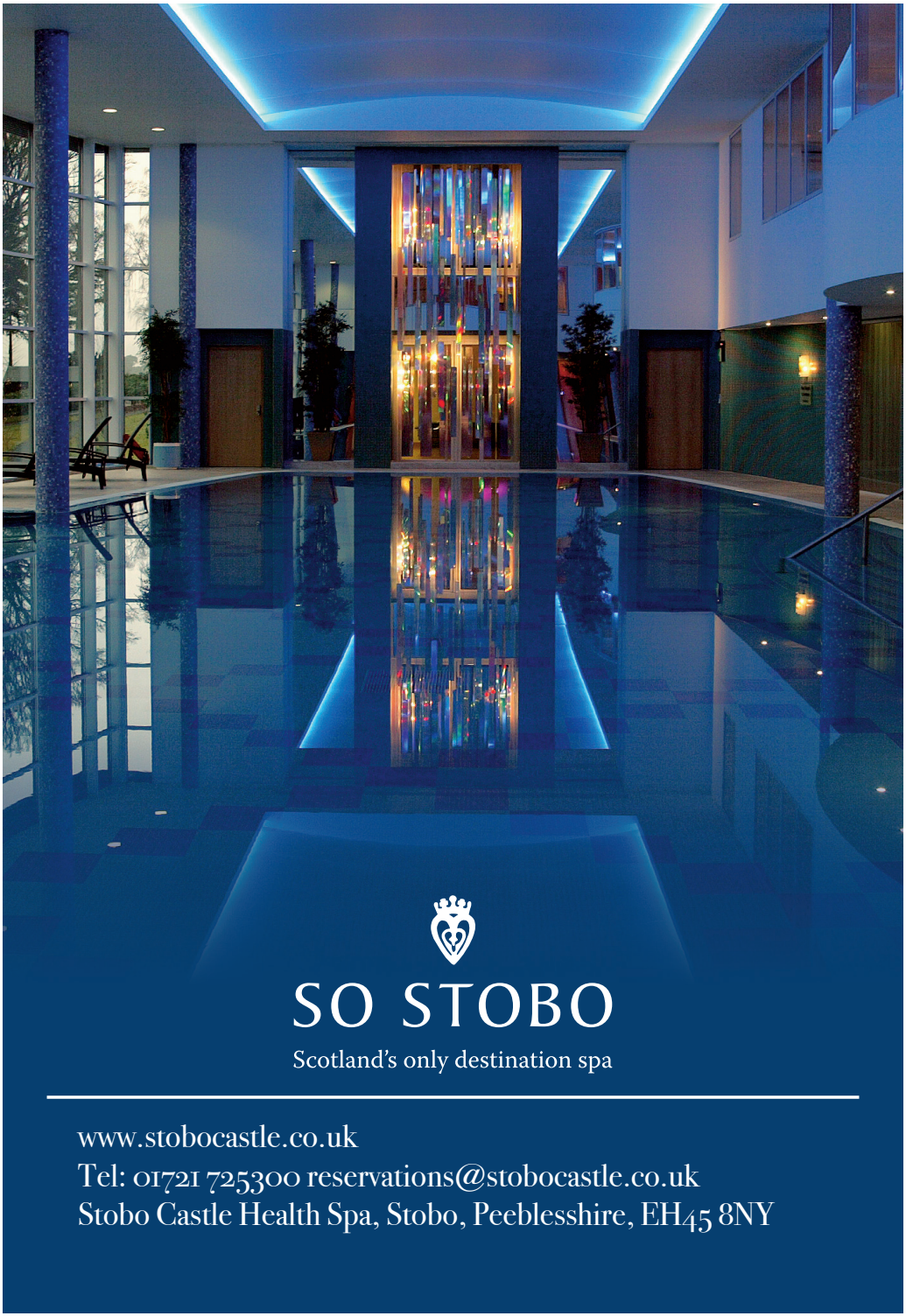
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