



NEW HORIZONS

*Innerleithen, Traquair and
Walkerburn Parish Church*

**Spring Edition
2023**



SC001100

www.itucos.org

GET -IT swim challenge

Jim Wallace would like to warmly thank everyone who sponsored him to swim 250 lengths of Peebles Hydro pool over 3 days in March raising an expected amount of £1000 for Girls Education in Thondwe. He is grateful for the generous support from members of the Innerleithen Probus club and various church congregations that know him.

He covered this impressive distance to provide a girl from Thondwe with the funds to attend secondary school for the full 4 years, in a country where only 13% of girls complete secondary education.

Editor's Message

I hope you all find the bumper edition of the magazine enjoyable and informative. We decided to publish the ASM reports, which mainly cover all that happened in 2022. These are normally available at the ASM, but since so few come to that we thought this would be a good way to share the reports to keep everyone informed. The rest is the normal selection of articles with the exception of the Welcoming event for Rev Fraser Edwards and his family.

As usual I would like to thank all those that contributed, and in particular to Karen, without whom, none of this would happen and Libby and Anne who do all the printing, and of course all those that deliver the magazines.

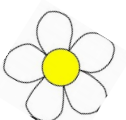
Recently there was a questionnaire sent out asking about the delivery of the magazine, There was a very poor response of people wanting the printed copy, or maybe it was just a lot of people not replying at all, I have ignored this and I am copying everyone the same as the last edition. If you truly don't want a paper copy delivered, please tell your elder, the person who delivers it or phone me (Dave Kerr) at 07711 929605, we could then at least save some money on paper and ink, BUT I would rather see more people taking copies, and remember there

are always a few extra copies at the back of the church, if you change your mind and want one. This does not affect people who get the magazine by email, and that costs very little.

Dave Kerr (editor)

Caring for Creation— No Mow May

We will be leaving the mower in the shed to follow the example of other churches and other parts of the town by not cutting the grass at the back of the church. This will give flowers naturally present in the lawn a chance to bloom, acting as a valuable source of nectar for hard pressed bees and other pollinating insects. No Mow May is an initiative by Plantlife.org.uk, aimed at giving a helping hand to nature in reversing the gradual loss of biodiversity. We will resume cutting at the back of the church in June.





Message from the Minister

Springtime is here, unless it's still snowing or pouring with rain! Some of our weather has been very changeable recently and it's hard to know what to plan to wear when you leave the house. There are always surprises ahead and we can't always plan for all the changes that might happen in the day.

I've been reflecting on all that has changed in our church life recently too. I've now been the minister here for two years which seem to have flown by, we've also just passed our first anniversary in the manse and it's beginning to feel more like home for us. Thank you for continuing to make us welcome in your community.

The first year felt like we were all working out how to emerge from covid lockdowns and recover what we had known in the past. Our second year has been filled with exciting new developments and changes. The annual reports are in the magazine and give an account of all of our activities. For me a key changing point was in our Kirk Session meeting last August when we discussed our priorities. Some elders felt the need to respond to the cost-of-living crisis and others wanted to give an opportunity to explore our faith.



From there two new groups launched, 'Warm Wednesdays' and 'Alpha'. Warm Wednesdays has become a lovely supportive group for young mums to meet together, supporting one another and learning some cooking advice at the same time. Alpha has been an opportunity to explore the Christian faith, sometimes for the very first time and sometimes to think more deeply about what we already believe. Both groups have flourished under the leadership of our elders and I'm grateful for the time and effort that people have given. More about both groups in this magazine and so much else that is happening in our church life.

In Isaiah 43 the Lord says "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." We should be excited to see new things spring up, we follow a living God and so our church will always be growing and changing as God leads us forward. As you watch the spring flowers continue to grow and blossom, try to use that as a prompt for your prayers and continue to pray for growth in our church.

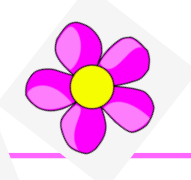
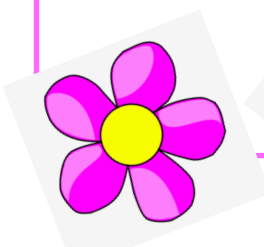
Yet as things change one thing which has stayed the same is the strength of welcome that folk receive when they come to church. In our services we've mentioned quite a few times recently that church is a family and about people finding a sense of belonging. That's such a special part of belonging to ITW and we can all play our part here in looking out for each other. If you haven't been to church for a while, then please be sure we would be delighted to welcome you back.

Sunday Lunches Resumed



The Sunday Lunches resumed in September and have been very well attended, there was a real buzz around the Hall of Friendship - a sign that folks are having a good time! I would like to thank everyone who made soup and traybakes all donations were very much appreciated.

I would also like to thank the Team of Marion, Aileen, Jim, Lois, Julie and Andrew, everyone worked well together to ensure that everything ran smoothly.



Ella Muir



ITW Church has many ways of reaching out into our Community with the Good News of Jesus, the Alpha Course, which started in January, is just one of them. The opportunity and the privilege involved in sharing faith and the Good News of Jesus, is one as a Church, we give thanks for.

We never know who will come along to Alpha but it's amazing how God answers prayers and this year we were blessed to have 19 people (including Facilitators) coming along every Wednesday Evening. Each Participant was at a different stage of their Christian journey – some starting out, others coming back to Church after many years away and others who have had a faith and attending Church for many years but felt led by God to come along and discover what Alpha is all about and sharing their faith with others in their group.

At the start of each Alpha Session, we have a time for tea/coffee/traybakes and chat. This is such an important part of the evening. A time where relationships and trust are formed, which builds into something special. The Hall of Friendship has been filled with laughter, joy and enthusiasm, before heading into the 'Cinema Room' to watch a half hour film about Life's big questions. We have all enjoyed the Cinema experience – with popcorn!

After the Film, we split into 2 small groups for some honest and open discussion.

As Facilitators, we are so grateful for the support that the Church Family gives to Alpha. We thank you for your prayers. Each week we have felt upheld and supported in prayer, which has helped us to trust in God in every situation.

Participants have told us, when they come along to Sunday Services, they feel that they receive a warm welcome and very much feel a sense of belonging. They are excited to be part of our Church Family.

It has been a real privilege for us to witness The Holy Spirit working in people's lives, seeing transformation. We give thanks and praise to God!

One of our Participants, Rebecca Irvine, felt prompted to share with us, not only her experience of Alpha but also coming along to Church, which has been a life changing experience for her. Rebecca's letter was read out to 30 people, at a shared Holy Spirit Day, alongside guests from St. Andrew's Leckie Church.

We were all overwhelmed and delighted that Rebecca shared her Testimony, telling us how God is transforming her and is continuing to work in her life. Rebecca is now sharing with you in New Horizons, Church Magazine. Thank you, Rebecca. You're an inspiration!

Julie & Andrew Knox

Rebecca's Testimony

This may sound cheesy but Alpha has honestly changed my life. Pre-Alpha I was struggling through life. In and out of hospital for various mental health struggles, starving myself to express just how rubbish I was feeling. Unable to see how life was to get any better, just feeling of sheer hopelessness and loneliness.

Then Alpha came along. I have attended Alpha with my mum and the moment we watched the introduction video during a one-off church service we attended something in both of us clicked—this is where we were meant to be. During the time I have been attending Alpha and exploring my faith something magical has happened. I have, for the first time in memory felt a sense of peace, a sense of belonging and a sense of being loved for who I am. In the short time I have been attending Alpha and church everything in my life has finally come together—I now have an understanding of who I truly am.

I have very recently been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder and for the first time I feel understood—there is a reason for all my struggles. I honestly believe God has been in charge of the path I have been on. It is no coincidence Alpha, Church and my new diagnosis have come at the same time—it has been fate. After almost 25 years I finally have a sense of belonging and a sense of being exactly where I need to be I can't wait for this new journey in my life, as I know God has marvellous plans for me.

Rebecca Irvine

ASM REPORTS

Kirk Session Report 2022

2022 was a year in which many exciting things happened in our church.

Rev Fraser Edwards and family moved from temporary accommodation in Cardrona to our newly refurbished Manse in Innerleithen.

Later in the year Rev. Pamela Kennedy was appointed as our Assistant Minister with the remit to build a small team to work and support her as we develop our presence in Cardrona.

The Kirk Session enjoys the leadership of both Rev. Fraser Edwards and Rev. Pamela Kennedy. Pastoral work undertaken by both our Ministers is greatly appreciated by the Kirk Session.

The pattern of worship is now weekly services at 10:30am in Innerleithen Church with monthly services at Traquair Kirk on the first Thursday of the month at 2pm and Walkerburn Public Hall on the third Sunday of the month at 2pm.

The Kirk Session is very grateful to the small team of people who make sure the worship venues are always ready for the Services.

We thank members of the Finance Team for the important decisions they make with regards to the finances of the parish.

Thanks also go to the members of the teams involved in the smooth running of our church - Fellowship and Care Team, Mission and Outreach Team and the Finance and Fabric Team.

Many exciting new things are happening in our church. Sunday Club and Crèche are busy most Sundays. Church lunches held on the first Sunday of the month are very popular. Our partnership with our friends in Thondwe grows even stronger. In November planning was started for an Alpha Course to commence early in 2023. Tea and Chat every Thursday morning is a great time to chat and catch up with friends. Bible Study, Prayer Meeting and Warm Wednesdays are all well attended. These are just a few of the many and varied things our church is actively involved in.

We pray that God will be with us and that His hand will guide us in all that we do.

This report gives a brief insight into the work of the Kirk Session. For a more detailed account of all that is done in the parish, please read the Trustees Annual Report.

Jim Borthwick, Session Clerk

St Ronan's PS / Thondwe PS Partnership

Both schools are keen for the partnership to continue and yet are both re-establishing work in the recovery from Covid. St Ronan's School choir participated in the 'Raise the Roof' concert in November. 2 members of St Ronan's school staff are keen to become involved - especially Nicola Watt the music teacher. David Cornwall - current P7 teacher is also very keen to maintain partnership.

Tea and Chat

Regularly having 10- 15 attendees. Could probably do with more volunteers to participate in serving the teas and coffees. Good opportunity to meet with members of the church family and catch up with each other. We have some regulars who are not church members yet enjoy the weekly fellowship. Milk and baking is provided by the volunteers. Average income is around £15-£20.

Some groups or committees choose to meet at this time of the week and its always good to welcome them with tea/ coffee

CraftTin

Still good attendance in both Walkerburn and Cardrona. Funding is still plentiful for rest of this year. We have put a pause on funding applications in the meantime so that it doesn't counteract funding applications from Warm Wednesdays.

The Peebles group which supported the Innerleithen craft group have decided to discontinue their support so that the Innerleithen group is now part and parcel of the Cardrona and Walkerburn groups.

Shirley Bean

ASM Reports cont

The following is a summary of the Treasurer's report to the Kirk Session on 9 March 2023:

Treasurer's GOOD NEWS Report

'I got couple of bits of advice about presenting church accounts recently. First was don't talk too long & second was be cheerful and provide good news.....so following that I toyed with idea of saying:

"I hope you've all managed to peruse End of Year Financial Statements.....it's all great.....& any questions?"

On reflection I thought that was too flippant so I decided to focus on the advice but still provide relevant information to the Kirk Session.

Our accounts are recorded in a certain way to comply with Charity regulations so we are doing what we need to do legally. GOOD NEWS!

Whilst the overall picture shows we have a deficit, this is largely due to expenditure on refurbishing the Manse, however, by spending the money on that we now have a modern manse and an asset for the church. GOOD NEWS! If we take that refurbishment expenditure out of the picture we would have had a surplus (surplus is the same as profit). GOOD NEWS!

Offerings have increased substantially on last year and well above pre-covid giving. GOOD NEWS!

Expenditure (less manse refurbishment and temporary manse costs) is down on the previous year. GOOD NEWS!

Use of premises has increased from £1550 in 2021 to £8070 in 2022. GOOD NEWS!

The Kirk Session as Trustees approved the Annual Accounts and were signed by the Minister & Session Clerk on behalf of the Trustees. GOOD NEWS!

Kirk Session also agreed to re-appoint Braidwood Graham, Accountants, Peebles as our Independent Examiners for a further year.

A copy of ITW Church Annual Accounts for 2022 will be presented to the Annual Stated Meeting held after the church service on Sunday 26th March.

As Treasurer, I would like to say a big thank you to all folks who help with the church accounts each year, Moira Brown, Depute Treasurer for her hard work - invoicing folks who use church premises, paying bills and keeping track of paperwork; Finance & Fabric Committee and Kirk Session for their scrutiny during the year, and last but not least, staff at Braidwood Graham for their work in ensuring everything balances at the year end. You are all much appreciated.

By the way the advice about being cheerful I mentioned at the start of this article was because a retired Minister said that he and many other Ministers used to dread the meeting to approve church accounts because generally Treasurers are full of doom and gloom about church finances. I hope I've managed to give a GOOD NEWS picture of ITW Church accounts. Always happy to answer any questions if anyone wants to know more about what we do with your offerings and other church income. Just get in touch.

Ruth Kerr, Treasurer, ITW Church

Baby Group

The baby group continues to meet on a Tuesday morning from 9-11am. We can have anything from 5 mums and babies up to 10. The Mums who come along have said it's a great place to talk with other mums about the good and bad bits of parenting. On occasion the local Health visitor, Amanda Hudson has popped in to see the group and offered helpful advice on different issues. We have a great rota of helpers who serve tea and coffee and take a turn of holding a baby to give Mum a break. Last year the group were keen to continue in 2023 so that's encouraging.

Fiona Edwards

Fellowship And Care Team Report

The FACT team have had a busy year this year with their involvement on many projects within the church family. The biggest task was the creating of a survey to find out the best way for the minister and elders to keep in touch with members of the congregation. This has been delivered to members of the congregation and the responses are still being gathered and collated.

A Welcome Pack was put together and this is given to anyone joining our congregation. It contains information about our church and the buildings, our key personnel, information on how to give to the work of the church and things that are happening in and around our church. We also introduced the wearing of name badges for those on duty so that anyone who is new to the church can easily identify people who can help them.

The team was also took charge of the catering for the ordination of Pamela Kennedy and for the Lives to Remember service as well as helping with the planning for this service.

As part of our Fellowship and Care remit we have restarted the teas and coffees after Sunday worship and re-introduced the monthly newsletter for those who prefer a paper copy of the church news.

Finally we are currently gathering photos of elders and office bearers to create a 'Who's Who' board so that, again, key people can be identified.

All in all it has been a very fruitful year for the Fellowship and Care Team.

Aileen Borthwick

Innerleithen Guild Report

It was with some apprehension that the Guild committee met for the first time in two years to plan our meetings beginning in October 2022. Would anyone come? Our first meeting was a purely social get-together and we were delighted to meet up with old and new members. Since then we have had several interesting speakers with Fraser Edwards telling us about his Journey of Faith and Maureen Forsyth and Duncan Cameron reminding us of the work of the Border Street Pastors in Galashiels and Hawick.

We finished our year in style with a Christmas celebration with Afternoon Tea followed by Carol singing and entertainment by Guild members. Our numbers are small but the love and enjoyment of being together once again is still there.

Betty Scott, Guild president

Property Report

A full internal refurbishment of the Manse was undertaken early in 2022 to bring the Manse up to modern standards. The following is a list of upgrades to the property:

- Kitchen and Appliances.
- Shower Room.
- Bathroom.
- Flooring and Carpets throughout building.
- All Internal Doors replaced.
- Every room decorated.

Some trees were also removed from the garden. A new hedge was planted on the Millwell Park side of the property.

We are very grateful to the Manse Update Group under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Miller Milloy for all the work undertaken, firstly with the temporary Manse at Cardrona then with the full refurbishment of our Manse at Millwell Park.

Thanks also to the local tradesmen who did such a splendid job upgrading our property.

As you will appreciate, the cost of these works depleted our Church monetary reserves. Various fundraisers will need to be undertaken throughout 2023 and beyond to replenish these reserves.

The Church buildings at both Traquair and Innerleithen required only routine maintenance.

Sunday Club restarted in Innerleithen in January 2022. As there were several families attending church, there was a need for something for the young people at their level. We currently have 1 teenager, 7 primary aged children in the Sunday Club and 3 pre-school children who form the crèche. The leaders are Aileen Borthwick, Fiona Edwards and Mo Forsyth. The crèche is supervised by Julie Knox assisted by Anna Edwards. Currently we work a rota system, taking turns to lead Sunday by Sunday usually undertaking 2 consecutive Sundays to allow some continuity. We use a variety of material, sometimes fitting in with what is being shared with the adults in church but mostly following our own sequence of lessons. We shared a 'no rehearsal nativity' with the congregation at Christmas time and this was well received.

We pray that our numbers will continue to grow and that more people will feel able to be part of the leadership team.

Aileen Borthwick

Warm Wednesdays (alternate Wednesdays from 8:45- 14:50)

This group is showing great signs of success. We have had around 10 women with their babies attending. Each session we have a slow cooker demonstration. We have also had demo on making draught excluders. Also had a help session on how to access specific funding and extra support. Sewing session - make do and mend eg - repairing clothes, buttons etc. Healthy Living Network on how to use less power when cooking and preparing meals also on reading and understanding labels on food cans/ jars. Each member also received an Aldi voucher. On 21st Dec we held a Christmas lunch. Provided each participant with slow cooker if they didn't have one. Provided participants with Slow Cooker recipes. One of the participants will be giving a demonstration on how to make a lasagne in the slow cooker. (18th Jan)

The participants are really appreciative of the Warm Wednesdays and the feedback from them on the WhatsApp Group is heartwarming.

Currently awaiting further funding to help provide store cupboard ingredients and stick blenders.

Shirley Bean



Welcome Party 17/03/23

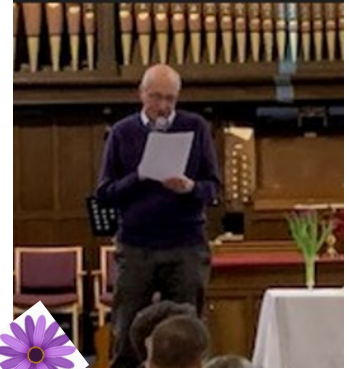
Rev Fraser Edwards his wife Fiona, their daughter Anna and son Matthew



Fraser was ordained as our new minister on 17th February 2021, but this was during lock down, so there were only 4 people allowed to attend. The manse was not vacated and so they had to move into temporary accommodation in Cardrona. The family finally moved into the manse in March/April 2022 and despite all these problems the family have decide to stick with us!

So after a protracted delay we have finally had the welcome party (only 2 years late) but no less than they deserve and the border folk would wish to give.

Jim Borthwick opened the proceedings with a welcome and a prayer. We then had the cutting of the Cake, which had been made by Aileen Borthwick



As Pamela said the more it went on the more it felt like a wedding!



There after Rev Pamela Kennedy filled the roll of MC (Master of Ceremonies) for the evening



The first item was the playing of a video that Dougie (Pamela's husband) had put together containing lots of individual clips recorded on phones, from many of the congregation, groups and individuals and some family and friends of the family. This was followed by a very funny poem written and delivered by Aileen, then a couple of songs from John Taylor in his usual opera tones (you've lost none of your talent John) and a lovely duet sung by Pamela, playing the guitar and her eldest son, Roderick, the words of which were on the screens so people could join in.



Welcome Party continued

There was then a break for some supper, before which Pamela said a few words of grace.

Straight after this Julia and some mad Irishman (me) could not resist St Paddy's day in green inc a daft hat) both presented flowers and various gifts to the family including a very generous collection that the congregation had made.

Fraser then took to his familiar position behind the lectern and made a reply, full of thanks and praise for the congregation and all the people who had participated enthusiastically with his work in this his first charge. He also had a few complimentary words about the welcome evening so far.

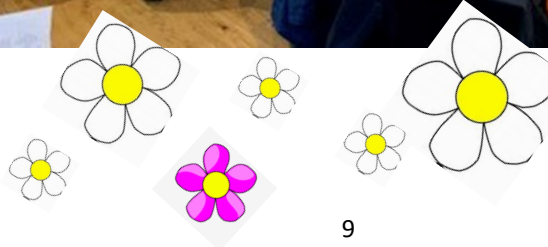
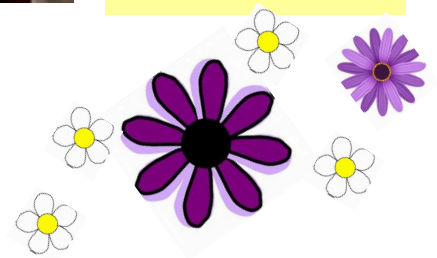


Following this we were entertained, first by Jim Wallace on the Guitar and the ukulele with sing along songs and a few jokes thrown in, then a real treat as Ella Muir did a recital of a great poem about "rumours" and finally Evelyn and Colin Grahame led us all with a rousing rendition of "one more step along the world we go" a brilliant way to end the evening, which was closed with a prayer by Jim.



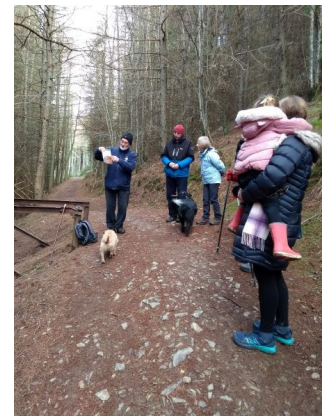
Many thanks, must go to all those who helped set up the church, the entertainers and the many people who provided sandwiches, savouries, cakes and tray bakes etc and particularly to all who attended and made it such a warm, fun and welcoming evening for Fraser and his family.

Dave Kerr (EDITOR)



2023 Walk & Talk so far!

Walk one Sat 4th February got off to a great start with a bumper group of walkers & dogs enjoying Taniel Hill circuit. Photo of group taken as we went through Traquair Estate. Shortly after the photo we stopped at Traquair Village for one of the numerous 'sweet breaks' and took time to look around and appreciate the wonderful things that God has made.



Walk two Sat 4 March was up and down both sides of Leithen Water. We were delighted Ross McGinn, our 'walk & talk historian', shared his knowledge about the Cuddy Bridge and an enigmatic wartime structure in the woods as we headed on the path towards the golf course. Ross dispelled the myth that the Cuddy Bridge was 'Roman' in origin. It was erected to allow parishioners to cross Leithen Water to go to church & was first built in 1701, although repair work has happened since then. There was lots more info from Ross and if you come on a walk & talk you'll get a chance to ask him questions about all things local!

I'm a bit of a fan of John Muir, so I'll share the reflection used at the end of walk 2 - *"Everyone needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in, where nature may heal and give strength to the body & soul"*. Expect more philosophical thoughts from John Muir on future walks!

Next planned walk is Sat 8th April when we revisit Elibank Castle. We last did this circular walk before Storm Arwen struck in November 2021 - was it that long ago? Lots of trees fell over and had to be removed because of the storm, so this time round we expect to have different views down the valley and as we walk along the River Tweed.

Walks usually last around two/two and half hours and all are welcome to join us.

Ruth Kerr

Innerleithen Guild

As we finish our session we look back and remember our meetings since October when we started back wondering if anyone would come. Our numbers are reduced but we have enjoyed being together again. All our meetings have been interesting and we have specially enjoyed hearing from speakers about projects going on in the local area.

We hope to finish our session with our summer outing in May to the Green Tree in Peebles. Then we look forward to a break before we meet again in October.

This years Guild project is "Home for Good" which has a bold vision to find a home for every child who needs one. This is a church based charity to encourage fostering and adoption in the UK Also the Guild coffee morning is on **Saturday 1st April** from 10 am, there will be a baking stall and also a raffle and jigsaw stall which will both be in aid of the Church Manse fund.

Betty Scott

Thank you Email—Family Centre

Good morning, I hope you are well. I just wanted to express our immense gratitude to you and your congregation for your very kind donation again this year.

Throughout the year many of our families have benefitted from your kindness. Although Cash For Kids ensures that no child need go without at Christmas, there is often a big gap in opportunities for families experiencing hardship throughout the year. With your vouchers (£1,115) we are able to help parents treat their children to simple pleasures such as family picnics throughout the summer holidays and also help when we know a child may not receive a birthday present.

Please pass on our thanks to Julia for organising and your parishioners for their donations. We wish you a very merry Christmas. Many Thanks

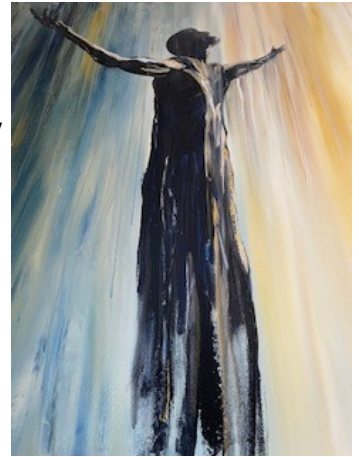
Shoena Newton, Team Leader

Cardrona Connections: Ministry in Cardrona

Every painting tells a story.

This one, measuring 1.5m wide and 1m tall, sits in my living room. I'm not an art connoisseur by any stretch, but I felt compelled to buy it shortly before joining you here at ITW. Somehow, I knew it would be important.

The painting is one of a series of 3 by Chris Duffett. If you haven't heard of Chris, he's an English Pastor and an artist. He also teaches evangelism. The painting is entitled "Wait on the Lord" from Psalm 27:14, and depicts a figure, arms outstretched and palms upwards, in a posture of waiting. Be strong, and take heart, and wait on the Lord. This is where we find our strength – when we come to God in expectation. For me, this is the very heart of worship.



Twice we have had evening worship in Cardrona, monthly since January, and these have been simple, sweet times of extended worship and Word. Most recently, I shared a little on how I believe God has been speaking and leading with ministry in Cardrona. In summary, I believe that our call for this season is to pray, and to represent, God's heart right in the middle of this community. That can happen in being involved in other community activities, such as the monthly lunch club Cardrona Meet and Eat, but importantly it also happens in worship. When we gather for worship in the centre of the village, we are the heartbeat. Anyone with poor circulation will know how wonderful it feels to have blood-flow! Worship, then, is essentially missional.

With this in mind, we are going to continue with the rhythm of monthly evening worship until the summer. We are coordinating our dates with St Andrew's Leckie in Peebles and have thus far also had involvement from Peebles Evangelical Church. It would be great if others from other local churches wanted to join us too so please do invite others – you don't have to live in Cardrona! It would also be incredible if people from the village who may not have existing connections with church felt prompted to join us. Again, please look out for opportunities to share what's going on more widely. There's tea/coffee after each service and a relaxed atmosphere.

You may not have come to a service like this before, with blocks of worship music, but all are welcome and there's no need to stay on your feet for the duration! The characteristic I'd most like us to cultivate is freedom in worship – freedom for each person to worship God in whatever way fits. Please do consider joining us, and please pray that these evenings would be a blessing to those who come and that they would be visible and curiosity-

Dates for your diary are as follows, all 7pm in Cardrona Village Hall:

26th March, 23rd April, 21st May, 25th June

Pamela Kennedy, Pioneer Minister (Cardrona)



Sheilagh and Bill Somerville celebrated their Diamond Wedding on the 9th March.

Sadly they were not able to be together on the day as the care home where Bill is was closed to visitors because of Covid.

Golden Wedding Celebrations, congratulations and best wishes to both couples



Helen and Mani Maniam celebrate their Golden Wedding on 7th April.

A community charity Plastics Recycling scheme

Thank you members of the congregation who regularly drop off old plastic milk bottle tops into the blue bin at the side of the church. We are among several organisations and individuals supporting this IWT Rotary initiative collecting the tops. The tops are also collected by club members from the school, café's, shops, and other locations in and around Innerleithen. They are then sorted and packed together with Galashiels Rotary before being taken to a recycling plant at Charlesfield near St Boswells where they are converted into a material used to make outer sheeting for fibre optic cables. Since starting 4 months ago the community has collected 40kg of tops which raises money for palliative care in the Borders.

Denis Robson



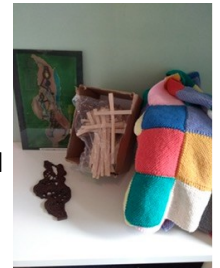
Border Bottletops for Charity

'Sorting the Wheat from the Chaff'

The church office (also known as 'The Vestry') has become a place where random stuff has been left over the last few years and it's all become a bit cluttered. A wee(?) project is underway to return it to a workable space for admin and photocopying and with space for couple chairs. A corner workstation has been donated and will be a great asset as part of that project. This before photo gives an idea of the clutter to be sorted!



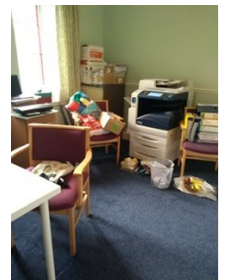
Some delights have emerged at the start of this clearing out process - a lovely knitted blanket made by Daphne Taylor which is no longer needed to cover the photocopier. Previously the blanket kept the machine warm to prevent damp paper but heating in the vestry ensures a constant temperature so blanket not needed now. Daphne & John have kindly agreed to donate this to 'Warm Wednesdays'.



Next delight was to discover a box full of beautifully knitted nativity characters. It will be December before we see them displayed in the church but in the meantime, here's a photo of them.

Another delight was to discover a box of crosses which will hopefully be used at Palm Sunday this year.

Yet another lovely discovery was a batik and wooden sculpture of Lake Malawi. I'll find somewhere these can be displayed - probably in the 'Malawi corner' of the church.



Judging by what's left, I think I may have sorted the wheat from the chaff and it's just a case of getting on with the clearing out now. The refurb of the office space won't be done in time for

publication of this magazine, but I'll include an 'after' photo for the next magazine. I'm looking forward to working in the cleared space.

A Welcome to the Chigoli Family



This is a photo of the Rev James William Chigoli, who has replaced Rev Enos at the Church, in Malawi we will of course miss Rev Enos and all the help he gave us but are thrilled to welcome Rev James. Denis and the team will be visiting Thondwe starting next week, so will have an opportunity to welcome him personally on our behalf, and I am sure we will have much more news on their return.

Thondwe



Family Centre Voucher Appeal

Julia & Ruth counted vouchers & cash/cheques yesterday afternoon and total to Family Centre for 2022 is £1,115. A wee increase on total last year of £1,085. Ruth commented, The generosity of folks to another appeal is just fantastic.

From Fraser, Julia and Ruth Thanks!

The Photo shows

Rev James and his wife Titha with 4 of their 5 boys and 1 girl, Memento (first born), Jus-Mary, Perra, Brown, Vumani and Jacuzzi.



We received this lovely email from Peebles Youth Trust NOTE, video is not included



Hi All

We just wanted to say a massive thank you for your invaluable support with your kind donations for the Peeblesshire Youth Trust Christmas Hampers.

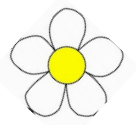
Over 110 families in Peeblesshire benefited from a hamper this year and we are so grateful to you for your support in enabling this.



Attached is a video of the hampers all ready to go ahead and pictures of some of the volunteers on the (snowy!) delivery day.

Many thanks to you all again. We hope you have a great festive season and wish you all the best for 2023.

Hayley & Emma, Hamper Co-Ordinators, Peeblesshire Youth Trust



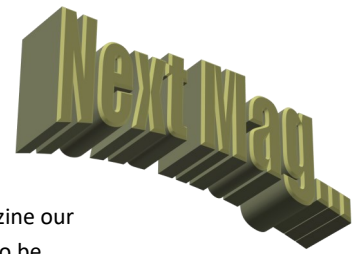
Samara's Aid Appeal - After the Earthquakes



I've held back from writing an article until I had some idea of what was happening in Northern Syria and the response that Samara's Aid Appeal would be making as they operate close to the affected area. We can give thanks to God that the outreach centres and medical centre were out with the worst of the quake zone. Their teams were also spared from the loss of life and buildings. But they are not unaffected but the emotional and psychological effects. Seeing such overwhelming need must sap their energy. Knowing of the loss, pain and fear that many are experiencing must have an impact. But they went straight into action distributing items that were still available after the last container of clothes, hygiene kits and disability aids arrived from the UK. The medical centre saw an increase in the number of folk coming from nearby cities. They can't offer treatment for the severe trauma but there have been those suffering more from the fear and the exposure to being in the cold open air after the quakes e.g. chest pains, infections, minor injuries. The need is huge. It was huge before the quakes, it's many times more now. By the time the magazine is published this article will be out of date so please go to the charity's website to get up to date news of the situation. I will do my best to give updates in the regular church news and on the ITW Church Facebook page. Thank you for all the financial support, the hygiene kit donations (especially the shaving kits), the knitted items and especially the prayer support for the teams recently. Please do keep the people of Syria and the charity's teams in your prayers. If you are not online then please do ask me if you want further information so that I remember to keep you in touch with the latest updates. Thank you.



Heather Martin



Funerals



	Date of Death
Donald Macleod	13/11/2022
Jack Blair	25/12/2022
Doris McLennan	27/12/2022
Marion Stenhouse	16/01/2023
Joyce-Mary Ferguson	18/01/2023
Lynda McPherson	25/01/2023
Jean Vaughan	01/02/2023
Dougie Patterson	25/02/2023

ADVANCE WARNING!!!

Articles for the next magazine our Summer Edition!... need to be submitted by **Friday 2nd June 2023**. These can be sent to Karen or David at any time before this date. Email is great if it is possible.

karenjane247@gmail.com
or
itwparishmag@outlook.com

<h1>Who's Who?</h1>	<p>MINISTER: Fraser Edwards The Manse, Millwell Park, Innerleithen Tel: 01896 490 742 fedwards@churchofscotland.org.uk</p>
<p>Assistant Minister: Pamela Kennedy Tel: 07812 994424 PKennedy@churchofscotland.org.uk</p>	<p>SESSION CLERK : Jim Borthwick 16 Gallowhill, Peebles, EH45 9BG Tel: 01721 720483 Mobile: 07799547646 james.borthwick@btinternet.com</p>
<p>TRAQUAIR CHURCH CONTACT: Norman Donald 3 Wells View, Innerleithen, EH44 6JD Tel: 01896 830781</p>	<p>INNERLEITHEN CHURCH CONTACT: Julia Stoddart Leithen House, Leithen Road, Innerleithen EH44 6HY Tel: 01896 830410 grahamstoddart99@yahoo.co.uk</p>
<p>STEWARDSHIP SECRETARY: Susan McDonald 27 Church Street, Innerleithen, EH44 6JA Tel: 01896 830977 s.mcdonald784@btinternet.com</p>	<p>Safeguarding Coordinator: John Taylor 22 Station Bank Peebles, EH45 8EJ dafion@icloud.com</p>
<p>PROPERTY CONVENOR: Tom Fraser Tel: 07957 871 837 tomfraserw@gmail.com</p>	<p>PRESS OFFICER , HALL BOOKINGS: Ruth Kerr 2 Waverley Mills, Innerleithen EH44 6RH Tel: 01896 833994 m.kerr6813@btinternet.com</p> <p>ROLL KEEPER: Aileen Borthwick Tel: 01721 720483 james.borthwick@btinternet.com</p>
<p>TREASURER: Ruth Kerr, 2 Waverley Mills, Innerleithen, EH44 6RH. Tel: 01896 833994. m.kerr6813@btinternet.com DEPUTY TREASURER: Moira Brown, Kirkstone Lee, 1 Kirklands, EH44 6NA. Tel: 01896 831027. moirabrownkirklands@gmail.com GIFT AID CONVENOR: Marjorie Robson</p>	<p>SUNDAY CLUB LEADERS: Walkerburn & Traquair: Aileen Borthwick Tel: 01721 720483 james.borthwick@btinternet.com INNERLEITHEN: Shirley Bean Tel: 01896 830859 smbean@gmail.com</p>
<p>MAGAZINE EDITOR: David Kerr 35 The Beeches, Tweedbank, TD1 3SY Tel: 07711929605 itwparishmag@outlook.com Assisted by: Karen Borthwick Tel: 07790512348 karenjane247@gmail.com</p>	<p>CHURCH SECRETARY: Ruth Kerr 2 Waverley Mills, Innerleithen, EH44 6RH Tel: 01896 833994 m.kerr6813@btinternet.com Please send any intimations to Ruth, by 5pm on each Wednesday</p> <p>PRINTING: Anne Barbour Tel: 01896 870252</p>

The Editor reserves the right to edit or omit letters, but only if it's really necessary! If appropriate (and there's enough room), any submissions omitted may appear in a following edition.