

## EDITOR'S LETTER

Another varied and interesting magazine, thanks to all the contributors. I would again encourage any reader to send us a story, funny, serious, religious, holiday story what ever if you enjoy reading the magazine, then share your thoughts and make it even better!

Some great things going on in Cardrona, thanks to Pamela, I would encourage you to help and take part when you can. The summer seems to have been very short as Fraser mentioned, rain and more rain, but still we have had great services, met more friends and look forward to a new Autumn start.

*Dave Kerr*



## DIARY DATE FACT AFTERNOON TEA

There will be an afternoon tea on **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September from 2 – 4pm** in the church and there will be more information about nearer the time.

**Diamond Di**

### Wedding Anniversary



**Rose and Clem Johnstone**

## Dear All

I would like to express my most profound thanks for the wonderful presentation and celebration of my Golden Jubilee in Ministry in Innerleithen Church such an important Sunday on the 9<sup>th</sup> of July. I was quite overwhelmed and deeply appreciated such a kind and thoughtful gesture. I look forward to spending your kind gift in a week or two when Marjorie and I are celebrating our wedding anniversary with a couple of days in Pitlochry.

Thank you very much indeed. *Jim Wallace*

## INNERLEITHEN GUILD

We are looking forward to our new session with a varied programme of speakers and social events.

Our first meeting is on **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October at 2pm** in the Hall of Friendship when we shall meet up again after the summer and shall be pleased to welcome any new members.

*Betty Scott*

To mark Fraser's 2nd Anniversary in ITW church the Thondwe partnership bought a goat during their March visit. The goat was named "Grace" and passed on to Mrs Julien Makwira, a widow with 6 children who lost her husband 3 years ago. Goat's are important in Malawi as they are low maintenance, provide nutrition and some financial help to poor households.

Denis

## CARDRONA CONNECTIONS

Monthly evening worship will resume in Cardrona Village Hall on the last Sunday evening of each month at 7pm, starting on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September.



# MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER



Dear Friends

Our summer started with the Walkerburn Festival in June and it rained that week! Then we moved on to Games Week in Innerleithen in July and it rained even more! We've now reached August and it just hasn't stopped! Perhaps by the time this magazine is distributed we will have seen some dry days.

Over the summer, Rev Pamela Kennedy and I planned to focus on the Psalms with a series called "Summer Psalms" but it hardly seems right to use the word "Summer" given all the damp weather. However, no matter the weather the Psalms are always worth exploring and they make up a significant part of the Old Testament.

The Psalms are poems, songs and prayers which have always been used in worship. They were gathered from a variety of sources, authors, locations and times. They are in different styles; praise, prayer, confession, lament and more. But each has something different to teach us and no matter their age they still speak into our current day because they deal in the ups and downs of human life.

Perhaps you might want to dip into the Psalms and find one which connects most with how you are feeling and then use it to help you pray.

Read Psalm 103 which is a Psalm of praise for a time when we are feeling good and want to celebrate God "Praise the LORD, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name".

Or perhaps in a difficult time we can relate to Psalms of lament like Psalm 13 where the writer says "How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever?" as he feels forgotten by God.

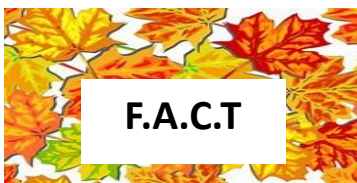
Or a Psalm of confession like Psalm 32 where the writer knows he has got things wrong and lives with the weight of that, saying to God "For day and night your hand was heavy on me"

Finally, you might be looking for wisdom in a particular situation or to make a decision and find Psalm 37 helpful when it says "Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him."

The Psalms can help us no matter how we are feeling and like generations before us perhaps you might find them helpful too. Do let me know if you have a favourite Psalm.

Fraser

(p.s If it's still raining then maybe Psalm 147:8 is the appropriate one!)



**The Fellowship and Care Team** has been working to bring together a 'Who's Who' board of key people within our congregation so that they can

be identified by anyone who comes along to church. This is almost ready to be put on display.

We have also been busy getting everything in place for the **Gardens Open Day on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> August**. Gardens will be open from 1pm until 3pm and there will be tea, coffee and home baking served in the church from 2pm until 4pm. You will be able to pick up your map from 12.30 pm at the church or on the previous Sunday. Please pray for nice weather on the day.

There will be an **afternoon tea on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September** from 2 – 4pm in the church and there will be more information about this nearer the time.

Aileen Borthwick







We had a busy Winter and Spring and managed to recruit some extra members of the congregation to come along and support this group of parents who have appreciated support from our church.

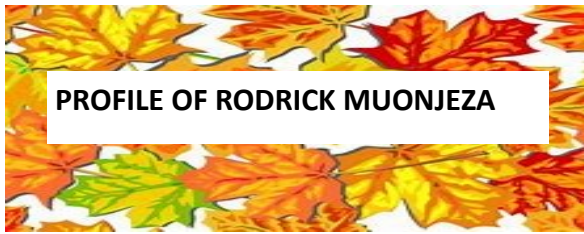
As the number of summer term activities increased our numbers dwindled somewhat but the parents continued to keep in touch via WhatsApp. Our final meeting for last session was in early June and we will start up again in September - meeting fortnightly on Wednesdays. However we did keep in touch and met up during the school summer break. We met in the School Garden - The Edible Garden and were welcomed by some of their regular organisers - namely Shirley Spence, Denis Robson and Jean Robertson. Families were able to harvest and take home some of the marvellous produce which they grow there. These included - Blackcurrants, rhubarb, fresh garlic, potatoes, onions and gooseberries to name a few. We provided a picnic for everyone to enjoy together and catch up with each other. Some of the young people who came along planted seeds for turnips and swedes too. Hopefully, this will inspire us to make good uses of the raised beds in our church grounds.

As we type this update we are in the process of organising a family fun day for **Wednesday 9th August** to which we have invited members of the congregation to join in with the young people in their lives. We have face painting, crafts and musical games to keep them occupied for a day during the last week of the school holidays - photographs from that day will be in the next magazine.

*Marion, Lois & Shirley*







## PROFILE OF RODRICK MUONJEZA

Rodrick Muonjeza (54) was born on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1969. He was married to Esther. Esther was born on 26<sup>th</sup> August 1971 but sadly died on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022, aged just 50, following complications after breaking her arm.

Tamara (16) was born on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2007. She is their daughter. She has just completed Form 1 at St Anthony's Secondary School as a boarder. She is currently at home with Rodrick during the school summer holiday.



Rodrick is an enthusiastic and committed church member. He met Robin and Rhona Tatler, David Kerr, Lois Hindley and Shirley Bean when they visited



Thondwe in 2017. Rodrick was responsible for operating the church café, which closed.



Rodrick was struggling to pay his wife's medical bills, put food on the table and cover Tamara's school fees. He was given a loan of 328,750 kwachas in early April 2022 to help him establish a business buying and selling rice. With medical bills, food and school fees taking top priority, loan repayments have been scant and infrequent.

Since the March 2023 visit, Rodrick has been given a generous donation, by John Mullen, in addition to the original loan, to enable him to kickstart his rice business with renewed motivation. John has been encouraging and coaching him via WhatsApp. Rodrick has been making more regular repayments and has now repaid 14,000 kwachas since March 2023.



When I chatted to Rodrick, he was curious to know about "normal" Scottish life. He told me that things were very structured in Malawi:

- Church-going
- Engagement
- Marriage
- Family

What are your perceptions of "normal" Scottish life in 2023?

*Jackie Couchman*







**MAGNITUDE 2023**



***“I am who I am because the I AM tells me who I am!”***

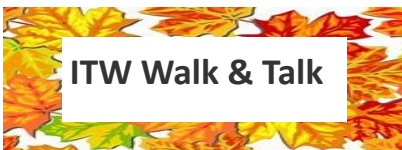
So chanted 1100 young people twice daily at this year’s Magnitude festival, Scripture Union’s annual summer youth event for young people aged 11-18. Pamela and Dougal Kennedy helped to take a group from St Andrew’s Leckie Parish Church in Peebles, as well as their own sons from ITW, to the 5 day event which involved camping in the grounds of Lendrick Muir, near Kinross.

The week was extraordinary: over a thousand young people worshipping God in the huge Big Top tent twice daily, fantastic speakers like Amy Orr-Ewing and Matthew MacNeil, an incredible worship team who led from times of lively, exuberant worship to times of intimate response to the move of the Holy Spirit, a dedicated prayer ministry team, many daily seminars, late night worship around the campfire, events areas showcasing and promoting the work of International Justice Mission, We are Tear-fund and many others, fun activities like dodgeball and a football tournament, and a colour fun-run.

The theme of the week was ‘Identity’ as we explored together the question of who God tells me I am. Twice each day young people were reminded that they are forgiven, set free, healed, not alone, secure, alive, called and chosen, all because of the love of God for each one. It was moving to stand in their midst and to share in worship with them, witnessing moments of encounter and empowering as young people responded to the Holy Spirit at work. One popular song included the words “We are the free and Yours is the glory!” as we sang about the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for every one of us.

Next year’s dates have already been announced as 20<sup>th</sup>- 24<sup>th</sup> July 2024 and the Kennedys don’t hesitate to recommend the event to any young people who might be interested – please let Pamela know. You may also like to check out their website for further information [www.magnitude.org.uk](http://www.magnitude.org.uk)

*Pamela Kennedy*



Not exactly been walking weather recently. Hopefully the weather might be a bit more settled going forward. The last Innerleithen Heritage Walk is **Saturday 2 September 10-12 noon, leaving from the Memorial Hall.**

**ITW Walk & Talk will resume with a walk on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October** - a walk of 3 miles, taking in a bit of St Cuthbert’s Way (new route for ‘Walk & Talk’). We will meet at 9.00am, Innerleithen Church car park and car share to St Boswells. This circular walk will start at 9.45am & finish around 11.45am. Walking boots recommended. There will be an opportunity for a tea/coffee before heading home. Contact Ruth if you would like to come along or want to know more about Walk & Talk.

*Ruth Kerr*



Obviously the walkers were walking but not talking to the photographer 😊 Editor

## SAMARA'S AID APPEAL UPDATE



PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

# Gardens Open Day around Innerleithen

Saturday 26th August



**Garden map available from Innerleithen Church of Scotland, Leithen Road from 12:30pm on the day or in the week before.**

**Make a donation, pick up a map and explore gardens large and small around the town.**

**Gardens Open 1-3pm**

**Tea, Coffee and Home baking available in the church from 2-4pm**

## CARDRONA CONNECTIONS UPDATE

### ICE CREAM SUNDAY/E

A few children came along for a Bible story, song and craft on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> July. Though there weren't many of us, we had a lot of fun exploring Nick Butterworth's telling of the parable of the lost sheep, and it helped that two of the children who came own sheep so could tell us all about their potential to get lost! At the end of Butterworth's beautifully illustrated story, the farmer and his sheep have a party to celebrate the return of the lost sheep. Our party took the form of party hats, lots of ice cream with toppings and rousing renditions of "If You're Happy and You Know It" and "Our God is so Big, so Strong and so Mighty". A number of families have been in touch to say they are sorry to have missed it so this may be an event that we run again at a later date.



It can be hard to imagine that life could get any worse for the Syrian people after several years of a destructive conflict and, more recently, terrible earthquakes in the north.

However, the economic situation worsens as the value of the country's currency keeps being devalued; basic necessities become harder to buy and the conflict in Ukraine has an impact with the cost and availability of wheat. Uncertain weather conditions are making life harder for farmers and fertilisers are often too expensive to buy too.

A child's birthday cake may be such a simple thing but the ingredients can cost a parent about a month's wages. A toy as well as a cake and party for friends is just not possible. Often the friends bring presents of clothes rather than toys as they are much more essential. But that's hard for a young child to understand.

This is the background of the latest appeal by Samara Levy. The aim is to fill a half container with good quality toys bought from a sympathetic supplier who is offering a good discount on the order. Please do consider donating to this appeal early as the container needs to be sent as soon as possible to reach Syria in time for Christmas when the toys will be given as presents at the Outreach Centres parties. Samara is hoping to send toys for about 1,000 children.

Despite the many challenges the Syrians people face, it's not all bad news - the Outreach Centres and Medical Centre are beacons of hope and light for the poor communities they serve. The agricultural lands are yielding crops and giving employment to the surrounding communities. Donated items continue to be distributed supporting the most vulnerable. We can give thanks to God for all of these things and for the teams who faithfully serve their communities on the ground despite facing the same problems as the wider population.

Please continue to pray for this country, especially as it's no longer high on the news agenda. Pray for the protection for the teams and for them to be encouraged despite the challenges they face. Pray for Samara and her team in the UK and Syria that they have wisdom and hope as they work through the problems and look for solutions. If you can, then please donate to the latest appeal via the website (link below) going to the Orphans and Widows section and Support and reference the donation: CHRISTMAS. If you prefer to send a cheque then write on the back: - Orphans and Widows: CHRISTMAS. The address to send the cheque to will also be below.

Thank you for all the prayer and practical support you have given and continue to give to this small charity. I know Samara and her team are very grateful for all of it and give thanks to God for you all.

<https://www.samarasaidappeal.org/orphans-widows>

Samara's Aid Appeal, PO Box 5490, Brighton BN50 8PE.

(The Charity Number for England & Wales: 1171707)

Heather Martin



# THONDWE UPDATE

We continue to support our partner congregation with a climate justice campaign to build resilience into Thondwe homes. The work is carried out by elder Imana McPherson, assisted by church members, providing Important income to support their families.

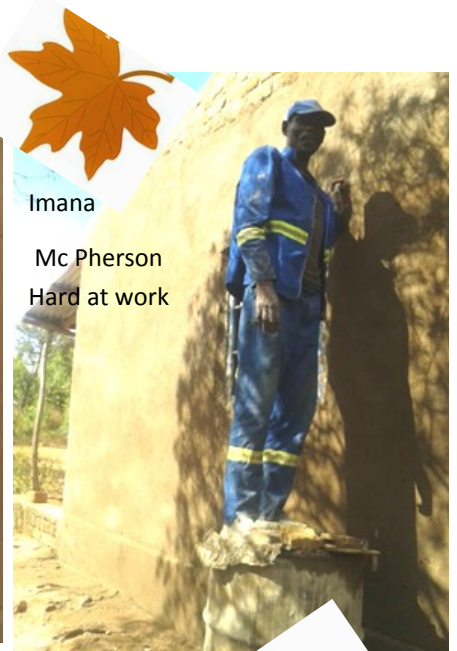
## Wrinkly Roof campaign

The generosity of a member of ITW congregation allowed the partnership team to fund the installation of 3 new metal roofs on homes in need of improvement for Letisha Chayenda, Emmanuel Sattawa and Tione Lozaliyo.



## Cyclone Freddy Home Repairs

The partnership would like to thank members of the congregation and the Linton Singers who responded to the Cyclone Freddy Appeal raising sufficient funds to repair 5 homes for Moreen Kaphera, Chikumbutso Kamanga, Lucy Mdoka, Nellie Pechetula and Emma Chuma.



Imana  
Mc Pherson  
Hard at work

## Meeting Lameck

Lameck was introduced to us by Rev James after Sunday service as a polio survivor. Lameck told us that the old rigid steel calliper he had been given some years ago was causing him pain and discomfort. Although he had tolerated the straight leg calliper, it was not a practical solution. We said we could have him referred to the Queen Elizabeth hospital in Blantyre for an assessment. After two hospital visits, he returned home with a new flexible brace, properly positioned, allowing him to bend his knee and walk without the risk of falls. Lameck's story has reached the shores of America with the Neal Family in Oconomowac, Wisconsin reaching out across the water to help fund his new brace, in memory of a family member who survived polio.



Denis Robson





# CHICKS FOR GRANNY'S

THONDWE CCAP CHICKEN FOR GRANNY'S REPORT FOR JUNE, 2023

Mervis sent her monthly report ( I will post this on the noticeboard in the Church) but in summary -

They have now 17 members involved  
They have in Total 129 Chickens, 163 chicks. 79 eggs in the incubators and still, 174 eggs which will be used for food.

### Advantages

They are used as source of food e.g, relish, chicken and eggs  
They are also source of income, after selling some  
They are also used as non standard units of time (Cock Crowing).

### Challenge Faced

No challenges as most members are able to follow and practice hygiene as well as frequent vaccinations

### Recommendations

The project is progressing well  
Next meeting will be conducted on 30th July 2023

Mervis, who runs the meetings, also added this small report, it shows how the group are thinking about how they need to value and improve the gift from God of these chickens.

Her report:

Some of the issues to present where as follows:

#### 1. Refresher training

There is a need for training and some of the titles may be—  
Manure making from Chicken dung  
How to take care of chickens

- Housing
- Prevention vaccinations
- Feeding and feed making

Market research and intelligence

#### 2. Mobility Issues

Some of the grannies should operate as cooperatives for easy caring, feeding, marketing among other things.

Finally the project is helping grannies and their families a lot as a source of income, after selling eggs and chickens, food, manure raw materials, just to mention a few.

*From Mervis—via Jackie Couchman*



Cardrona Connections' new sail-flag made its debut appearance at the Cardrona Summer Fayre on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August and volunteers from 4 different churches came together to offer prayer. The volunteers wore t-shirts that read "How can I pray for you today?" and inside their gazebo were short prayers on different themes that people could browse and take away with them. Though the team didn't find people came in to sit down and receive prayer, lots of relationship-building took place and a number of people asked whether the team might pray for others. Dougal Kennedy also helped with the barbecue and we borrowed a number of tables from ITW to help out more generally.

There was also a "tree of hopes and prayers" where people were invited to write on ribbons and add to the tree. Some lovely hopes and prayers were added, predominantly focusing on community-building and relationships, which lends further support to Cardrona Connections' aim of helping to connect the community as well as connect *with* the community. Our presence at, and contributions to, the fayre were very much appreciated and served to deepen relationships and build trust. A pizza night for youth from P7-S6 is being run jointly with a member of the Cardrona Village Association on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> August in order to get to know the young people of Cardrona and hear their thoughts on their village. Perhaps something further will come from this so watch this space!

Your continued prayers for the ministry of Cardrona

Connections are much appreciated, and there are always plenty of opportunities to serve. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have a sense of God nudging you to get involved.

Pamela Kennedy





## GRACE BEFORE MEALS

Am I right that though "Saying Grace" is still done in church and by some institutions at formal dinners, this once normal practice throughout society has for long become a rarity even in committed Christian households? If so, then isn't it surely high time in this day and age that people like us recovered - if only for our own good - the ancient wisdom of never eating at home without an open expression of thanks?

Now, just as it's true that in our day we can catch ourselves rattling off The Lord's Prayer from memory without pondering its implications, so in the past the traditional Graces could become near-automatic and unworthy even in the most pious of families. There's a story from Karl Barth, the 20th Century theologian of such penetrating piety that, early in the 1930s, while most Christians on the Continent were falling under the spell of Adolf Hitler, he realised what Nazism would mean and actually even set about inspiring a new church that would challenge the State! But meantime, at home, the devout KB and his wife decided that saying Grace had become an empty ritual at their meal-times, so they would try fore-going the formality. Came a day when a fellow theologian joined them for lunch, Karl began a Grace and their wee boy piped up, "Daddy, why do we only Say Grace when we have an important visitor?"

For our day and age, a Grace that is often used in Iona Abbey might make us think and help get us right:- O GOD, TO THOSE WHO ARE HUNGRY, GIVE BREAD AND - TO THOSE WHO HAVE BREAD - GIVE A HUNGER FOR JUSTICE.

*Jack Kellet*



### **Platinum Wedding Anniversary**

*Congratulations to Jack & Ena Kellet*

*Married on 14<sup>th</sup> August 1953*

*At Canongate Kirk*

### **MESSAGE FROM SHIRLEY**

Just wanted to send a heartfelt thanks for all of the kind

people who prayed for me and wished me well during my recent treatment for breast cancer. It has been a long seven months but receiving emails, phone calls and messages passed on via family members has made it much more bearable ( for me and for my family). The kindness of the good people of our congregation and my neighbours has been overwhelming. People have walked my dog for me, transported me to and from 2 different hospitals, baked and cooked for me, listened to me, cheered me when I was feeling low and hugged me when they were allowed.

When I was first diagnosed I remember saying to Fraser that I am quite prepared to accept the plan which God has for me. I feel truly humbled by the love and positivity which has come my way. I believe God prepared the way for my treatment and recovery by sending my sister and her husband to Innerleithen in May 2022 and sending my wee dog Taco to me last September.

I have thoroughly enjoyed joining the congregation each Sunday morning from home but am glad to be back attending worship in person.

The good news is that I am cancer free and there is a 92% chance that the cancer will not return.

The medical staff from NHS Scotland at BGH, The Edinburgh Western General and St Ronan's Health Centre have all been so kind and compassionate - please hold them in your prayers for the wonderful work they continue to do each day.

Sending love to you all,

Shirley (Still bald, but hoping for a full head of hair by Christmas at the latest)



## DEATHS

<b>Olive Davidson</b>	<b>19/05/23</b>
<b>Janet Higgs</b>	<b>25/05/23</b>
<b>William Haddow</b>	<b>23/06/23</b>
<b>Helen Haddow</b>	<b>03/08/23</b>

## NEXT MAGAZINE

**ADVANCE WARNING!!!**

Articles for the next magazine our Winter Edition!.... need to be submitted by **Friday 3rd November 2023** These can be sent to Karen or David at any time before this date. Email is great if it is possible. (Please note change of email addresses).



**karenjane247@gmail.com**  
or  
**itwparishmag@outlook.com**

<h1 style="font-size: 4em; color: lightgreen; opacity: 0.5;">Who's Who</h1>	<p>MINISTER: Fraser Edwards The Manse, Millwell Park, Innerleithen Tel: 01896 490 742 <a href="mailto:fedwards@churchofscotland.org.uk">fedwards@churchofscotland.org.uk</a></p>
<p>Assistant Minister: Pamela Kennedy Tel: 07812 994424 <a href="mailto:PKennedy@churchofscotland.org.uk">PKennedy@churchofscotland.org.uk</a></p>	<p>SESSION CLERK : Jim Borthwick 16 Gallowhill, Peebles, EH45 9BG Tel: 01721 720483 Mobile: 07799547646 <a href="mailto:james.borthwick@btinternet.com">james.borthwick@btinternet.com</a></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 <a href="mailto:grahamstoddart99@yahoo.co.uk">grahamstoddart99@yahoo.co.uk</a></p>
<p>STEWARDSHIP SECRETARY: Susan McDonald 27 Church Street, Innerleithen, EH44 6JA Tel: 01896 830977 <a href="mailto:s.mcdonald784@btinternet.com">s.mcdonald784@btinternet.com</a></p>	<p>Safeguarding Coordinator: John Taylor 22 Station Bank Peebles, EH45 8EJ <a href="mailto:dafion@icloud.com">dafion@icloud.com</a></p>
<p>PROPERTY CONVENOR: Tom Fraser Tel: 07957 871 837 <a href="mailto:tomfraserw@gmail.com">tomfraserw@gmail.com</a></p>	<p>PRESS OFFICER , HALL BOOKINGS: Ruth Kerr 2 Waverley Mills, Innerleithen EH44 6RH Tel: 01896 833994 <a href="mailto:m.kerr6813@btinternet.com">m.kerr6813@btinternet.com</a></p> <p>ROLL KEEPER: Aileen Borthwick Tel: 01721 720483 <a href="mailto:james.borthwick@btinternet.com">james.borthwick@btinternet.com</a></p>
<p>TREASURER: Ruth Kerr, 2 Waverley Mills, Innerleithen, EH44 6RH. Tel: 01896 833994. <a href="mailto:m.kerr6813@btinternet.com">m.kerr6813@btinternet.com</a> DEPUTY TREASURER: Moira Brown, Kirkstone Lee, 1 Kirklands, EH44 6NA. Tel: 01896 831027. <a href="mailto:moirabrownkirklands@gmail.com">moirabrownkirklands@gmail.com</a> GIFT AID CONVENOR: Marjorie Robson</p>	<p>SUNDAY CLUB LEADER: Aileen Borthwick Tel: 01721 720483 <a href="mailto:james.borthwick@btinternet.com">james.borthwick@btinternet.com</a></p>
<p>MAGAZINE EDITOR: David Kerr Tel: 07711929605 <a href="mailto:itwparishmag@outlook.com">itwparishmag@outlook.com</a> Assisted by: Karen Borthwick Tel: 07790512348 <a href="mailto:karenjane247@gmail.com">karenjane247@gmail.com</a></p>	<p>CHURCH SECRETARY: Ruth Kerr 2 Waverley Mills, Innerleithen, EH44 6RH Tel: 01896 833994 <a href="mailto:m.kerr6813@btinternet.com">m.kerr6813@btinternet.com</a> 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.