



NEW HORIZONS

*Innerleithen, Traquair and
Walkerburn Parish Church*

Winter Edition

2023



SC001100

www.itwcos.org

MESSAGE FROM EDITOR

..... As you read this edition, I may or may not be back from Malawi, and if I am not then the team of Karen, Libby & Anne have made it happen, what a team!

Anyway, I should be bringing back some stories from Thondwe, where Denis and I have been visiting, there will be a Malawi service morning very soon, so you will get some updates then, and the rest you can get with the new edition before Easter.

It has been a hectic few month's and a real mixed bag of weather, but the church is still spreading its wings, and it is great to see new faces, especially young ones coming along. My highlight of the year was the fancy dress parade, maybe you can tell me for the next magazine what your highlight was.?

Dave Kerr, Editor



LOVED, REMEMBERED, HELD



A very special service took place on Friday 20th October, immediately following Baby Loss Awareness Week, for all those who have experienced baby loss or who grieve a baby they never had. At the service we considered how loved, remembered and held our little ones are by us as well as how loved, remembered and held both they and we are by God. It was a very special time and we lit candles as we remembered.

Rev Pamela Kennedy



A very moving service, I have listened to a few personal comments, and this service meant a lot to those that attended. Pamela did a wonderful job and from what I hear it is something that sometime in the future should definitely be repeated.

Editor

A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS MESSAGE!

There is a list of folks I know all written in a book
And every year at Christmas time I go and take a look,
And that is when I realise that these names are a part,
not of the book they're written in but of my very heart.
For, once you've met somebody, the years cannot erase
the memory of a pleasant word or of a loving face.
Never think my Christmas cards are just a mere
routine of names upon a Christmas list forgotten in between.
For, be you relative or friend or just someone I've met,
you happen to be one of those I'd rather not forget
and whether I have known you for many years or few
in some way you have had a part in shaping things I do.
So, as you read this message that I send at Christmas time, know
that I send you all my love while you are on my mind.

Dale Welsh



APPEAL FOR HELPERS!

The present Christian Aid committee consists of Marion Cameron, myself and two members of St Andrews Church we need more members in

particular, someone who would act as Convener. Marion and I are happy to provide more details to anyone who is interested.

Christian Aid week is in May but preparations need to be started sometime in January.

Last year we raised more than £1000 so it is really worth while.

Ella Muir



CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

It seems early to be writing this letter but by the time the magazine has been published and delivered then Christmas will be on the horizon. The first song I begin to think about as we begin Advent is 'O Come, O Come, Emmanuel'. It's one of my favourites and I have a playlist full of different versions. (I'm listening to it while I write this!)

Emmanuel is one of the names used to refer to Jesus and means 'God With Us'. Jesus came to be God With Us just as God had promised. To be with us in all the ups and downs of life, in the happy moments and in the sad moments, Jesus came to be with us. This is one of the best promises that we can be reminded of at Christmas time and in fact at any time of the year.

We have a great range of services during the month of December and we hope you will be able to come along. If you can manage then I would encourage you to come to church during Advent. I know that for some people, failing health and mobility make it too difficult to join in person and we completely understand and hope you may still benefit from the online services. We continue to hold you in our prayers and consider you to be an important part of our congregation.

However, if you have been away from church for a while but could make it back then please know that a warm welcome awaits you. Following covid our habits have all been changed and sometimes you might feel that it's been too long now to come back. I want to make sure you know that you would be welcomed back without any embarrassment, and we would be delighted to see you.

Finally, if you are attending church then this is a perfect time to invite a friend to come with you. You might want to particularly think about bringing a friend on the 10th December to Innerleithen Church at 10:30am when we welcome St Ronan's Silver Band to lead the music for some Christmas Carols. Have a think now about who you will invite along. May we all find that God is with us this Advent and Christmas time.

Fraser



LightNight in Cardrona, 31st October

On a night that involves dressing up and guising for many children, we pitched our gazebo, put up our Cardrona Connections flag and prepared to distribute hot chocolate (not forgetting the all-important cream and marshmallows). In the gazebo, we had a lantern-making craft using donated jars. Both the craft and the hot chocolate proved very popular, and everyone took away a little bag including a booklet "A Friend in the Dark" too. It was a fun evening and those who visited us left with a little more light and some warmth for their path.



Christmas

Wishing everyone a
Happy Christmas and
Good Health in the
coming year.
from Julia And Graham
Stoddart

Greetings

Christmas

Amanda & Rebecca Irvine wish
Alpha/Christianity explored/
Lecto 365 a Happy Christmas and
thank all for the fellowship on a
Wednesday night.

Greetings



OPEN GARDENS



On 26th August we had 9 members of the congregation who opened up their gardens for anyone to come and have a look, we also had refreshments & cake at the Church so that once people had seen what gardens they could, or wanted to see, then they could enjoy fellowship at the church and a well-earned rest! the church was constantly busy all afternoon as were the gardens. We had visitors from near and far, thanks to the many volunteers with Gardens and at the church as well as great fellowship we also managed to raise over £700 for the Church fabric (which does really need it).

The fantastic volunteers that opened their gardens were George & Christine Brown, Ruth Kerr, Aileen Logan, Lucile Macleod, Rhona McGlasson, Bob & Betty Scott, Julia Stoddart, Margaret Watt, Jan Cameron.

You will find photos of some of the gardens through-out the magazine, they are not labelled but you may know where they are or can guess who they belong to.

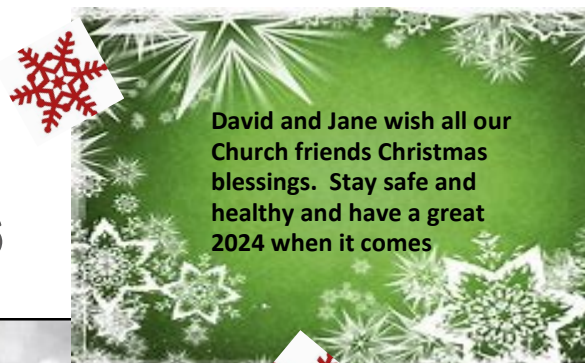


CARDRONA MEET & EAT

Cardrona Meet & Eat continues to delight those who come along with homemade soups, filled sandwiches and plenty of cakes. **It runs on the third Tuesday of each month (21st Nov and 19th Dec are the next dates) from 12-1.30 in Cardrona Village Hall.** While Pamela Kennedy coordinates this, it is firmly a Cardrona owned project and all volunteers (with the exception of our own Ruth Kerr) are Cardrona residents. Why not pop in this month? Donations welcome.



Christmas Greetings



Christmas Greetings





Photo from Open Day



“At our Traquair Kirk service in October it was a pleasure to welcome former moderator, Very Rev Colin Sinclair and his wife Ruth to lead our service at Traquair. Colin helped us continue our series in Acts as we looked at the story of Stephen.”

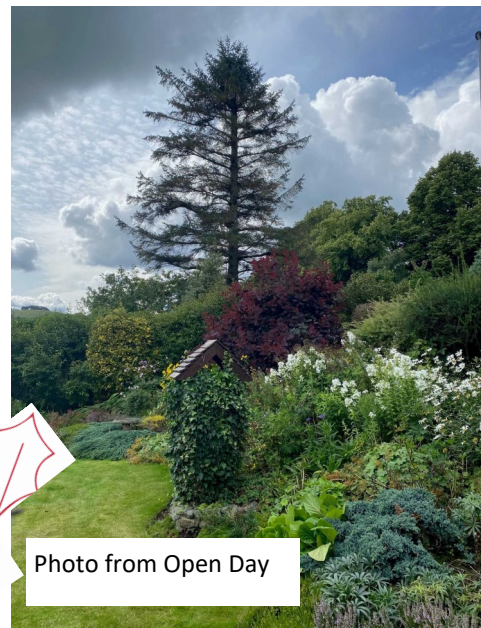


Photo from Open Day

Innerleithen Guild

At our opening meeting the Guild were entertained so well by Bill Harvey and the Ukulele group The Last Resort with Stuart Hendry and Gordon Confrey with many songs from the past the Guild reminisced and sang along to the Ukulele band

Our next meeting was with Pamela Kennedy who told us in great detail about her journey in life changing direction and heeding the signs as she was guided by God to follow in his path and train for the ministry. This was much enjoyed by the Guild including several new members.

Our next meeting is on November 6th at 2.30pm when we shall hear from Fiona Edwards about her “Journey to Innerleithen”. On **November 20th** we look forward to hearing the personal story of Joan Rose.

Before we know it it will be Christmas and on **December 11th** we shall celebrate with a Christmas Afternoon Tea.

It is most encouraging to see new members joining us but we still have room for more and shall be pleased to

Betty Scott

Christmas Greetings



"Malawi Reflections"

It's an astonishing seven months today since I returned from my first trip to Malawi and it's still never far from my mind. I've maintained a level of contact through WhatsApp and have an ongoing dialogue with several people I met whilst on the trip. I don't have a specific agenda and our communication has been conversational, largely conducted via photographs and videos. I've been surprised and delighted with the responses from Malawi, some of which I know have been shared with you. I particularly like the videos Reverend James sends, usually of harmonious singing. My personal favourites were taken at a service in the prison grounds. I remember us driving past that prison.

I love the photographs Mervis shared of her grandchildren. She told me that one of her daughters, Grace, has a small business to carry her through between terms (as a volunteer teacher she only receives " upkeep " during term times and has to find an income during the holidays). She makes coloured sweets from baob seeds and sells them to make sufficient for the day's food.

Rodrick mainly sends audio clips which are always upbeat, although I know he struggles. His latest, at the time of writing, was wishing Denis and David a safe journey to Malawi.

Christos has also sent through some interesting photographs of church-related work underway such as spreading fertiliser and baking bricks for the new manse.

I often find myself reflecting on how lucky we are in so many ways that we take for granted. We can turn on the tap and have clear water, safe to drink, at a temperature of choice. We can flick a switch and have light or power. There is definitely much to learn from our partners in Africa and I would love to go back to continue that journey."

Jackie Couchman



Photo from Open Day



**A
DREAM
COME
TRUE**

After wishing for many years that I could return to Malawi (dad, mum,

Brian and I went to live on Zomba Plateau when I was 9 years old) my dream finally came true!

Julie, Gordon, Ian and I finally set off on Sept 4th to visit 5 different places with a guide.

Denis had given us contact numbers so that we could arrange to go to Thondwe. Our experience there was very special. Reverend James, along with 4 church members and the Deputy Head of the school met us. They walked around their village with us explaining about their heartfelt gratefulness to ITW church and community for all their work and help.

We saw the impact of the ITW—Thondwe Church partnership, the bridge, school, chickens, goats, garden, teachers homes. We met Village Head Agatha, in the photo, who was keen to express her appreciation for repairing her home after Cyclone Freddy. We were greeted with huge, beaming smiles and great banter from all concerned. They very kindly provided us with a lovely lunch.

Their happiness, in spite of having so little is truly inspirational. It certainly left a huge impression on us.

Moira Lawson

Christmas

Christmas Greetings
peace and happiness to
Rev James Chigoli and
his family from every-
one in the ITW Parish
congregation

Greetings



TWO CHESS PIECES



In 1923, the exciting news got out that the Duke of York - later to become King George the Sixth - was to be married to Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, who had been brought up at Glamis Castle in Scotland. Two sisters, who lived near where the young Duke of York lived, decided to buy the young couple a wedding present. They sat down at their kitchen table and thought they could afford to spend up to £2 on this present.

They went from shop to shop looking for something special. It would be no good sending cooking-pots or towels or linen. Their present would have to be interesting and different. After a lot of searching, they saw in the window of a back-street antique shop two beautifully carved chess pieces - king and queen - which took their fancy. But how much would they cost? They could hardly believe it - exactly £2.

When the ladies returned home and opened their package, they were still very happy with their choice. They wrote out a little card wishing the royal couple much happiness, and sent the package off. A few days later they received a reply, thanking them for their present and inviting them to view the wedding presents up in London. The sisters looked forward to their special day out in London.

On the day appointed, they were shown through big rooms filled with glittering presents. All sorts of things were there - large presents, some very precious, some quite small. But nowhere could they see their present and as they came to leave they were feeling a bit disappointed.

But as they left via the final stately room, there, to their amazement, set out in splendid isolation, with a spotlight fixed on them, stood the two chess pieces on a marble pedestal! But that was not all. Beside them was a card saying that through the generosity of the two ladies, these two priceless pieces of King Henry the Eighth's chess-set, which had been missing for 200 years, had been found at last, restored to the Royal House, and the chess-set was once again complete!

The sisters were delighted to realise that their gift was the most valuable of them all. What made their chess pieces so valuable was that they belonged to a very special chess-set. And what makes each of us so valuable is that we belong to God.

Rev. David Taverner

(From "Ten Little Tadpoles" by Rita Snowden, pp 25-28)



Christmas Greetings

Christmas Greetings

Heather & Chris Martin
wish all our friends at
ITW a Happy Christmas
and a Peaceful New Year

Marion Cameron
wishes the Church
Family a peaceful and
blessed
Christmas

A Happy
Christmas and a
good New Year
to all my church
friends,
especially the
ones with
sweets! From
Stan Clifford

Christmas Greetings

Christmas Greetings





FUNDRAISING WITH FABLES



Robert Henryson was a Scottish poet in the 1400's who wrote thirteen fables in the style of Aesop. We know little about him – some say he was a headmaster in Dunfermline, others that he was a lawyer in Glasgow. He could have been both.

During lockdown I remembered how I had enjoyed the Fables at university and sat down to try to modernize them for the present day. I chose five of the fables and rejected others as being too wordy, or too satirical about the Law or about the Church. Henryson had a very wordy moral at the end of each fable, but I resolved to do it with a single verse.

I wanted to keep the original verse form which was known as Rhyme Royal. It's like half a sonnet - seven lines with a rhyme scheme (see box opposite).

It was used by Chaucer in the previous century and also by King James I of Scotland.

I wanted to write in an approachable Scots: not too broad and not too many strange spellings. Often it was hard to find three 'b' rhymes. I looked up the originals online under Moral Fables of Robert Henryson in a version where difficult words were explained. I composed about two verses each day and at the end I painted two pictures for each fable. Finally I had the five fables complete:

- The Twa Mice (Town mouse and country mouse)
- The Lion and the Mouse.
- The Cock and the Fox
- The Fox, the Wolf and the Fishman
- The Fox, the Wolf and the Farmer

This year I had them privately printed, mainly for friends, and with plenty of extra copies.

Then I had the idea that I would like to do some church fundraising with the extra copies.

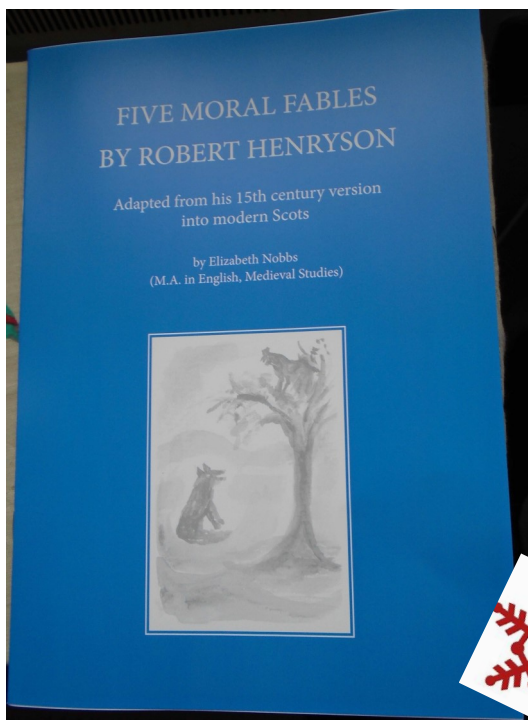
a
b
a
b
b
C
c

They are suitable for children, either to be read aloud or to be read by older children for themselves or by anyone who has an appreciation of the Scots language.

This is a sample of a verse from a story I didn't use, a description of a Scottish winter

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) The wynter come, the wickit wind can blaw, | 1) The winter comes, the wicked wind can blow, |
| 2) The woddis grene wer wallowit with the weit, | 2) The green woods were withered with the wetness |
| 3) Baith firth and fell with froistys wer maid faw, | 3) Both firth and fell were made mottled by the frosts |
| 4) Slonkis and slaik maid slidderie with the sleit | 4) Hollows and valleys made slippery with the sleet |
| 5) The foulis fair, for falt thay fell off feit, | 5) The fair birds fell off their feet with hunger, |
| 6) On bewis bair it wes na bute to byde, | 6) On bare branches there was no use to bide, |
| 7) But hyit unto hoosis thame to hyde. | 7) But hurried to houses to hide themselves. |

The books cost £10 each, but I shall pass all that money on to the church if a person from the church buys one. You can reach me at: nobbseizabeth@gmail.com or find me after the service on Sundays.



Fundraising with Fables

A couple examples of illustrations



SAMARA'S AID APPEAL UPDATE

First of all, thank you to everyone who contributed to the Toys for Christmas appeal. That appeal has now closed and I'll update you on the results once I hear from Samara.

Secondly, the situation in the Middle East has become even more fragile with the outbreak of hostilities between Hamas and Israel. Syria is on the fringes of this as well as being dropped down the news items once more.

The situation in the country is still terrible to the point where Samara, on her last recent visit to Syria, saw children raking through rubbish sites looking for anything remotely edible. Please remember that much of the infrastructure where she visits has been destroyed and not rebuilt. This means children are going through bags with human excrement has been thrown out. It can only lead to disease and death for those children and their families.

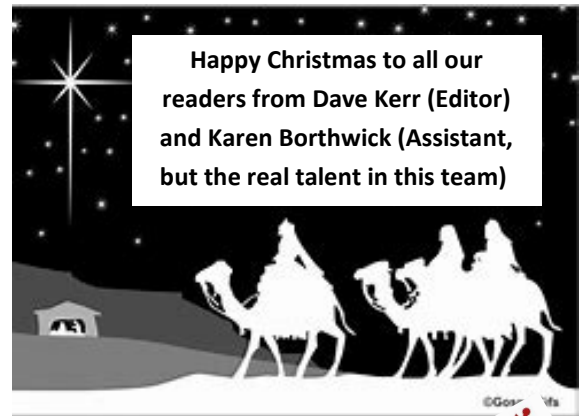
However, Samara and her team are determined to persevere and help these poorest of communities to improve their lives. The outreach centres and the volunteer teams keep working and see the benefits they give to so many of the most vulnerable around them. Children are fed and given an education and women are given skills that enable them to earn a living to support themselves and their family. The medical centre is highly praised and their services sought after. It makes the necessity of a larger hospital even more vital so that the most serious cases can be properly treated. The farming projects continue to thrive and where trees are growing the desert is being turned back to improved ground.

For a very small charity completely run by volunteers this is something to be thankful for and for us to be encouraged in our prayers. But Samara still feels the teams are being called by God to do more! There are plans to open a third outreach centre to help even more children and women out of poverty. The charity has made the decision to concentrate on this for now so will not be focusing on other projects, either fundraising or donating items to send out.. If you are able and want to support this new centre then please go to the website and donate to the General Fund on the Support Page or use the postal address to contact the charity. If you are able to donate to this project regularly then please set up a standing order. If you have any ideas for a fundraising event for us to help as a church, then please let me have your suggestions so that I can take them to the Kirk Session to organise something in the coming year.

<https://www.samarasaidappeal.org/> P.O. Box 5490,
Brighton BN50 8PE Charity No. 11717070)

Thank you, again, for your faithful prayers for Syria, Samara and her teams and for your generosity time after time.

Heather Martin (October 2023)



CHRISTMAS



Warmest Christmas greetings
from Jim and Marjorie Wallace.

"Glory to God in the highest"



GREETINGS

To all the
congregation, a
Merry and safe
Xmas and a Gid
New Year, John
Doherty



Wishing all my friends a
Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year.
Moria Brown





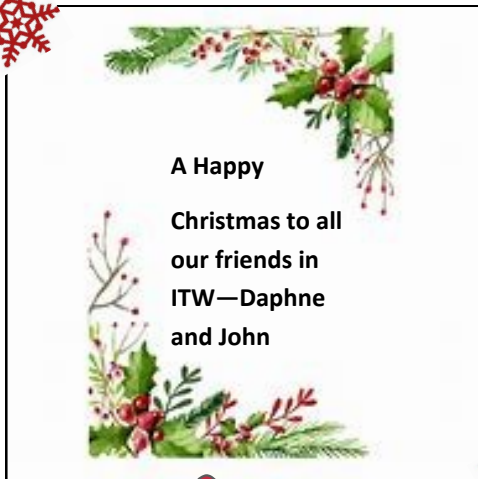
FACT

On 28th October 2023 the Fellowship And Care Team FACT held another very successful afternoon tea. Over 50 people attended and the great thing is no one seemed to want to go home! There were lots of traybakes, scones with Jam and cream, biscuits, cake and lots of other stuff , all fattening and delicious! There was lots of noise, chat and stories to be told.

There was also £300 raised for the fabric of the church although the fellowship was the real reward.



Congratulations to ...

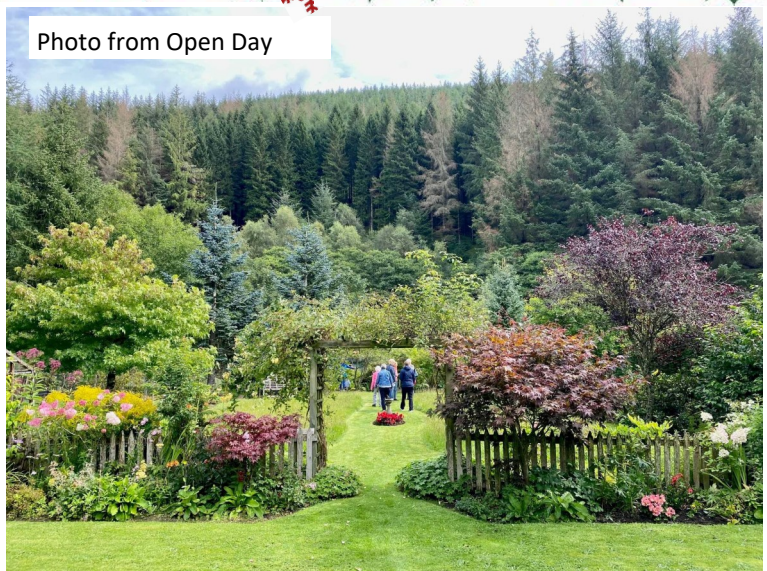


Tommy & Marjory Kennedy
celebrating your
50th
Wedding
Anniversary on
14th December 2023

Christmas Greetings



Congratulations



HARVEST SERVICE DONATIONS THANKS

On 1st October we had our Harvest service, the donations of food and money were given to the Peebles Foodbank, as you can see it was a tremendous response and the message from the Foodbank, shows you the happiness it generated.

We had an incredible amount of food donated, It was amazing to see everyone streaming forward with those donations on our Harvest Sunday and also for the tins that came rolling in afterwards.

That day we also received £310 in cash donations which is amazing. Marjorie Robson and I took the food to the Food bank where we were warmly welcomed and we saw their new home in Peebles in the County Buildings. I want to pass on very sincere thanks from the food bank to all of you.

They described our donation as 'Ginormous' and were delighted!

We learned that due to increased demand they are currently needing to buy one quarter of the food they need at a cost of around £1000 a month.

We will continue to maintain a food bank donation box in the vestibule and we'll keep a regular connection with them so please do use that box if you want to continue to donate.

Thank you once again for your donations, it was a privilege to pass them on and to know they will be well received.



Fraser Edwards



Photo from Open Day

Christmas

Margaret Watt
wishes everyone in the
church family a Happy
Christmas and a Peaceful and
Healthy New Year.

Greetings

A Happy and Healthy
2024 to all our friends
in the Church from
Sheilagh and Billy



Photo from Open Day



Photo from Open Day



Thondwe Update



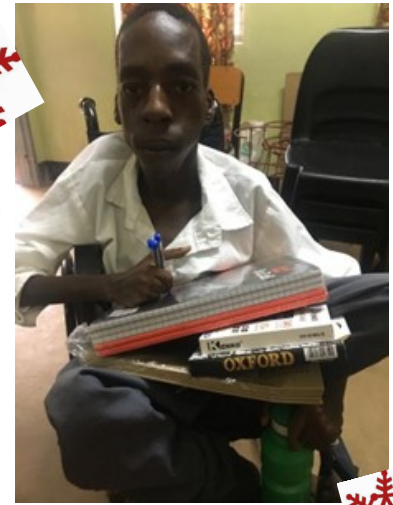
School Uniforms – a sense of pride!

Twenty children who would have been excluded from school were selected to receive uniforms supported by the prize money ITW Church received at the Games Week fancy dress competition and made by the Thondwe sewing group.



GET-IT Girls

The GET-IT girls are back at school and recently received their Ready to Learn material, backpacks, shoes, and notepads, preparing them for the new term. The first group are at a critical stage in their school studies and mentorship meetings have been organised. The partnership decided to pause the programme for one year and not commit to a new intake of girls this year as costs have been rising dramatically. However, be assured all girls currently in the programme will be supported until they leave school. Blessings also received his ready to learn material.



ITW Quilt – Moving Forward Together!

A beautiful quilt made by the Walkerburn group of embroiderers and quilters, Crafts4U has been shown around the community. It was taken to the Malawi group at the school, to the Rotary club and of course to the church congregation where it received a blessing before it made its way to Thondwe.

Thondwe Primary School Edible Garden

The Thondwe school garden benefited from a small grant courtesy of Sustainable Global Gardens. It covered the cost of fencing off the garden, tools, and equipment. The learners use the garden for practical lessons on tending the ground and growing food as part of the curriculum.



For the younger readers



Nativity Word Search

C A N O I T A V L A S D N S H S
 Q S H E P H E R D S R F A L L U
 R A T S A M T S I R H C T E J S
 N E M E S I W S H E E P I G O E
 J G N I K M A R Y G I U V N S J
 M O S Y I H X Q U R Q W I A E T
 D O N K E Y R E G N A M T D P M
 Z I L I N N K E E P E R Y O H F



angels
 Christmas
 donkey
 innkeeper
 Jesus
 Joseph
 king
 manger
 Mary
 nativity
 salvation
 sheep
 shepherds
 star
 wisemen



Kiltwalk Thanks

Ruth Kerr would like to say a great big thank you for all the support she received doing the Edinburgh Kiltwalk on Sunday 17th September, completing 15 miles from Musselburgh to Murrayfield. Ruth joined thousands of other walkers raising funds for their chosen charities and she was absolutely delighted to raise just over £800 for ITW Church Parish Church Mission & Outreach.



Thondwe CCAP is a happy congregation because of the children (Gen. 20:13). God first loved us so we have to love Him back.

love that ITW parish demonstrates towards God and his

As we are going to the end of 2023 Thondwe CCAP would like to send best wishes to you ITW parish congregants. CHRISTMAS is coming, everyone should be prepared by showing love towards a wife, a husband, a son, a daughter, and a brother and sister not forgetting a grandparent.

In our partnership ITW has given us houses for the elderly, Church garden, chickens, goats, cows, hymn books and Bibles, school library, teachers houses,..... just to mention a few.

We are blessed by receiving visitors from there every year and as we are writing, Denis and David are on their way to Thondwe, WELCOME. Long live ITW parish and Thondwe CCAP Partnership.

Rev James, On behalf of the congregation



Christmas Services

Sunday 26th November:

Malawi service, with a report from Denis & David on their recent trip to Thondwe, Malawi

Saturday 2nd December:

Switched on Saturday, Christmas Carols in Innerleithen Church to follow switch on parade.

Sunday 3rd December:

10:30am – First Sunday of Advent: Gift Sunday, (see separate notice) all age service and a church lunch!

2:30pm – Lives to Remember, a chance to pause and remember those who we love that have passed away.

Thursday 7th December:

at Traquair – We are delighted that this service will be led by Rev David Taverner.

Sunday 10th December:

Enjoy some of your favourite Christmas Carols with St Ronan's Band. Please invite a friend to join you for this service.

Sunday 24th December:

Cardrona All Age Family Service at 4pm
Traquair Kirk – Carols by Candlelight – 7pm

Sunday 17th December

Innerleithen 10:30am – Once again we attempt a no-rehearsal nativity which will have a part for everyone to enjoy!

Monday 25th December:

A short all age service for Christmas morning. Bring along a present to show everyone.

“SAY IT WITH FLOWERS”

I think we have used that heading each year and each time I try to think of something different. However, the more I think about it, the more I decide that in fact the gift of flowers for whatever reason, 'says it all'.

Throughout the parish we are privileged to share flowers with members of the congregation and the wider community for many different reasons. Each recipient expresses gratitude at being thought of in times of joy or in times of trouble. As they look at the flowers they are reminded that they are not alone.

Thank you to everyone who has donated flowers or money this year.

There will be a Flower Diary for 2024 at the back of Innerleithen Church during the month of December. If you wish to donate flowers, please write your name beside your chosen date.

If you know of anyone who would appreciate some flowers, please tell the minister or any of the 'flower ladies'.

Wishing you all Peace and Joy at Christmas and Good Health in the coming year..

Julia Stoddart



DEATHS

Olive Davidson	19/05/2023
Janet Higgs	25/05/2023
William Haddow	23/06/2023
Helen Haddow	03/08/2023
Kevin Dodds	03/08/2023
Gordon Melrose	07/09/2023
Alice Dobson	27/09/2023



I'M SORRY GUY, I KNOW THAT YOU'VE GOT A GOOD HEALTH PLAN AND YOU GIVE OUT FREE GIFTS AND ALL, BUT JESUS REALLY DOES HAVE A MUCH BETTER PLAN

12-19-1997



ADVANCE WARNING

Articles for the next magazine our Spring Edition!.... can be sent to Karen or David at any time - **deadline 08/03/24**

Email is great if it is possible.

<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>
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