



# NEW HORIZONS

Spring Edition

2024



[www.itwcos.org](http://www.itwcos.org)

Innerleithen, Traquair and  
Walkerburn Parish Church

## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



A busy time for all, I had the thrill of travelling to Malawi again in November, I hope most of you heard my stories at the special service we had when Denis and I got back. During that trip we came up with the idea of a special appeal for Christmas, based very loosely on the 12 days of Christmas and the idea of giving to a charity for a relative or friend “for those who have everything”. We named it the Gifts That Give Back! GTGB. As you can see, by the sheet in the magazine, it was a roaring success, all of the money (approx. £3400) has been transferred to Malawi (except the money for the bridge repair which will start next month) and all the gifts have been purchased and distributed and the congregation and villagers of Thondwe are delighted with the gifts we have supplied. The ITW congregation should be very proud of such a wonderful response to this appeal.

*Note: to the congregation, its that time of the year, we will have the “ASM” (Annual Stated Meeting) on **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March** straight after the service, it should not take long, and the annual accounts and the various committee reports will be available for anyone who attends.*

Dave Kerr, Editor



What an amazing time we’re having at Cardrona Meet & Eat, the monthly lunch in Cardrona Village Hall! Recently we have had around 50 people come along each time.

Everything is homemade by Cardrona volunteers and there’s a real buzz as people chat with friends old and new. All ages are very welcome. **It happens on the third Tuesday of every month, putting it at 19th March and 16th April, from 12-1.30, and is donations only.** Come along and sample Cardrona hospitality at its very best!

Pamela Kennedy

## CARDRONA MEET & EAT



## CAN YOU HELP?

I’m making a 60-minute documentary that explores the rapid changes in Innerleithen, capturing the essence of growth, renewal, and pride through the stories of those involved, affected and invested in the past and future of Innerleithen.

My journey is to understand and document the community's response to significant developments, aiming to bridge communication gaps and foster a sense of unity amid change.

The film will incorporate interviews and footage, to provide a comprehensive visual narrative. To that end I'm looking to speak with people who would be able to help with research into the Mill that closed in 2018 and maybe even people who worked there.

Also anyone that wants to comment on the development of the mountain biking in Innerleithen.



Please let me know if you can help or have any comments to add!

Alex Whittle 07980833114

*Editor comment, I am sure most of you know Alex, but just in case you don't, he is a regular attendee and sits at the right front of the church with his Wife, and there 3 children (little girl and 2 young boys)*

## NOTE FROM THE MINISTER



Dear Friends

I love this time of year as the bulbs begin to push through the ground and the days grow in length. There’s always something encouraging and hopeful about Spring as it brings new life all around us and reminds us that we’re fortunate to live in such a beautiful place.

We want to see that same renewed hope and continued growth in our church too. We want to see the first shoots of faith pushing through in new places. For some that is through discovering faith for the first time and the Alpha course has been a great way to do that. We meet each week and consider some of the big questions of life and see how God speaks into our lives through the Bible.

For others it’s about continuing to grow in maturity in our Christian faith. If the trees and plants grow a little more each year, then that should be the same for us. We’re never fully grown, never perfect and have never learned all that we need to know.

What do you need to grow? We need to be in good soil, we need to be part of the church community to help us grow. It isn’t very easy to be a Christian on your own so meeting with others and being part of the church is so important. If health and mobility allow, then prioritising being together at church will help us all to grow.

We also need to be fed and watered. That can be different for different people. A number of us found it helpful to meet to chat about our recent studies in the book of Job. Being able to share our questions, our faith and our doubts with others can be really helpful. Sometimes it’s through reading a book, talking with a friend or listening to worship music.

I love to hear what helps you to grow in faith so please let me know. If you have a book or music recommendation, then let us know and we can share them in the next edition of the magazine.

Jesus often spoke using metaphors of growth, for example the parable of the sower (Luke 8), the wheat and the tares (Matthew 13), faith like a mustard seed (Matthew 17) and then very directly in John 15:5

*I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.*

So I wonder are you growing in your faith? Growing closer to God and growing more like Jesus? What do you need to do this spring time to match the growth we see all around us?

Fraser

### MHK (Mentrual Health Kits)

This is a picture of the Girls that received the MHK last Sunday at the Church as part of the Gifts that give back initiative. This is only part of Phase 9 which has just finished, there will be more about this in May when we have a special Service and a fund raising walk with tea and coffee after.



# EASTER IN CARDRONA

**FUN FOR UNDER 11S (AND THEIR GROWN UPS):**

**CRAFT, BIBLE STORY, SONGS  
STAY ON FOR FOOD TOGETHER**

**CARDRONA VILLAGE HALL**

**FRI 29TH MARCH, 4-5.30PM**

**COMPLETELY FREE**



**Cardrona  
Connections**

## EASTER SERVICES

Maundy Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March – Traquair Kirk 7pm.

Good Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March – Innerleithen Church 7pm. -

Cardrona Village Hall 4pm. Messy Church style of worship.

Easter Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March – Alexandra Park Walkerburn  
8:30am.

Innerleithen Church 10:30am, - Silver Band playing.

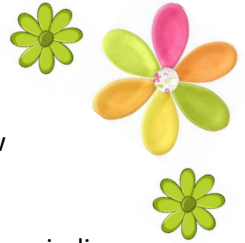
## CHRISTMAS EVE CARDRONA SERVICE

The best turn out yet at the Cardrona Christmas Eve service, we ran out of chairs! And we have 80 of them, everyone joined in, even Fraser was spotted with a crown. It was a fabulous service and well attended by the local villagers!





## INNERLEITHEN GUILD



The second half of our programme seems to have passed so quickly as we now approach our last meeting, our AGM.

In January Aileen Borthwick told us of the changes in Education and Teaching qualifications, reminding us of our days at school so long ago. The bad weather in January caused our Scottish Celebration to be postponed until February when we enjoyed an afternoon of Scottish Fayre followed by some entertainment by our members interspersed with favourite Scottish songs.

Ross McGinn returned to show slides of the various churches in Innerleithen over the years from the 17th century to the present day. Some members had happy memories while others not born and bred here learned about church connections in the town for the first time. Our last speaker of the session was Rev June Johnstone from Walkerburn telling us of "an encounter with the wilderness" as she trekked for 5 days along the Fish River Canyon in South Africa.

Our next important date is on **March 23rd** when we are having our Project Coffee Morning to support this sessions project Starchild supporting children in Uganda with intellectual and physical disabilities. Finding the light in every child.

As the summer approaches we look forward to our outing to the Green Tree in Peebles for high tea on **May 20th** bringing an end to a busy but most enjoyable session 2023-2024.

*Betty Scott*



## GUITAR GROUP

Sparked by a conversation with Bill Harvie at last year's Alpha, ITW now has a guitar group. The group, now comprising 7 guitarists, has led on a few worship songs on Sunday mornings and three of the group have led worship at Walkerburn. Most recently, 6 of the group led for the whole of our Cardrona evening service (pictured). The group comprises some who have played for a number of years and some who have only recently dusted off their guitar.

Do you play, or did you in the past? Have you considered joining the group? Or do you play another instrument that would work well alongside the guitars! Don't be shy - join us and let's make a joyful noise to the Lord!

*Pamela Kennedy*





# SAMARA'S AID APPEAL TALK MARCH 2024

This is a short summary of a talk I gave at Church on 3rd March. Thank you to everyone who donated to the Appeal at lunch. The official total was £305.20 but I know a few folk were donating later as they couldn't be at the Church lunch that day.



The slides I used for the talk focused on the wonderful renewal of barren land.

Slide 1 showed barren land - a desert where nothing was growing. It was bought by the Appeal to start planting and to help feed the local community. Many trees have been cut down for fuel in Syria but this led to soil erosion and a lack of land to grow anything.

Slide 2 showed where trees and grass were planted in the soil. The irrigation system uses solar panels to help water the trees and plants.

Slide 3 showed how seasonal crops had been grown. These feed the local community and crops like broad beans can be dug back in to help fertilise the soil - chemical fertilisers are scarce and too expensive.

Slide 4 showed Samara standing in the same area as the desert ground in the first slide. Now trees, grass, and even weeds, are growing. The soil is helped by all the root systems to bind the soil so stopping erosion and helps retain rain water.

Slide 5 showed a magnificent growth of grass - my lawn never looked that good! The folk who own the neighbouring lands around these fields were also so impressed with how well everything grows, they are now imitating the methods and improving their own soil.

Slide 6 showed a big pile of traditional 'mud' bricks. Building with cement and steel is also very expensive and hard to come by. Making their own bricks means a building can be much cheaper and also keeps a traditional skill alive. The plan is to use these bricks to build the next rural based outreach centre for the charity.

Slide 7 showed a traditional building using a beautiful dome for a roof - Samara is not sure the outreach centre can be built this way. Again, it's a skill that's now almost lost. But watch this space.

Please continue to pray and support Samara, Dr. A, Dr. Miriam and all the teams (all volunteers). They are grateful for all that we do to support them and for the very vulnerable folk in Syria. Life is not easy in Syria and, as Samara recently told me, "People are hungry, angry and desperate".

*Heather Martin*





## REND COLLECTIVE CONCERT

Being a huge fan of Rend Collective- a Northern Irish Christian Folk Rock worship band, hailing from Bangor Northern Ireland, who now reside in USA- I was so excited to see that they were doing a UK Tour 2024. Owing most of their CDs and seeing them twice in concert, I had to go!

I thought it would be great if a group of people from ITW Church would also like to join Andrew and I to go to the O2 Academy Edinburgh, on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024 to celebrate Rend Collective's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary—Campfire Tour. My quest to share my excitement and enthusiasm began, "Rend Collective, they're a Christian Band, they wrote and sing 'My

**Lighthouse', they're great, you'll love it!"** After advertising in Church and the Church News, 17 of us headed on a Road Trip to Edinburgh. Pamela filled her van- named the 'Party Bus' and the rest of us followed in cars.

After standing in a giant queue, freezing, we all finally made it inside. Rend Collective did not disappoint – a concert filled with Praise and Worship to our Lord! Words were up on a screen, allowing everyone to take part in the singing. You may recognise some of the songs that we have sung in ITW Church, 'Boldly I Approach The Throne', 'Rescuer', 'Build Your Kingdom Here' but the highlight of the evening has to be, 'My Lighthouse'. The whole place erupted! It was such a joy to be singing 'My Lighthouse', with over 2000 people alongside friends from ITW Church (some of us feeling the urge to do the actions that Fraser had taught us). This was a very special moment. I asked Rebecca Irvine what she thought about the concert: "I had the best time. From being slightly hesitant to attend at first, I'm so glad I did because the atmosphere was just incredible! I'm already looking for their next concert!"

*Julie Knox*



## WORSHIP IN CARDRONA

During January and February, we have been exploring questions that Jesus asked. There are plenty to choose from! During each evening there has been some space for people to reflect and pray on how they might respond to Jesus' question for themselves. Here you'll see some of the prompts to support this time as we considered our answer to Jesus' question "Who do you say I am?"

*Pamela Kennedy*

## LIVES TO REMEMBER

On 3<sup>rd</sup> December we held our Lives to remember service, we had a good attendance, and some very nice comments about the feelings and comfort the service brought to attendees.

Thanks to all who helped make this possible.

*Fraser*



25/02/2024		FINAL RESUME OF THE GIFTS THAT GIVE BACK								
GIFT #	NAME	DESCRIPTION	BENAFACTORS	TOTAL £ SENT	TOTAL SENT	KWACHA	ACTUAL TOTAL DONATED	DIFFERENCE		
GIFT 1	WRINKLY ROOF	Replace leaking and destroyed thatched roof with new corrugated iron roof	5 Houses Bena BiNali Kettie Magwira, Eneless Kalombola Emmanuel Sathawa & Agather House	£ 1,275.00	MWK	2,906,800.00	£ 1,250.00	-£ 25.00		
GIFT 2	MAIZE FOR HUNGRY	Desperate need to supply MAIZE for the families who have no stored maize (washed or blown away by Freddy)	60 Families were supported in the first batch	£ 327.00	MWK	745,000.00	£ 331.25	£ 4.25		
GIFT 2	MAIZE FOR HUNGRY	Second instalment, after extra donations	Even more families adding to the 30,000 left over from the first batch	£ 63.00	MWK	172,500.00	£ 62.50	-£ 0.50		
GIFT 3	TEXT BOOKS FOR SCHOOL	Supply text books for the school, we had hoped to supply 6 sets of 9 books, ie 54 books, we actually were able to supply 190	SUPPLY, Standard 8 (final year) with 90 books, Standard 7 with 73 books and Standard 6 with 20 books, plus teachers guides	£ 205.00	MWK	467,400.00	£ 205.00	£ -		
GIFT 4	New Get-IT girl	Education for at least 2 terms in Secondary school, for someone who's family cant afford it	YOU donated enough to send this girl to secondary school for the full 4 years!, Money shown is for first term only, the rest will be sent as each term approaches	£ 70.66	MWK	161,800.00	£ 70.66	£ -		
GIFT 4	Next 3 years		REST OF THE YEARS	£ 554.34	MWK	1,263,895.20	£ 554.34	£ -		NOT SENT YET
GIFT 5	Fertilizer	Supplying fertilizer to the families that lost all their crops so that they have a better harvest this coming year.	Distributed to 5 needy families	£ 107.00	MWK	245,000.00	£ 112.50	£ 5.50		
GIFT 6	GOATS	Supply a goat to families, on the PAY FORWARD principle, where the family give their first offspring to another family and so they grow the village herd.	distributed 7 goats to families 1. Evelyn Ligomeka 2. Cecilia Jimusole 3. Hanna Nkhoma 4. Catherine Maluwa. 5. Peter Bonongwe 6. Prince Mgala 7. Lucy Mkwatula.	£ 154.00	MWK	351,120.00	£ 200.00	£ 46.00		
GIFT 7	Chickens for the Chicks for Grannies programme	To supply at least 5 chickens to more "Grannies" so we can increase the village flock	114 chickens were shared to another 22 families	£ 249.00	MWK	570,210.00	£ 255.00	£ 6.00		
Gift 8	Bicycles	Supply bicycles for the Session, so that elders etc can more easily visit the congregants	2 new bicycles bought	£ 250.00	MWK	570,000.00	£ 250.00	£ -		
GIFT 9	Solar House light	Supply some houses with a solar light that will light up the whole room	3 units supplied 1 family of Phalyce 2 A Teacher's house 3 The pastors house.	£ 132.00	MWK	300,000.00	£ 150.00	£ 18.00		
GIFT 10	Solar lamps for learners	Supply solar lamps to the school, who will then rent them out (for a few pennies) to learners to take home and do homework	48 new lamps bought and given to the School	£ 264.00	MWK	600,000.00	£ 270.00	£ 6.00		
Gift 11	Menstrual Hygiene Kits (MHK)	Supplying MHK for girls that are in their final year of Primary school (16 years old)	13 Girls were supplied at the beginning of 2024	£ 130.00	MWK	296,400.00	£ 130.00	£ -		
Gift 12	Bags of cement	bags of cement to help repair the bridge, which so many pupils need to get to school	24 bags were donated, these will be held until the bridge repairs begin, probably late April, after rainy season.	£ 237.00	MWK	540,000.00	£ 237.50	£ 0.50		NOT SENT YET
Private	anonymous	Food and support for an individual		£ 180.00			£ 180.00	£ -		
D Brown	2024 donation	Gift 2 (second instalment) above								
			TOTALS	£ 4,198.00	MWK	9,190,125.20	£ 4,258.75	£ 60.75		
		what has been actually sent		£ 3,406.66	MWK	7,386,230.00	£ 3,466.91			
		Still to send		£ 791.34	£	1,803,895.20	£ 791.84	£ 60.75		
	Christmas Greetings in MAGAZINE	Collected and used for Christmas Party for Sunday school children + gifts for 10 elderly members who can not attend church due to illness		£ 153.00						

## GTGB (GIFTS THAT GIVE BACK)



### GET-IT Girls

The ten girls are thriving and keep us informed of their progress. The Christmas appeal provided enough to cover the cost of another girl for the duration of her secondary schooling. Miriam was selected by Head teacher Annie as she was having to leave St Anthony's school after one term due to issues with paying fees. Her mother, a single parent was also struggling to feed the family, so they also benefited from a 50Kg bag of maize.



### SolarAid

Lack of lighting has a detrimental impact on Thondwe children's learning because it's difficult to study after dark. The SolarAid SK Pico solar light provides about an hour of reading and safe for children to use. Together with IWT Rotary we are trialling a simple system administered by the librarian who rents out the lights to learners for a few pence. Income generation opportunity for the school. The 20 lights involved does not meet demand.



## Christmas Party

Thank you to

everyone who sent their Christmas greetings through the Horizon Magazine with a donation. It provided the first Thondwe CCAP children's Christmas party for many years. Over 130 children played games, enjoyed food together and listened to pastors speak about the meaning of Christmas. It also provided much needed nourishment to 10 elderly church members who cannot attend due to infirmity.



### Thondwe Girls Project

Solomon and the Thondwe Girls Project sewing group are busy making the next partnership order of washable, reusable menstrual hygiene kits. 150 girls at Thondwe school will receive these colourful kits over the next few weeks.

### Church Garden

After a short dry spell, the rains have returned, and the community has been out applying the fertilizer provided before our Christmas appeal. We are hopeful of a good harvest in April if this weather continues! The Christmas appeal supplied the same fertilizer to the community for their home gardens.





## BORDERS FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP - CHRISTMAS VOUCHERS



We wanted to take this opportunity to offer our sincere thanks to you and your congregation for your very generous donation of supermarket vouchers to Children and Families social work department.



While Mission Christmas does an amazing job of ensuring that every child has a Christmas present on Christmas Day, we find that families really can struggle throughout the year. Your vouchers really do help. We have been able to provide families with vouchers throughout the year for a variety of different reasons and wanted to give you an example of these.

We have found that many working families who are not in receipt of welfare benefits and as such are not entitled to financial assistance for school uniforms have struggled this last year to buy the necessary clothes and equipment for school. As such we have supported families with your vouchers in order to allow them to buy uniforms, school bags, lunch boxes, stationary etc for their children.

We have been aware of children who although invited to birthday parties could not attend as their family couldn't afford to buy a birthday present and thought it inappropriate for their child to attend without taking a gift. Your vouchers have bought a gift and allowed children to have fun with their friends at parties.

We have used your vouchers to buy easter eggs for children who otherwise wouldn't have had one.

We have ensured many children have received a gift from their parents on their birthday by using your vouchers.

We were able to creatively support a young person who really wanted to ride a horse. We provided her mother with your vouchers in order to free up money to enable her to pay for the pony walk. This way the family were able to buy groceries with the vouchers and use their budgeted grocery money to pay for the pony walk.

The summer holidays can be a tricky time for many families. We have been able to buy picnics and simple outdoor toys for families to enable them to have a day out during the holidays.

Although we would always approach Peeblesshire Foodbank when a family are struggling to buy groceries, there are some occasions when this is not possible, particularly in emergency situations. We have used vouchers to buy food for families. We have also been able to use your vouchers to buy baby formula and new equipment for families coming home from hospital with their babies.

There have been a number of families that have benefitted from your vouchers in a way that has allowed them to decorate their child's bedroom and buy new bedding. This has been helpful for young people particularly who are transitioning into teenagers and want to individualise their space in a way that reflects they are growing up.

These are just some examples of how the vouchers have been used and your kindness makes a huge difference to our families. We would like to express our thanks and hope to have shown you how lives have been touched by your kindness.

Many Thanks for your generous donation.

Yours sincerely, C&F Team

**Total raised was £970**





## DEATHS

Charlotte Paton  
Lilian Smith  
Sheila Wilson

07/01/2024  
28/01/2024  
10/02/2024

## ADVANCE WARNING



Articles for the next magazine our

Summer Edition!.... need to be

submitted by **Friday 31st May 2024.**

These can be sent to Karen or David  
at any time before this date. Email is  
great if it is possible.



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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.