



NEW HORIZONS

Innerleithen, Traquair and
Walkerburn Parish Church

Winter Edition

2024



www.itwcos.org

Editors letter A full magazine for this edition, thanks to all the contributors, and special thanks once again to Karen Borthwick who puts it all together for us.

The ITW Church is a hive of activity these days, it is good to see so much happening. The Church is being used 5 or sometimes 6 days a week. The Thondwe Church is also busy and you can see the various reports and activities that have been going on over this last year.

Thanks to everyone and happy Christmas and have a good New year when it comes. *Dave Kerr*

Say it with Flowers—December 2024

During the year we have been able to share in the good times and the not so good times in the lives of many people by giving a bunch of flowers and reminding them that the church is there for them.

Thank you to all of you who have given flowers in the past year. There will be a list in church during December for people to choose a date for 2025 or you can phone me, Julia Stoddart 01896 830410 if you are not going to be in church and I will make sure your name and chosen date go in the diary.

Thanks also to Linda Bruce for her many lovely arrangements over the years.

If you would like to join the team please speak to any of the people named below.

Best wishes for Christmas and the coming year.

Linda Bruce, Lucile MacLeod, Marjorie Robson, Betty Scott, Julia Stoddart and Marjorie Wallace.

Warm Wednesday Update

Warm Wednesdays started up again for young families in October 2024. We now meet from 10.30 to 2.30pm on alternate Wednesdays for young parents and their toddlers / babies.

We are working in partnership with the community cafe run by C.A.B and Peeblesshire Foodbank, who meet on the same day from 9am to 12 noon. This partnership seems to be working well to date, and the services complement each other.

We have had 3 new mums and babies with the promise of another 2 or 3 in the coming weeks.

We still have a number of loyal volunteers which help this project to run.

The funding from last year should probably keep us going until the Spring.

The participants continue to appreciate this service and are becoming more competent in using the slow cookers and sharing recipes.

Some of our parents use the services of C.A.B. And the Foodbank.

Shirley Bean

Save The Date Church Social

Friday 24th January 7pm

A social evening for all ages
celebrating Scottish music,
poetry and dance

Christmas Greetings

The Minister, Session Clerk,
the Session, Guild and all the members
of the congregation of ITW Parish
Church wish everyone and all the
congregation at Thondwee a very
Happy Christmas and good New Year

Christmas Greetings

Minister's Letter

I am aware that by the time the magazine is published we will be well into our approach to Christmas. It's a busy time of year for everyone and there is always so much going on and so many things to do. That can be exciting and brings lots to look forward to.

When you read this magazine, I'm sure you will also become aware that there is also a lot going on in ITW and it is becoming quite a busy place. This is also exciting and gives us lots to look forward to as well.

However, both the festive season and church life can sometimes make us a little too busy and this can be tiring and take our focus away from where it should be.

It's important during Advent and Christmas that we don't lose sight of the most important truth which is the good news that Jesus came to be Emmanuel, God with us. Jesus came to take on our human form and to know all the struggles of human life, including what it was to be tired and busy. In his life, death and resurrection he brings us new life, and life in all its fullness. Similarly in our church life it's important that we don't end up being busy for the sake of busyness. Instead that we are working to serve God and to do the things that He is leading us to. So, we look to God to guide our steps and give us wisdom for the way ahead. To do new things might mean we stop old things or do other things differently. Everything we do is for God and through God.

Please continue to pray with us for all the different activities of the church but pray most of all that through each one we will all grow in faith, know God better and share the love of Jesus.

Perhaps you haven't been to church for some time and this would be a good time to come back and explore. There's always a warm welcome for you and our church services are a relaxed gathering of our church family.

Perhaps there is something in this magazine which just strikes a chord with you. Could you be involved in something new. Is God nudging you to do a new thing, or to change what you are currently doing?

During Christmas and in church, try not to be so busy that we drown out God's voice or lose sight of Jesus at the centre of all we say and do.

Fraser

Coffee Club

Peeblesshire Foodbank have launched a Coffee Club in Innerleithen Church and Walkerburn Public Hall. This will alternate weekly between the two locations and it is held between 9am and 12. Free hot drinks and home baking, friendly faces and a warm welcome.

Peebles and District Citizens Advice Bureau will be on hand to give advice and help with any problems too, so we hope to see you there. All welcome!

Future dates

- Walkerburn – Thursday 28th November
- Innerleithen - Wednesday 4th December
- Walkerburn – Thursday 12th December.
- Innerleithen – Wednesday 18th December



Christmas Greetings



Christmas Greetings

Christmas Greetings

Bob and Betty Scott would like to wish all members of the congregation Christmas Greetings and best wishes for good health and happiness in the New Year

Christmas Greetings

A Great Friend Lost!

It was with great sadness that I learnt that Winnie Watt has passed away, Winnie was a regular contributor to the magazine, I was always delighted to see her simple messages, with great meaning, her little stories always with a meaning and her wonderful poems. She had such incredible talent, Winnie will be missed by so many, her family, her friends, the Church and all those that knew her. Here are just two examples of her posts from 2019 and 2017.

Editor

Peeblesshire Youth Trust Hampers

This year we were asked to collect diluting juice, beans and spaghetti. There has been a great response and the donations will soon be collected by Peeblesshire Youth Trust (PYT). Our donations will be added to items from lots of different organisations so that hampers can be produced.

Closer to Christmas these hampers will then be delivered to families across Peeblesshire and help to make Christmas a special time of year.

Thank you for your donations.

Beautiful World

This world's so full of beauty,
Don't pass it by each day
Ignoring all the wonders
Beside you on your way.
The dancing day of Springtime,
The Summer's comely face.
The burnished gold of Autumn,
The Winter's silver grace.
Bestowed with loving care,
So Stop and see the beauty
That's here for all to share

Winnie Watt

Only a story

*I like this
memorable story that appeared in
a magazine*

A man spent most of his life long-
ing to go to Heaven. Eventually he
died and an angel took him on a
conducted tour of majestic moun-
tains, sparkling streams, fern-filled
forest and green meadows.
Children were laughing and
playing, and music filled the air.

"So this is Heaven?" said the man
"How wonderful!" "No," replied
the angel. "this is the world you
lived in --- and never saw."
As I say it's just a story, but sure
has a message for us today.

Winnie Watt

Meet & Eat Community Lunch

An initiative started in Cardrona Village Hall in January 2023 to encourage folks to socialise and enjoy lunch too. ITW Church helped Cardrona Village Association by providing crockery, utensils, soup pans, cutlery & more from Innerleithen church kitchen and some volunteers to join the Cardrona volunteers. ITW also co-ordinated arrangements, a role done by Rev Pamela Kennedy (which linked well with 'Cardrona Connections') and then passed to Ruth when Pamela moved to Inverness.

We currently welcome folks from Eddleston, Peebles, Innerleithen and Cardrona (once we even had a couple of motor bikers touring Scotland from Cardrona in New Zealand !). Lunch is for ALL in the community and we would be delighted to welcome you for lunch wherever you happen to stay. Lunch menu includes choice of soups, sandwiches, lots of yummy sweet treats and tea or coffee. All food is made and served with care by volunteers so A BIG SHOUT OUT to all the volunteers who help in any way. We now have pinnies emblazoned with Meet & Eat (a gift from Pamela before she left) and we proudly wear them as part of the 'M&E team'.

Lunch moved weekly to monthly and is now held on the **third Tuesday each month – come along any time between 12 noon – 1.30pm**. There is no charge for lunch but donations are welcome and folks having lunch have donated so generously that we were able to fund purchase of soup bowls, plates, mugs etc. A cupboard in the village hall kitchen was shelved and all equipment is safely stored there – so no full car loads rattling up to Cardrona from Innerleithen on a Tuesday now! Funds also help pay for Tweed Wheels to transport folks who don't have access to a car or public transport. If you would like to come to M&E lunch and need help getting there, please contact Ruth on 07845 122356.

Christmas Meet & Eat lunch is on Tuesday 17th December 12noon – 1.30pm
when there will be a wee festive theme. Hope to see you there. Ruth



Friends for life!

My name is Annie Siyani Mangulenje, former Headteacher for Thondwe primary school in Malawi , central Africa. I joined the Thondwe community on 27 April 2019 and I always take it as my second home because of the precious moments that I had with the people in the area. During my familiarization tour, I met different people which included Scottish partners/ friends who were led by the coordinator for Scotland Malawi Partnership, Denis Robson the great. Through him, I was prevailed to interact with various friends from Scotland like Davie Kerr , Jackie Coachman, John Mullen, Joana , my colleagues in profession, Nicola and Shirley Bean, Murray Charters and many more. Most importantly, I was really blessed to meet the moderator of the general assembly of the Church of Scotland, Rev. Dr. Shawn who surprised everyone by sparing his time to visit the Thondwe community and me Annie Headteacher in order to appreciate how the Church and school are doing to enhance their partnership with Scotland. From all these individuals, I have learnt a lot of things that have also helped me improve individually and professionally like.



- . Oneness
- . Giving
- . Respect
- . Integrity
- . Commitment
- . Tolerance
- . Cooperation/collaboration
- . Some cultural practices like dances/ festivals / foods
- . Most importantly, unconditional love



I shall never forget the precious time we have cherished together. To God be the Glory. *Annie*

Mountain Biking

A wee group from ITW have started meeting up to get out on our bikes together. We’ve met twice and enjoyed heading along to Glentress and round some of the trails. Anyone would be welcome to join us for future rides.

Please speak to Fraser to be added to the WhatsApp group.

Christmas Greetings

Christmas Greetings and all good wishes for 2025,

Ruth and Matt Kerr

Christmas Greetings



School Feeding Programme

The Thondwe Primary school suggestion box was filled with learners saying they were hungry! This prompted an investigation and support for a school feeding programme that we hope will run for the Hunger months, (3 months from January) when food is scarce. A School Feeding council has been formed involving teachers, PTA officials and community leaders.

Critically a sponsor family from America has come forward to cover the cost should we decide to go ahead. Much needs to be done especially to upgrade the unhygienic church kitchen, buy large cooking pots and get the community volunteer cooks sorted out.



Solar Study Light Success

A Christmas Gift that Gives Back that has been a great success and hugely popular with school learners. The school librarian Emmanuel Damiano manages the 68 torches received and tells us of the improved pass rate of standard 8 learners reaching 87%, a much-improved reading culture and a considerable sum was collected in rental income towards school projects. We are striving in 2025 to reach 100 lights and resolve operational issues.

This impressed the Moderator of the Church of Scotland during his visit that he has adopted it for his Moderators Challenge "Shine a Light" which will be aimed at all of Malawi, not just Thondwe.



Moderators Visit

One of the memorable features of the August visit to our Twinned church in Thondwe by the Rt Rev Dr Shaw Paterson was the official opening of the Naiwale bridge, damaged during Cyclone Freddy last year preventing 1000 school children from crossing safely each day on their way to primary school. An essential bridge repair re-establishing a safe connection between the surrounding villages and the school. The rebuilding work provided important work for the community, safe access to the clinic and market in the nearby trading centre.



During his visit the moderator presented The Thondwe CCAP church a special tile, It was delivered in a Tartan bag, and the Thondwe Session have had them both mounted in a wooden frame and it now hangs on the wall in the Church



**MALAWI
UPDATES**



Malawi Updates

Malawi Updates





FRUITFULNESS ON THE FRONTLINE

Fruitfulness on the Frontline is an 8-week course, that ITW Church has ran from September to early November. There was a fantastic response from within the Church, nearly 30 people signed up to do the Course. Each week we thought about our frontlines- about the people and the places that are part of our everyday lives and how we can represent God and live out our faith in those situations.

We were challenged to re-think how we would respond to Jesus' call to be His disciples.

The sessions were based around the letter 'M', which became known as the 6 Ms.

1. Modelling Godly Character
2. Modelling Good Work
3. Ministering Grace and Love
4. Moulding Culture
5. Mouthpiece for Truth and Justice
6. Messenger of the Gospel

We found the Course to be a time of blessing. We shared fellowship, we had a time of Worship, and we grew together in our Group times. There was no pressure for people to share but as the weeks passed, the trust that had built up in the Groups, allowed for a relaxed atmosphere to develop. It was also helpful that Fraser preached about Fruitfulness on the Frontline on Sunday mornings. We were able to listen to his sermons before we discussed each 'M' on the following Wednesday. So really, we as a Church, have all done the Course!

Of course, the 6 Ms don't finish just because the Course has. Individually and corporately, we want to be displaying the 6 Ms on our frontline daily. We know that this can be real challenge for us all, but we are reminded of the promise from God –

“And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:20



COMMENTS FROM PEOPLE ATTENDING THE COURSE

“This course made me realise how often, even the littlest things we do or say are so important when it comes to demonstrating the love, peace and justice of God in our everyday lives. Love the fellowship of Church Wednesday too!”

“Church Wednesdays have been a great way to listen to others' stories of faith and share our joys and struggles and encourage one another. The course has really made me think about my daily life outside church activities and being more mindful of Jesus in my everyday life.”

“Although I haven't been able to make it to all of them, as a new member at ITW I have found Wednesdays a great way of getting to know more people in the church, getting to have deeper conversations than Sunday coffee time after the service allows.”

“My 'Church Wednesday' journey started with Alpha and continued with other courses on Wednesday evenings. We have just concluded 'Fruitfulness on the Frontline'. I can't say completed, as it's a journey for life. Wednesday evenings are a very special time where we listen and share our stories and grow in faith. I would encourage anyone thinking of 'Church Wednesdays' - you are never too young or too old to start your journey. It has been so good that Fraser has shared our 'Fruitfulness on the Frontline' weekly topic with the congregation at Sunday Service. A thread running through our shared faith journey each week.”

“Love my 'Church Wednesdays' they have completely changed my life for the better. I have made many new friends and reconnected with some friends from the past. Always miss 'Church Wednesdays' when we are having a break. Fruitfulness on the Frontline has been a really good course and it's been so good that Fraser has been sharing it with the congregation as well.”

“I love our 'Church Wednesdays'. We have become a real support network for one another. Over the years I have learned that I need a midweek top up to keep me going between Sunday services. They literally 'feed my soul'.”

“I sought comfort this morning whilst reading St Luke 4:18-20 in Jesus' words, after his 40 days spent in the wilderness battling with the enemy. Spending time going over my notes, asking what individual disciplines might help me personally to continue to reflect on my 6Ms? Going through my bible leading me to the passage.”

“Although I haven't attended many sessions, I have thoroughly enjoyed the ones I have and took comfort from what I do in my daily life, be it at home or work. It is all part of God's plan for me, which prior to 'Fruitfulness', I had never thought about God's plan. As always, love the fellowship of Church Wednesdays.”

Andrew Knox



Walkerburn Supports Thondwe Welding Business

Church elder Besta Sitawa who runs a welding business in Thondwe market benefited from a much-needed grinder donated by DCB Welding design. This will allow Besta to grow his business and support his family.



MALAWI UPDATES

Strive in 2025 to install 10 Wrinkly Roofs

We are constantly reminded of the damage caused by unpredictable weather events effecting communities like Thondwe. Therefore, the partnership will continue to support the conversion of thatch with metal roofs. In 2025 we will strive with the help of Rotary clubs to upgrade the homes of 10 more families that have been identified by the Twinning Committee. During the October visit Nicola met Florence whose roof was recently repaired and was given a "tour with great pride" of her home.

Harvest Donations to Peeblesshire Food Bank

There was a great response to our harvest appeal for the food-bank. It was a privilege to be the delivery driver and enjoy a cup of tea at the foodbank but all the thanks goes to the generosity of the congregation for the harvest donations. Your donations weighed in at 134.9kg which is amazing!

Fraser



Christmas Greetings



Christmas Greetings

Christmas Greetings

The Lighthouse Project

The Kirk Session are keen to expand our work with children, families and young people and so we have begun working on a new idea which we have called The Lighthouse Project.

The song 'My Lighthouse' has become something of an anthem for ITW Church and in the Games Week fancy dress parade we entered a large group. The song speaks of trusting in God's promises and shining in the darkness which sums up our vision. We want to be out in the community engaging in a range of activities and sharing our faith. As a lighthouse shines light outward we want to be a church that shares the love of God out into our community.

We are beginning fund raising applications to try and raise the money needed to employ someone to work specifically with children and families. They would support our own church families and also look to work in partnership with other community groups.

To start this process, we're going to begin a community consultation and we hope that early in the new year we can host an event to bring together all the different child & youth organisations working in the parish. Through this we hope to learn from each other and also to identify the strengths we already have and recognise the needs there are in the community.

Please pray as we seek wisdom for the right way forward for this project. Raising the funds for a full time salary will be a challenge but we want to continue to build on the good work you'll read about in the rest of this magazine. We hope and pray that we can shine an even brighter light in our community.



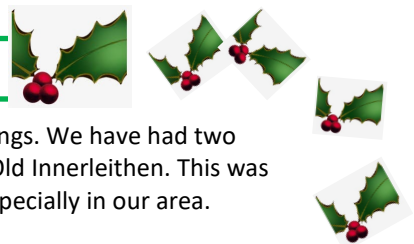
FACT

The Fellowship and Care Team hosted an afternoon tea on Thursday, 26th September.

Transport was provided for those who needed it and there was a good uptake of this offer. The church was packed, so much so that we had to put up an extra table! We invited Jim Wallace and his musical partner Don Cameron along with Robin Wilson and friends to provide some music throughout the afternoon and this proved a great success. Standing at the back of the church looking round there were feet tapping, hands clapping, faces smiling and many singing along. The atmosphere was lovely and the enjoyment of those there was very evident. We also managed to raise £522.



Guild News



Our session began in October being entertained by The Last Resort with many well known songs. We have had two excellent informative meetings, the first from Ross McGinn with facts and illustrations from Old Innerleithen. This was followed by a talk from Shani Sedgwick from Walkerburn about the fascinating life of Bees especially in our area.

We are now looking forward to two more talks—the first from Ruth Sinclair on her time as the Moderator's wife and a second from David Taverner about the Channel Islands. Our 2024 programme finishes with our Christmas Afternoon Tea along with some seasonal entertainment. Our programme continues in 2025 when we shall be delighted to welcome anyone to our meetings.

Betty Scott



Parallel Lives

Walking down Leithen Road last week, I noticed that a small square inspection hatch in the pavement was leaking clear water. I telephoned Scottish Water to report this fault. At the time of writing (some five days later) the area around has been blue-marked as an indication someone has been out to take a look, but the water still runs freely down the road. It looks clear and my guess is that it's of drinking quality.

Coincidentally, my good friend Mervis in Thondwe sent me a couple of video clips showing her well, undergoing repairs. On further enquiry I found out that the well was 15 metres deep and had broken and been out of order since April. Mervis told me that she'd been drawing water from a nearby stream. This water then had to be boiled, cooled and sieved before being used; a long process. The repair was to take three days and cost KM40,000 (£17.78 according to Google's currency converter).

I have nothing but admiration for Mervis. She demonstrates incredible resilience and self-reliance.

The only experience I can draw on to give me a wee insight into her predicament was when, at the age of 19, I lived for a time on a boat on the Grand Union Canal. All our water had to be carried along the towpath for around half a mile. Water is heavy! A gallon of water weighs 8.34lbs or 3.785kg.

Just pause for a moment and ask yourself how you would manage without running water.....?

Jackie Couchman



Christmas Greetings

Christmas Greetings



Margaret Watt wishes everyone in the ITW church family a Happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year.

ALPHA 2025

ITW Parish Church are excited to announce that we will be running our 3rd Alpha Course, starting in January 2025.

Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith. No pressure. No Charge. If Christianity is new to you, or you have questions about your faith, or you just want to explore the meaning of life, then Alpha is for you!

What is it?

Each of the 10 weekly sessions begins at 7.00pm with tea/coffee, cake and chat. A chance to get to know others on the course. We then watch a video for half an hour, looking at different aspects of the Christian faith, including for example:

'Who is Jesus?', 'How can I have faith?', 'Why and how do I pray?'

Then there is the opportunity to hear from others and contribute your own perspective in an honest, friendly, non-judgemental and open environment.

When does it take place?

An Introductory Evening will take place on:

Wednesday 8th January, Innerleithen Church of Scotland, at 7.00pm. Hopefully we can break the ice with a short film. You are not committing to the whole course by coming along to the introduction. **If you then decide that you would like to come along to Alpha, it starts weekly Wednesday 15th January, Innerleithen Church of Scotland, at 7.00pm-9.00pm.**

If you are interested or want to find out more, please talk to :

Fraser Edwards, Fiona Edwards

Email: FEdwards@churchofscotland.org.uk

Andrew Knox, Julie Knox

email: andrew-w-knox@hotmail.com

Christmas Greetings

Christmas Greetings



To all my Church friends and family, a very Happy Xmas and a Good 2025,
Enid

Christmas Greetings

News from Samara's Aid Appeal

Thank you to everyone who donated to Samara's Aid at the Harvest Celebration service. Ruth Kerr received this message from Sue, who volunteers on the financial side of the charity, and works closely with Samara:-

"We were delighted to receive the generous donation of £355 which came into our General and Transport account from ITW Church on 28th October. We are so grateful and this will be such a help to our work in Syria.

The needs continue to grow, with thousands of refugees now crossing the border from Lebanon and arriving in the area where Samara's Aid has projects and distribution centres. These people are in addition to the thousands of people that we are already supporting in Syria.

We were hoping to offer support by providing some meals for the refugees but there are simply too many of them. However, we are delighted to have just opened our 2nd Medical Centre - in the area where many refugees are arriving - and plan to offer medical care to those who are in need (both refugees and local Syrian people). We have recruited doctors but still need to purchase various items of equipment, so your gift will be very helpful in taking this work forward.

Please pass on our warmest thanks to everyone who has contributed to this kind and generous gift. We can't tell you how much we appreciate and value your support.

With best wishes, SUE"

Samara also sent an updated newsletter about the current situation in the areas of Syria the charity is working in. Both Lebanese and Syrian refugees continue to pour over the border. If Lebanese families have sufficient funds with them then they can manage to find adequate rented accommodation and pay for food. But those who come without means, as well as the returning Syrians, are finding circumstances very difficult. Any accommodation they can find will be places that are hardly suitable for living through a winter - barely four walls and a roof; fuel is rationed and extremely expensive (which they can't afford); and food is also expensive. Most medical centres will charge for services and can be prohibitively expensive, hence the need for the second medical centre built by the charity. There are stories of Lebanese choosing to return to their own country despite the risks of the bomb strikes as Syria is in a worse state than their own. The newsletter also tells of a wonderful story of the lady who teaches hairdressing in the outreach centre. I hope I can share that another time. But if you want to read it now then sign up for the newsletter (or ask me to send you my copy) from the website:- www.samarasaidappeal.org

Please continue to pray for the volunteer teams distributing aid and serving in the outreach centres. Also pray for the two medical centres that they will recruit suitable staff and be able to buy the equipment needed to make even more of a difference in this troubled land.

Thank you for your generosity and your prayers.

Heather Martin

Gift Sunday 1st December 2024

This year we are once again supporting The Family Centre with the wonderful work they do throughout the year in supporting needy families all over the Borders.

If you would like to help, the best way is for us to buy gift vouchers either from Asda or Tesco (these were suggested by The Family Centre) or by donating money which can then be used to buy vouchers.

The Family Centre share the vouchers with families for lots of reasons, perhaps to help give a child a happy birthday or to provide treats for a day out or wherever there is a need.

This year the need is even greater than before.

If you wish to donate vouchers, please make sure to write on the value of the voucher. Donations of cash should be given to Ruth Kerr in an envelope marked Gift Sunday, cheques should be made payable to ITW Parish Church of Scotland and Gift Sunday written on the back.

Please help in whatever way you can.

Last year, The Family Centre workers were overwhelmed by the kindness of our congregation.

Julia Stoddart

I wanted to introduce you all to the Session Clerk in Thondwe CCAP



Brown as well as his normal duties, which are many, also took on the management of all the Gifts That Give Back (GTGB) money that we sent to Thondwe last Christmas and was spent in early 2024. This was a very large task and involved managing the purchasing of 12 Gift packages including;

6 new Wrinkly Roofs,
Maize to feed the hungry,
Textbooks for the school,
A New addition to the Get-IT Girls,
7 Goats for the pay forward scheme,
42 new Chickens for 8 new Grannies,
2 Bicycles,
Solar House lights,
Solar Lanterns for School Children (Learners),
13 Menstrual Hygiene Kits,
Bags of cement for the Bridge repair.

All of this totalling over 8 million Kwacha (£3500) approx, all accounted for with receipts etc.

Brown and his team also then managed the Contractor for the Bridge repair which totalled just over 13 million Kwacha (£ 5000) Higher exchange rate because of Kwacha devaluation.

For this he managed all the money and was able to come under budget. A fantastically difficult job, during a time of price fluctuations, and devaluations. He demonstrated very strong leadership and honest endeavour and for this we thank him and his team. A true servant of God and a real friend of ITW Thondwe Partnership.

Dave Kerr (editor)

School uniforms for Malawi

As some of you know the kids are not allowed to go to school in Thondwe without a uniform, so each year we send some money to the Sewing Group and ask them to make 10 uniforms for Girls and 10 for Boys, these are then given to 20 kids, whose parents find it difficult to afford the uniforms and so allow them to go to school. This shows this year's uniforms being made.



The Sewing Group



Catherine

Annie



Solomon (Annie's Son) & Margaret



Christmas Greetings



Happy Christmas and good health in 2025 to all my friends and family. Praying for a more peaceful world.

Love from Shirley Bean



Christmas Greetings



The Kirk Session and Congregation are very grateful to Martin Hobbs and his small team of volunteers that completely redecorated the exterior of Traquair Kirk. Martin was instrumental in obtaining the paint used at a very good price on our behalf. The team also treated the wooden table and chairs at the rear of the building as well as painting the main gate.

Again, grateful thanks to the team for all their hard work.

Jim Borthwick Session Clerk



Traquair Kirk Letter

The considerable work of repainting the outside of Traquair Kirk, both walls and woodwork, was recently undertaken by Volunteer Martin Hobbs and his team of helpers. As someone who lives nearby, I would like to express hearty thanks to Martin and all those involved, for making the Kirk look so bright and beautiful again. All the neighbours have commented on its sparkling appearance.

Traquair Kirk is an historic building that has been serving the community of Glen, Traquair and beyond since 1778. Its origins stretch right back to 907 when there is thought to have been a church on or near the site. In 2028 we are hoping to celebrate the part the current building has played over 250 years, with members of the community and invited

Ishe Schofield.

Christmas Greetings

A Happy Christmas to all
our friends in ITW.

Daphne and John

Christmas Greetings



Christmas Greetings

Christmas Greetings

Hope all our friends at ITW
Church have a Happy Christmas,
from Heather & Chris Martin

Christmas Greetings

HELLO, MY NAME IS MEMENTO CHIGOLI,

and I am excited to connect with you from Malawi. I am 26 years old, and I am eager to explore opportunities for collaboration and growth in Scotland.

I hold a Bachelor's degree in Theology, which has equipped me with a strong foundation in critical thinking, communication, and community engagement. Additionally, I am currently pursuing a University Certificate in Education, which will enhance my teaching and learning skills.

As a motivated and dedicated individual, I am passionate about harnessing my skills and experience to make a positive impact. I am confident that collaborating with Scottish partners will not only broaden my horizons but also enable me to bring valuable insights and perspectives back to my community in Malawi.

HERE IS MY STORY A JOURNEY TO THONDWE

Denis and Nicola arrived in Malawi with a sense of purpose that overshadowed the excitement of their surroundings. The warm sun bathed Thondwe in a golden glow as they stepped off the car, greeted by the laughter of children playing nearby.

Their mission was clear: to share their teaching skills at the local primary school and empower the community with knowledge and resources. As they walked toward the school, the vibrant colors of the painted walls caught their eyes. Each mural told a story of hope, resilience, and the dreams of the children who spent their days within.

At Thondwe Primary School, the headmistress, Annie welcomed them with open arms, gratitude shining in her eyes. "Your presence here means so much to our children," she said. "They are eager to learn."

Denis and Nicola quickly settled into their roles. They organized workshops on creative teaching methods, encouraging local teachers to engage their students in new ways. Nicola's passion for storytelling captivated the children. Traditional songs and dances were performed. Denis introduced hands-on activities that made learning fun and he went through the villages chatting and helping the needy. Laughter filled the classrooms, bridging the gap between cultures and creating bonds that transcended language.

With each day, Denis and Nicola felt more connected to the community. They attended a Sunday service at the local church, Thondwe Parish on 20th Oct, 2024 where vibrant songs of praise echoed through the walls. The congregation welcomed them, sharing stories of faith and resilience. It was a reminder of the strength found in community and the power of giving.

As their time in Thondwe came to an end, Denis and Nicola gathered the children for one last workshop. They encouraged them to dream big, to see education as a gateway to a brighter future. "You are the leaders of tomorrow," Nicola declared, her voice filled with emotion. The children responded with cheers, their faces glowing with determination.

Leaving Thondwe was bittersweet. They promised to return, knowing that **their hearts would forever be tied to this beautiful place**. As they boarded the car, the children and community members waved, their voice ringing in the air _a melody of hope that would stay with them long after they departed.

The story writer: MEMENTO CHIGOLI

Christmas Greetings

Good health and happiness
to all my friends and family
at Christmas time and in the
New Year.

Rita Bean

Christmas Greetings

Christmas Greetings

Fraser, Fiona, Anna & Matthew wish you all a very happy Christmas
and thank you for all your support and encouragement.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE, FROM THONDWE TO ITW PARISH.

Merry Christmas and Happy New year greetings should go to all ITW parish members.

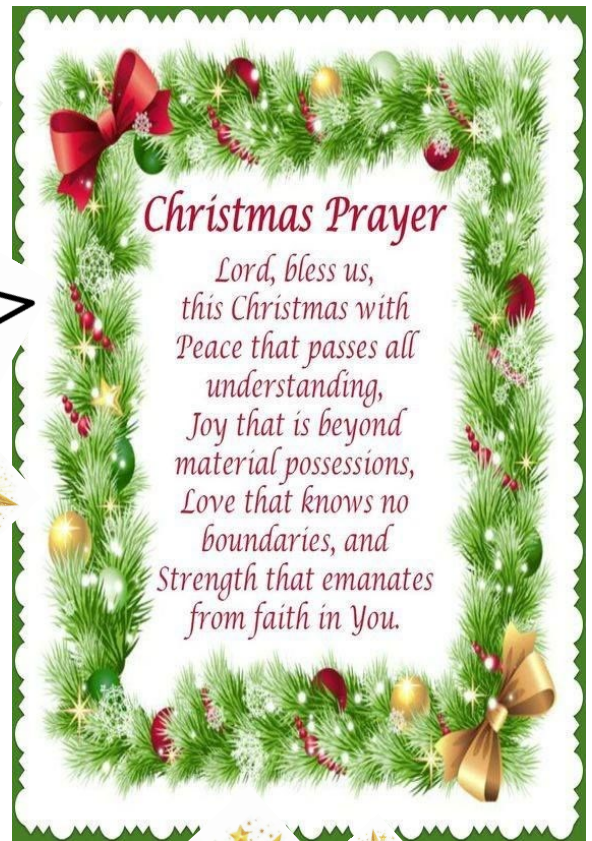
And at the same time, may I take this opportunity to congratulate, Dave, Denis, The Moderator of Scotland and the entire ITW parish members for the good relationship which we are having. The year ending 2024 has been a wonderful and successful year, for both the people of Thondwe and Scotland. A number of things and activities have been done. And also a lot of money have been pumped in, in various projects, like to school, we have desks, solar lamps, maintenance of staff houses, buying school uniforms both for primary and secondary students,

From the church also a number of activities have been done like, the chicken project, goat project, roofing the wrinkles houses, Bibles football jersey's.

And the climax of everything it's when the Moderator of Scotland visit us and open the bridge which was built with the financial assistance from ITW parish.

Once again we're wishing you a very merry Christmas and Happy New year to all ITW parish members.

With love from Brown Namakhwa. Session clerk



Margaret and Ian Lunn would like to wish all their friends a Happy Christmas and a good New Year.

Christmas Services

- ◆ **Thursday 5th December:** Traquair Kirk.
- ◆ **Saturday 7th December:** Switched on Saturday: Carols in Innerleithen Church after parade.
- ◆ **Sunday 8th December:** Innerleithen Church 10:30am.
- ◆ **Sunday 15th December** Innerleithen Church 10:30am. Walkerburn Public Hall 2pm.
- ◆ **Sunday 22nd December** Innerleithen Church 10:30am. Silver Band.
- ◆ **Tuesday 24th December** Cardrona Village Hall 4pm. Traquair Kirk 7pm.
- ◆ **Wednesday 25th December.** Innerleithen Church 10:30am
- ◆ **Sunday 29th December** Innerleithen Church 10:30am.

Christmas Services

Christmas Greetings

Christmas Greetings

David and Jane Kerr wish all of their friends and family a very happy Christmas and a very healthy new Year.

Christmas Greetings

Christmas Greetings

Christmas Services

90th Birthday, Thanks

Thank you so much to everyone for their cards and greetings on my 90th Birthday. To receive a lovely basket of flowers from the church was a lovely surprise too. I had a lovely few days celebrating with family and friends.

Much love

Rita Bean

Christmas Greetings



Wishing all our friends peace and joy at Christmas and good health in the coming year.

Julia and Graham Stoddart

Christmas Greetings

Enjoy a little Festive Fun for all ages!

Christmas

word search puzzle

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| Q | N | O | R | C | E | O | Y | S | P | I | A | N | H |
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| Z | W | X | H | M | J | T | A | B | D | H | Z | E | K |
| H | O | L | L | Y | M | R | E | S | Q | T | B | R | B |
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CHRISTMAS
JESUS
HAPPY
JOY
BRIGHT
WINTER
HOLLY
SNOW



DECEMBER
ELF
EVE
SANTA
COOKIE
BELLS
BIRTH
TREE



FUNERALS

Michael Hudson 2/10/24

Winnie Watt 14/11/24

ADVANCE WARNING

Articles for the next magazine our Spring Edition!.... need to be submitted by **Friday 28th March 2025**. 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.