



# NEW HORIZONS

Innerleithen, Traquair and  
Walkerburn Parish Church

Summer Edition

2026

Charity No:

SC001100

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

## Editors note:

We celebrate the recovery of our own minister Fraser Edwards who gave us a wee scare with an inner ear infection and probably gave his family, especially Fiona an even bigger scare. We also celebrate the safe return of Denis, from Malawi, with lots of stories, we have put some of these in the Magazine you are holding right now, more will follow. We also celebrate the return of that big yellow disc in the sky and its warm rays shining down on us, it really is so pleasant having a walk or sitting in the garden or on the Church bench when the air is warm and just about everybody is smiling! I have included pictures (page 3) of the "session room" (the area just inside the big side door) where you can see the newly painted floor and walls thanks to Martin Hobbs, and you can just see the new hand rail on the far side of the spiral stairs done by David Barbour and finally the new "burning Bush" planted by Jim Borthwick, our very own, not so, secret Gardener, it is thanks to these members and many more that all the wee jobs around the church are done.. Thanks to all of you

Dave Kerr

## SPECIAL WEDDING ANNIVERSARY AND BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

Andrew and Julie Knox celebrated their  
40th Wedding Anniversary in  
March

Jacquie and Mike Lamont  
are celebrating their Ruby  
Anniversary (40 years)

To Colin and Evelyn Graham,  
congratulations on your 65th Wedding  
Anniversary

Happy Birthday  
Andrew Knox  
on celebrating your 60<sup>th</sup>

Congratulations to David Kerr  
on your 70<sup>th</sup> birthday

## Letter to the Editor

I always enjoy reading New Horizons when it drops into my inbox. I like the church coloured lighting featured in several pictures - especially the Malawi Flag themed lighting.

It is good to know that the Malawi work continues to go from strength to strength. I was delighted to learn that Lois Hindley (with help) managed to raise so much for the girls in Thondwe and I was so pleased to see Bill Harvey being remembered in such a tangible way. An interesting read from Jack Kellet too.

Janice and I are enjoying retirement in the countryside near Carlisle. We have a daily walk in the countryside and I have recorded almost 100 different bird species using the Merlin App on my phone. Today, I added a Yellow-Legged Gull to my list - an occasional visitor from the Canary Islands and other similar areas.

Despite being retired I travel a couple of times a month as a lay committee member of the Law Society of Scotland - keeping Scottish Solicitors in order. (thank you to Ian Brown for introducing me to that). Janice keeps herself busy preaching a couple of times a month in one of the local Methodist Church, St George's URC in Carlisle and the Border Kirk in Carlisle (Church of Scotland). She also provides pastoral cover when the Border Kirk Minister is on holiday. I have managed to steer clear of church audio-visual except during Covid for the Border Kirk and more recently when the URC was having problems with its newly installed system. However, I still create and run the powerpoints in URC and local Methodist when Janice is preaching so the great work done by the team of typists in ITW in typing all the hymns in CH4 is still being put to good use alongside a substantial library of hymn videos.

Keep up the good work!

Paul Faris



# MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

Dear Friends,

We are just past Pentecost Sunday, and summer is beginning to settle in around us. The longer evenings and the slower pace mean it's a good time to pause and take stock.

Pentecost is the moment in the church calendar when we remember the coming of the Holy Spirit. In Acts 2, the disciples were gathered together and suddenly everything changed. Wind, fire, and a group of frightened people becoming something altogether different. It can be easy to think of that as a one-off event.

Something dramatic that happened once, a long time ago, to other people. But the New Testament is clear that the same Spirit who came at Pentecost is still at work. Not just in the big dramatic moments, but in the quiet and ordinary ones too.

This summer, I want to encourage us to expect that. To look out for the Spirit at work in the everyday things. A conversation that takes an unexpected turn towards faith, a moment of peace in the middle of a difficult week or a nudge to reach out to someone you haven't seen in a while. These things are easy to put down to coincidence but can be the Holy Spirit at work.

In John 14, Jesus promises his disciples that they will not be left alone. The Spirit, he says, will be with them and with us. That promise hasn't expired.

So as you head into the summer months, whether they bring holidays and rest or the usual busyness of life, I'd invite you to begin each day with a simple prayer: *Come, Holy Spirit*. Stay open to God's work in your life and see what happens.



I look forward to hearing what you notice.

Fraser

## BE STILL

On Wednesday evenings we have been working our way through the 'Be Still' course which has encouraged each of us to have a quiet time with God each day.

Here's a wee extract from the materials about how to have a quiet time.

How to have a 10 minute quiet time (using P.R.A.Y.)

**(1 min) Pause** – sit quietly for a minute, stilling your soul.

**(2 min) Rejoice** – read a short Psalm or listen to a worship song.

**(3 min) Ask** – Tell God what's on your heart. Pray through your day. If you have a prayer list or use the 24-7 Prayer Inner Room app quietly name each person before God.

**(3 min) Yield** – Read a few verses from the New Testament, until a phrase pops out at you and then talk to God about it. Are there any sins you need to confess? Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you afresh.

**(1 min) Amen** - Pray the Lord's Prayer.



Fraser

## POEM

What is Love, by Emma K Age 6

Love is when your missing some of your teeth  
But your not afraid to smile  
Because you know your friends will still love you  
Even though some of you is missing.



**Editor comment, the children can always teach us something!**

## ITW Three Peaks Turing Day Challenge



Last year I visited St Anthony's Secondary School in Thondwe, Malawi. I was so impressed with the ambition and creativity of Headteacher Felix and Depute Head Maria. With the help of the Turing Trust ( [www.turingtrust.co.uk](http://www.turingtrust.co.uk) ) they have been able to start a computer lab of refurbished desktop PCs.

However, there is no internet connection in the school. A computer lab without the ability to go online seems unthinkable in the UK. We know that access to online learning would open up lots of important opportunities for students in St Anthony's. We are also working with Dr Catherine Chavula from the University of Strathclyde to allow for research opportunities.

Therefore on Alan Turing Day (23<sup>rd</sup> June) Denis Robson and I are going to tackle a sponsored walk to try and raise the **£1000 needed to get the computer lab online**. Turing has often been called the father of modern computer science, so it seems an appropriate day.

During the walk we'll visit our three places of worship in the parish, Traquair Kirk, Walkerburn Hall and Innerleithen Church and in between each we'll climb a hill in each part of the parish, taking in Minch Moor, Pirn Craig and Lee Pen. It's a walk of over 15 miles so we'll need the benefit of a long June day!

Please give generously to a cause that will make a significant difference for the education of the students at St Anthony's Secondary School.

Donations can be given in church or online <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/itwthreepk>



Rev Fraser Edwards

### PICS FROM EDITOR

"Burning Bush"  
planted by  
Jim  
Borthwick  
At Innerleithen  
Church Gate



Newly painted  
floor and walls  
courtesy of  
Matin Hobbs  
and new  
handrail David  
Barbour



21ST - 28TH JUNE 2026

Congratulations to  
**Festival Lad**  
**Levi Hunter**  
and  
Essay Winner  
Esme Amos

**Festival service is Sunday**  
**21st June at 10:30am**

(No service at  
Innerleithen)



## Guild Report Summer 2026



The remainder of the guild session continued to be a success. We had a visit from Crossreach who shared the progress of support given to young families in different parts of Scotland. We bade a fond farewell to Betty Scott who retired from being president and Marion Cameron who retired from being syllabus secretary. They have both served the Guild in ITW well for a substantial time. Marion will continue to be a valued part of our committee and we wish Betty well in her new ventures as she moves from the area. We also thank Margaret Watt for her years of commitment to the Guild as a committee member and former treasurer.



Shirley has taken on the role as convenor and looks forward to working with the new committee which has been joined by Dale Welsh who is new to the committee. In March, Shirley and Ruth attended the borders Guild Gathering in Duns and it was lovely to meet guild members from across The Scottish Borders. Ruth and Shirley volunteered to host the next Guild gathering in 2027.

Our coffee morning was a great success and we thank everyone who was involved in organising it and to those who came along to support us. A magnificent sum of over £775 was raised.

Our Guild session ended with a high tea at The Green Tree - what a lovely evening that was. Guid food in guid company. **We look forward to the next guild session which will begin on Monday 5th October at 2.30pm** when we hope to welcome old and new members. In the meantime, the committee will be working hard to plan a varied programme for 2026 / 2027.

## ST RONAN'S WEEK 2026 - 11TH - 18TH JULY



Standard Bearer Ally Norman  
Standard Bearers Lass Emma Laws



Congratulations and wishing everyone a great week



Lady Busser Grace Turnbull



Principle Guest Alexina Hamilton



Sunday 12th July  
Opening Church KIRKIN Service  
11.00am



# THONDWE NEWS SUMMER 2026

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

Charity No: SC001100



EMAIL [itwparishmag@outlook.com](mailto:itwparishmag@outlook.com) for any comments or questions



## Thondwe Primary School

We would like to thank the Peebles Walking Netball group, Shirley Bean and Janice Lees for supporting the girls with new Bibs and balls. A shout out now to local football clubs' youth teams for kit?

## Hope for the Future- Unlocking the potential for learning

The BEFIT (Building Education Foundation through Innovation and Technology) programme that provided 200 tablets to improve numeracy and literacy due to a shortage of teachers and textbooks is proving popular and successful. There's a need for floor mats to protect the tablets from dust and earphones to reduce the noise level.



## Girls Toilets and Changing Rooms

The learner to toilet ratio of girls at the school is a staggering 1:100 and this falls drastically short of the recommended standard of 1:20. Long queues and lack of girl friendly changing facilities are given as one of the reasons for school absenteeism. Teachers Gertrude and Upile will help us improve conditions for girls in 2026/28. A Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) programme will be introduced with soap.

## School Improvement Fund

The partnership responded to an appeal to provide school materials like notepads, pens and flipchart paper to compensate for funds used to complete the refurbishment of the borehole.



### St Anthony's Secondary School

The provision of seats for the computer lab was a considered a priority and 75 were delivered marked ITW-Scot. Discussions on helping get the lab become Wi-Fi connected is the next challenge.





### **Classroom Improvement and Maintenance**

This has been a priority since we started the partnership and much has been achieved together with a library, desks, teachers houses and the water borehole. More recently we had the chalkboards painted which requires to be done every 2-3years. Now considering replacing doors, providing padlocks, cementing floors and ramps for learners in wheelchairs.

### **Maria's triplets**

Thanks to your support the family have been receiving their monthly allowance to provide nutritional food and supplies for their basic needs. They are thriving and seemed very happy.



### **Church Garden**

A bumper crop was recorded after the April harvest, and our thanks go to all the volunteers who gave time and effort to gather the maize. It has now been stored safely in the church for distribution during next season's hunger months.



## GET-IT Girls Graduation

The three girls..... and their mothers were overjoyed to receive their graduation award to recognise their achievement of completing 4 years at secondary school. We wish them well as they take their final exams in June.



## Twinning Committee

We came together again on 2 occasions to discuss the many opportunities the church twinning offers. Connecting our congregations, sharing resources, prayers and new community projects. The ITW twinning meeting in May will discuss and agree the proposals submitted for 2026/27.



From Left to Right: Brown, Jane, Mobassa, Denis, Martin (Sunnymoney), Rev Osman, Elwin and Anne

End of Thondwe News



# DEATHS

Drew Hogg  
 Barbara Brunton  
 Morven Mckie  
 Thomas Salton  
 Munro Philip

**Date of death**  
 23/02/2026  
 23/03/2026  
 04/05/2026  
 10/05/2026  
 08/05/2026

## ADVANCE WARNING

Articles for the next magazine our Autumn Edition!... need to be submitted by **Sunday 7th August 2026**

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

# Who's Who?

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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.