

# GOOD NEWS!



The magazine of

# ALE & TEVIOT UNITED CHURCH

Summer 2010



*Make it our goal to please God, whether we are at home [that is, in the body] or away from it. [2 Corinthians 5.9]*

It's a horrible job, but someone's got to do it. Going on holiday, that is. Such hard work dossing about on a beach for two weeks – hopefully your turn soon! Weather-wise, it was quite cloudy, and on the last day we even got a few spits and spots of rain, unusual for the Canary Islands in June – but we stuck it out, on the deck-chair, coats on, huddled under the broly, sunbathing for Britain!

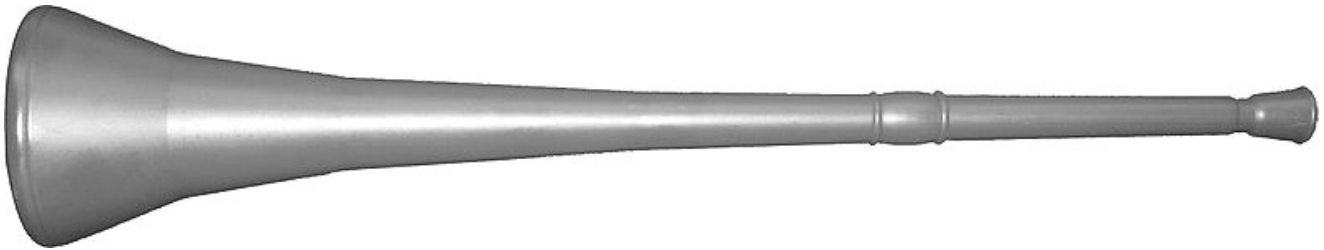


We were at the same resort as the past 6 years, Costa Caleta in Fuerteventura. No great surprises there, but back to a hotel this time, half-board. We won't be doing that again in a hurry. It wasn't that the food was bad. Far from it.

In fact there was so much choice we ended up trekking to the buffet two or three times each night. And for Frank – although Alexis was better behaved! – that included a raid on the sweet trolley, which meant three scoops of different flavoured rich ice-cream with lashings of chocolate and caramel sauce.

The trouble was, the restaurant didn't open till 7 – fine for our continental cousins but a bit late for us stuffy Brits who like to eat at 5 on the dot. Needless to say, by 6.45, a queue was snaking its way back round the swimming pool. Then the World Cup started ... and the guests got really antsy about the fact that dinner was at 7, and kick-off at 7.30. The night of England's first game, we reckoned it might be safer to get a Chinese carry-out in our room instead!

The World Cup taught us a new word – vuvuzela. We're told they started life as part of the worship band in a South African church. Needless to say, Frank treated himself to one! However, the vuvuzela is NOT everyone's cup of tea. When you've got about 30,000 of these in an enclosed space, earache is on its way, and they certainly drown out any other conversation or calm reflection.



Most people who don't know Jesus, and I'm afraid even some who say they do, have a vuvuzela approach to life. Make as much noise as you can, in support of your own agenda. Drown out everyone else's opinions. Bully them into silence, so you can get your own way. That's not what the Bible teaches. Listen to this :

*Don't be like the people of this world, but let God change the way you think. Then you will know how to do everything that is good and pleasing to him. I realize how kind God has been to me, and so I tell each of you not to think you are better than you really are. Use good sense and measure yourself by the amount of faith that God has given you. [Romans 12.2-3]*

*Always be humble, gentle, and patient, accepting each other in love. You are joined together with peace through the Spirit, so make every effort to continue together in this way. [Ephesians 4.2-3]*

*Don't be jealous or proud, but be humble and consider others more important than yourselves. Care about them as much as you care about yourselves and think the same way that Christ Jesus thought: [Philippans 2.3-5].*

Any fool can blow his own trumpet [or vuvuzela!] and be selfish – but in the end that will cause conflict and resentment. Those of us who claim to follow Jesus must learn to rise above that, and be prepared to give way now and again ; to put our own "wants" to one side so we can meet someone else's needs instead.

We're not called to be a doormat – but it's not right to bully and manipulate to get our own way all the time either! We are told to "love God with all we are and all we have, and love our neighbour as ourselves" – even when our selfish flesh screams blue murder and throws its toys out of the pram in protest!

Still on the World Cup theme, as we were on Spanish territory, we decided to be gracious guests and treat ourselves to Spanish football tops. Needless to say, the first time the top was on, Spain couldn't buy a goal, did everything but score, and ended up with a shock defeat. Now, as most of you know, I'm no stranger to following teams that regularly get beaten [!] ... but I'll tell you this.

No matter how your favourites got on in the World Cup [and in the end ours won – yippee!!] ; no matter even if you can't stand football at all, you are part of a winning team. You cannot lose if you follow Jesus. Listen to what the Bible says :

*With God's power working in us, God can do much, much more than anything we can ask or imagine [Ephesians 3.20]. I can do all things through Christ, because he gives me strength. [Philippians 4.13]*

*You belong to God and have overcome ; because God's Spirit, who is in you, is greater than the devil, who is in the world [1 John 4.4]. All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ [Ephesians 1.3].*

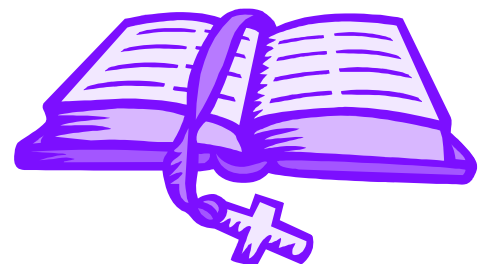
Jesus said : *"I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father. You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father. Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it! [John 14.12-24]*

You may never be a World Cup winner, but as far as Jesus is concerned, you are a world champion and a world changer. Be bold, be strong, for the Lord your God is with you, and He is in you, and He will never let you go.

With love in the precious Name of Jesus

*Frank & Alexis*

*Your word is a lamp to my feet  
and a light for my path  
[Psalm 119.105]*



## **A Prophecy over our Nation**

*In 1967, evangelist Jean Darnall had an astonishing vision of spiritual renewal in our nation. At a time when much of government and media, and even parts of the church, appear to have little time for the gospel of life and hope, let yourself be encouraged by these words. Jean is still active in ministry and serves in the pastoral team of The Church On The Way, Van Nuys, California.*

Suddenly a vision appeared within my mind. It had come twice before. I saw the British Isles glistening like a clump of jade in the grey seas surrounding them. Looking down I saw Scotland, England, Wales, and to the north-west, Ireland. The treetops upon the hills and the clustered clouds hid the people. Suddenly small flickering fires appeared. They were scattered over the isles.

I came closer to the land. The light was fire light. These were fires burning from the top of Scotland to Land's End on the tip of Cornwall. Lightning streaked downward from the sky above me. I saw it touch down with flashing swiftness, exploding each of the fires into streams of light. Like lava they burned their fiery path downward from the top of Scotland to Land's End. The waters did not stop this, but the fires spread across the seas to Ireland and to Europe.

"Lord, this is the third time you've shown me this vision during prayer. Could you give me the meaning of it?" I asked, deeply moved by the Holy Spirit.

He revealed to me that the small fires were groups of earnest, hungry people who were being drawn together by the Holy Spirit to study their Bibles and to pray for a visitation of the Holy Spirit. The words "pockets of power" were impressed upon my mind. "I'm empowering them by my Holy Spirit and I'm teaching them by my Spirit about my gifts. They are being led by my Spirit to repentance, reconciliation and a deeper relationship with the body of Christ.

These people are meeting in homes and churches - I'm not leading them out of their relationships in the home and in the church, but into a deeper involvement in both. They are to bring renewal, new life, in preparation for what is to come."

"What is to come, Lord?", I asked, wondering why he should show this to me.

"I will penetrate the darkness with a visitation of my power. With lightning swiftness I will release the power of my Spirit through a renewed people who have learned to be led of the Spirit. They will explode with a swiftness that will touch every part of the society of Britain. I am strategically placing them to touch the farms, villages, towns and cities. No one will be without a witness, whether they be children in the schools, farmers in the fields, workers in the factories and docks, students in the universities and colleges, the media, the press, the arts or government. All will be profoundly moved and those who are changed by my power will alter the destiny of the nation."

"And the streams of fire into Europe, Lord?" My mind seemed to see an army of all types of people moving into the continent with a compassionate ministry. This ministry was not mass meetings, led by powerful personalities, preaching to spectators, but participating, caring communities involved with one another at grass roots level, sharing the love of God everywhere."

In speaking at the conference about the things that would show that the second part of the vision was beginning to be fulfilled, Jean Darnall repeated what she had been sharing at meetings in Scotland that year:

"The second thing I said to watch for is unusual manifestations of the Lord to boys and girls between the ages of 9-15. Jesus is going to appear to them. He's going to come to them in visions and dreams. He's going to make himself known to boys and girls who are in non-Christian homes, in homes of violence, in homes where there is no love, in homes where there is no family continuity and care and tenderness - but Jesus is going to come to these children.

And they will start appearing. They'll start coming to their teachers and to other people or other Christians that they will meet, and tell about their unusual dreams and visions of the Lord. The Lord is already doing it friends - so my word was as I went along, to Sunday school teachers and parents - don't play down what these children tell you when the Lord appears to them - when they come to you and tell you these unusual experiences.

And some of these children won't have 'churchy language', you know, they don't come from Christian families, so they are not going to say it right, the way we are used to hearing it, but they will be telling about unusual experiences. When that time comes, give them the nurture and the wisdom and the love that they need, because they are future leaders in the church of the Lord Jesus Christ, and will become mightily used of the Lord.

That's good news folks! Watch for it and wait for it. Start expecting unusual things to happen to the children you are teaching, because the Spirit of the Lord is preparing their hearts to receive the fullness of the Holy Ghost - to receive gifts of the Holy Spirit, to receive healing, to receive ministries of healing to others as the Lord uses these children.



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## Who Am I Really?

*adapted from : Can I Have And Do It All, Please? by Christine Caine*

"What is man that you are mindful of him?" (Psalm 8:4a)

My daughter Catherine knows who she is and has no problem displaying it. Catherine had just started school at the age of five, and one day she had an argument with another little boy from her class. I think it was over a global issue like who was going to take the teddy bear home that night! At one point in the argument, the little boy grabbed the teddy bear from Catherine's arms and said to her, "Catherine Bobbie, you are dumb and ugly."

Later, Catherine's teacher relayed the story to me because she was stunned by Catherine's response to the situation. She watched as Catherine, having just been insulted, put her shoulders back, looked the little boy squarely in the eyes, and confidently asserted, "No I'm not, my daddy says that I am beautiful and smart." She then proceeded to take the teddy bear back and walk away.

I absolutely love this story not only because my daughter ended up with the teddy bear but because Catherine displayed the power in knowing what her daddy says about her, which is exactly what your Father in heaven thinks about you! Empowered by knowing what God's Word says about you, you can refute the lies of the enemy when they come.

Just like that little boy, the enemy comes to us on a regular basis, not only to snatch away the things in life we want, but also to make us believe we don't even deserve those things. He tells us we are unworthy, unlovable and unable, as he throws insults and doubts at our minds, trying to make us believe we are far less than we really are. But if we can learn to possess the bold, childlike faith of Catherine and simply (and deeply) believe we are who God says we are, and we can only achieve this through the Word of God...and nothing else!

I encourage you to write down the following Bible verses about who you really are in Christ. Take out your post-it notes. Copy these Scriptures, and stick them on every possible surface. Put them on your mirror so you can reflect on them as you're applying lipstick or brushing your teeth, adhere them to your steering wheel for when you are stuck in traffic. They will remind you of who your Father in heaven is, what family you belong to, and your true identity altering your perspective on who you are.

**I am a child of God.** : "But as many received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." (John 1:12-13)

**I am saved by grace :** "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9)

**I am alive to God and dead to sin :** "Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:11)

**I am sanctified :** "For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified." (John 17:19)

**I am a new creation :** "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come." (2 Corinthians 5:7)

**I am a royal son or daughter :** "You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." (1 Peter 2:9)

**I am reconciled to God :** "God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation." (2 Corinthians 5:19)

**I am free :** "If the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed." (John 8:36)

**I am justified :** "Know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified." (Galatians 2:16)

**I am chosen :** "For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight." (Ephesians 1:4)

**I am adopted :** "Having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will." (Ephesians 1:5)

**I am accepted :** "To the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved." (Ephesians 1:6)

**I am forgiven :** "And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you." (Ephesians 4:32)

**I am predestined** : “In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will.” (Ephesians 1:11)

**I am raised and seated in heavenly realms** : “Raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.” (Ephesians 2:6)

**I am created for good works** : “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God has prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10)

**I am called to eternal glory** : “But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen and settle you.” (1 Peter 5:10)

**I am more than a conqueror** : “Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.” (Romans 8:37)

**I am an overcomer** : “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

**I am never forsaken** : “For He [God] Himself has said, I will not in any way fail you nor give you up nor leave you without support. [I will] not, [I will] not, [I will] not in any degree leave you helpless nor forsake nor let [you] down (relax My hold on you)! [Assuredly not!]” (Hebrews 13:5, AMP)

**I am the righteousness of God in Christ** : “This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.” (Romans 3:22)

Without truly knowing who we are in Him, we will always struggle, attempting to gain our identity from “having and doing it all,” as opposed to getting our identity from Christ. So ... take a long look at who [and what] you’ve thought and felt yourself to be. Is that who God says you are? Adjust your focus so that it’s always on who [and what] God says you are.

**Prayer** : Lord, thank you that I am who you say I am. Please help me to truly find my identity in you, and to display it in my life. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

**From “Words of Life”, a weekly online devotional published by**

**Life Today Ministries. You can subscribe online at [www.lifetoday.org](http://www.lifetoday.org)**



## Ancrum Sunday Refreshments

We have been serving Refreshments after the morning Service since October 2008. At the end of December 2009 the Account Book was audited by the Church Treasurer and the sum of £21.64 was given to Church Funds. This was after the purchase of essential items for the Servery eg Teaspoons, a Teapot, a Dish Drainer, a wall mounted Paper Hand Towel Dispenser and the Towels to go with it, a Kitchen Paper Roll and Holder, a Pedal Bin and a new Kettle. Also, of course, there was the purchase of Tea, Coffee, Biscuits and Squash.



All this has been possible as a result of donations (in money and in kind); we make no charge for Refreshments as such. This has proved to be a rich time of fellowship which has become an integral part of Sunday mornings. Maybe you can't stop every Sunday, but do try and stay for a Cuppa and, maybe, talk to someone you haven't spoken to before!

## Blythswood Care : Uplift of good used clothes etc

**Blythswood Care** will uplift clothing, bric-a-brac and small items of furniture for needy people in Eastern Europe, on the following Mondays and Tuesdays :

2 & 3 August ; 6 & 7 September ; 4 & 5 October ; 1 & 2 November.

Pick-ups will be at the following times and places :

Monday :	Galashiels	Asda Car Park	2.00-2.30.pm
	Melrose	Rugby Club	3.00-3.30.pm
	Selkirk	West Port Car Park	4.00-5.00.pm
Tuesday :	Hawick	Morrisons Car Park	9.00-9.45.am
	Jedburgh	Bus Station Car Park	10.45-11.15.am
	Kelso	Knowes Car Park	12.00-12.45.pm

*Larger items of furniture uplifted by arrangement.  
Please phone the Glasgow office on 0141-882-0585*

## Early Morning Prayer Time

Early birds may wish to join a prayer time from 7:30 to 8:30 each morning in the Kenmore Halls. Come when you can, leave when you have to, worship and pray as the Spirit leads. The focus of our prayer is the Jedburgh area.

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## Under New Management!

*From Frank's sermon preached at Eckford at Pentecost.*

In Acts 2 we have a remarkable sermon preached by Peter in the streets of Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost. Remarkable for many reasons, but not least for the very fact that it was Peter who preached it – Peter who, just a few short weeks before, had three times in one night denied vehemently that he even knew who Jesus was. Up to now, Peter had not been the most consistent or courageous follower of Jesus. He could talk a good game in front of his friends, but it had been less impressive when the chips were down and his neck was on the line.

But this is a different Peter we encounter in Acts 2. This is a Peter with steel in his soul and fire in his belly. What has happened to this man? Quite simply, he has been filled with the Holy Spirit. The promise Jesus had made on the eve of His crucifixion, during that walk from the Upper Room to the Garden of Olives, has been fulfilled. In John 16 Jesus says :

*I am going to do what is best for you. That is why I am going away. The Holy Spirit cannot come to help you until I leave. But after I am gone, I will send the Spirit to you. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will take you by the hand and guide you into all the truth there is. He won't draw attention to himself, but will make sense out of what is about to happen and, indeed, out of all that I have done and said. He will honour me ; he will take from me and deliver it to you. Everything the Father has is also mine.*

When Jesus was around in the flesh, He was *with* Peter, but now He is *in* Peter, by the Holy Spirit. Jesus is no longer out there, or up there, but in here – and that's the way it's meant to be for all believers. This season of Pentecost is far more important than much of the church realises. It's right up there with Christmas and Easter, and in fact those three great events in the Christian calendar only make sense if taken together.

At Christmas, God made himself like us.

At Easter, God changed places with us.

At Pentecost, we were made like God.

You may think that last statement is outrageous. Us? Like God? But let me take you on a Cook's tour through what the Bible itself says. First, Genesis 1.26-28 :

*God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him ; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."*

Man being like God was God's original intention. His Word tells us that plainly. Sadly, the human race blew it through disobedience – paying attention to voices other than God's voice ; believing words other than God's Word. Because of that, the likeness of God was put in cold storage and the human race, in effect, handed the title deeds of creation to the devil and gave him permission to come in and wreak havoc. Temptation seems so appealing, but there's always consequences – a price to be paid, a price far higher than you want to pay.

Even then, God loved His people so much that He cut us some slack. Abraham was a dodgy character at times. Not once, but twice, he passed off his wife as his sister so that another man could have her, all to save his own neck. Not a smart move! Yet Abraham is described as a friend of God and God made a covenant with him, to bless Abraham and his descendants – Genesis 15. Why? Hebrews 11 tells us that it was not because of Abraham's virtuous *acts*, but his *faith*.

But God's people still didn't get it. They had a crazy idea that man could dictate his own terms for relating to God, that they could bribe God by performing certain actions. God knew this could never work. He gave the Old Testament Law to Moses – not so that the people could obey it and save themselves, but so that they might realise that they couldn't obey it and needed a Saviour.

As the apostle Paul, once so zealous for the Jewish Law, reflects in Romans 7, the very fact that something is forbidden under the Law acts as temptation to do it. It's not that the Law is wrong, just that it's impossible to keep. You may go for months on end without ever thinking of triple chocolate cheesecake with double cream, but the very minute someone says you can't have it, because it's high in cholesterol and will jam up your arteries like Edinburgh City Bypass at Friday tea-time, you'd kill for some! That's "The Law" kicking in!

Somebody was writing in *Life & Work* lamenting that no-one preaches from the Old Testament anymore. That's because the Old Testament is now out-of-date. It has been replaced by something better. The Old Testament was a counsel of despair, testifying to the total inability of man to earn God's favour by anything we do or don't do. One of the saddest things we see today is people, even church people, still following the Old Testament mindset as if Jesus had never existed.

*I aim to do my best and not do anyone any harm. Oh yes, I try to follow the 10 commandments. So-and-so is a good person and deserves to get to heaven.* That's not going to work! Wake up, people, and smell the New Testament coffee! Jesus came to break the curse of the Law and release once again the blessing of Abraham – that's in Galatians 3. How did that happen?

Jesus took the punishment for our sins. He bore the curse. He carried our sins in His body to the cross that we might die to sin and live in righteousness and by His wounds we have been healed – 1 Peter 2.24. Jesus reclaimed the title deeds to creation, by changing places with us on the cross. Jesus took the sin, the guilt,

the punishment that was rightly ours. Jesus gave us the blessing, the forgiveness, the freedom, the healing, the reconciliation with God that was rightly His. Jesus gave us His beauty in exchange for our ashes – Isaiah 61.3. Jesus gave it by grace : God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense – for us to receive by faith. We are New Testament people, and it’s now all about the grace of God appropriated by our faith, not by doing goody-goody things, or not doing baddy-baddy things.

But there was still one very important piece to complete the jigsaw. Way back in Genesis, the human race was given power and authority over the created world. It was God’s plan from the beginning that his people should be his managers, his ambassadors, his deputies here on earth. It still is His plan. Jesus kicked the devil out of the driver’s seat and reclaimed that responsibility for us.

But He wants us to get it right this time. And so when He went back to Heaven where He belonged, He sent the Holy Spirit upon the church. The Bible describes the church collectively, and each member of the church individually, as the temple of the Holy Spirit. That means that, if we are true believers, trusting not in our own goody-goody stuff but in what Jesus has done for us, we are under new ownership, new management.

The Bible calls that being born again of the Holy Spirit. It means that everything that Jesus is, all His love, all His power, all His authority, lives in us. *Christ in us, the hope of glory* : is how Colossians 1.27 puts it. As far as God is concerned, every time He looks at you, if you are a born-again Spirit-filled believer, what He sees is not your mistakes, your weaknesses, your inadequacies, but Jesus.

If you are a born-again Spirit-filled believer, you have the same power that raised Jesus from the dead living in you. You have a command from Jesus to go out and share the good news, not just in word, but in action. You are authorised to heal the sick, to cast out evil spirits, to raise the dead, in the name of Jesus.

Now obviously that only applies to a born-again Spirit-filled believer. If you don’t like all that sort of talk, if the thought of being up-front and out in the open as regards your relationship with Jesus, if you regard your beliefs as a private and personal thing that no-one else needs to know about and that you can discharge by turning up at church once in a while, going through the motions, putting a few coins in the plate, breathing a sigh of relief and going home having done your duty till next time, it doesn’t apply.

The bad news is, though, that if that’s where you are, and that’s what you have, it’s not true faith. You are still living under the old covenant, and you don’t want to do that as it will drive you nuts and break your heart.

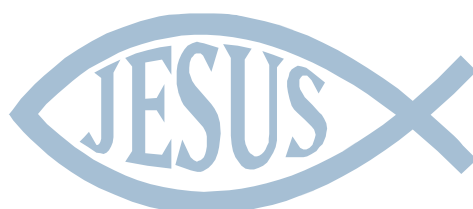
Which Peter would you rather model your life on? The blustering bellweather who, scared out of his skin, cursed and swore in the garden that he never knew Jesus and then went away and wept in defeat and despair ; or the confident giant

who stood up boldly in front of a hostile crowd and, without a care in the world, preached the sermon in Acts 2?

That is the choice we have. A frustrating and unfulfilling existence plagued by fear and anxiety, doubt and insecurity, with a teaspoonful of religion grudgingly administered from time to time like a lucky rabbit's foot in the hope of warding off the wrath of an angry God we've never taken time or trouble to get to know?

Or a life of joy, peace, victory and true happiness, in fellowship with the living loving God revealed in the scriptures and especially in the life of Jesus – born again, filled with the Holy Spirit, bold to stand up and be counted and be part of God's solution to the world's problems rather than part of the problem.

Which version of Peter do you want to be – before or after? Filled with fear, or filled with the Holy Spirit? Your call!



### **Christian Aid - Many Thanks!**

Once again, heartfelt thanks to the parishioners of Ale & Teviot for a magnificent response to *Christian Aid Week* 2010, reflected in a sum of almost £2,700 raised from the door-to-door collection in the parish.

This figure is all the more remarkable in view of the ever-diminishing band of people who volunteer to collect. Can you help next year?

*Christian Aid Week* brings together people, from all backgrounds, with the aim of tackling the poverty that unnecessarily blights the lives of so many millions of God's children. Such love in action for our neighbour, whoever and wherever that neighbour might be, truly honours Jesus.

### **The Church of Scotland : Policy Statement**

#### **Ensuring a Safe Church for All**



*The Church of Scotland has a deep concern for the wholeness and wellbeing of each individual. It seeks to safeguard the welfare of all people, regardless of age, who come into contact with the Church and its organisations.*

*The Church affirms the responsibility of each individual within its fellowship to prevent harm or abuse of any type – physical, sexual or emotional – especially if this is directed toward children, young people, or vulnerable adults.*

## News in Brief

At our March communion service in **Lilliesleaf**, we had the pleasure of introducing new communion cloths, donated by the family of the late Mrs Isobel Simpson, for some years organist at the church and a great stalwart of the congregation. We are very grateful for this lovely gift.

\*\*\*

A former member of the ALE Group, **Lewis Driver**, is setting off soon for a gap year in Chile, when – amongst other things – he hopes to be teaching English and coaching rugby. Our prayerful good wishes go with Lewis, and we look forward to receiving updates during the year.

\*\*\*

Summer holiday for **Andrew McDonald** and **Ian Sandilands**, from Ancrum, was a 1,000-mile sponsored bike ride for Macmillan Cancer Care. They set out from John o' Groats on 27 June and – all being well – arrived safely in Lands End two weeks later. Well done, lads!

\*\*\*

On 18 July, **John Marshall** plans to take part in a 10km sponsored run in Kelso for the Church, and our recent church projects *Help for Heroes* and *Borders Additional Needs Group*.

\*\*\*

Many congratulations to **Tommy and Margaret Heard**, Ormiston Mains, who celebrated their **Diamond Wedding** ; and Bill and Marlyn Anderson, Lilliesleaf, who celebrated their **Golden Wedding**.

\*\*\*

Congratulations also to **Grant Davidson**, brought up in Ancrum, who has been elected **Jethart Callant** for 2010. *Safe oot, safe in*, Grant!

\*\*\*

If you have any **postage stamps**, of any kind, please do hand them in at church as the Kirk's **World Mission Council** can make very good use of them in support of its work overseas.

\*\*\*

Our **Coffee Morning** on 26 June in the British Legion, Jedburgh, raised £444 for church funds. Many thanks and well done, everybody. Our local MP, **Michael Moore**, has been appointed Secretary of State for Scotland in the new coalition government. Michael is no stranger to us as his father, Rev Haisley Moore, was for some years minister for Ancrum, Jedburgh Old and Edgerston. Our prayerful best wishes go to Michael in his new responsibilities.

\*\*\*

The **Junior Church Prizegiving** and **All-age Communion** was held on 27 June in Lilliesleaf Kirk. Our sincere thanks to all the leaders who give so generously of their time to teach our young people.

It is hoped that more children will join us after the summer break, and letters of invitation will be sent out to parents of baptised children and through the local schools. Children aged 3 years and over are most welcome to join us on Sunday mornings at Ancrum and Lilliesleaf.

\*\*\*

Our friends from the **42<sup>nd</sup> Dundee Boys' Brigade** were due again to join us for morning worship at Ancrum Football field on 18 July.

\*\*\*

The **Guild Summer Rally** was held in Ancrum in June, with musical items by Ancrum School and a keynote speech by Mrs Janet Combe. The Guild also participated in the Car Boot Sale at Ancrum Football Club, raising £83, and will be at the next one on Sunday 29 August!

**Ancrum Guild** meets on the first Monday of each month, September to March, at 2.pm in the Church Hall. Meetings are open to all – men and women – so please do join us. A warm welcome awaits you!.

Guild diary dates in the autumn are as follows :

6 September : Puppy Walking [Guide Dogs] : Betty & Alison Brown  
4 October : Church Flower Arranging : Barbara Maclean  
1 November : Rotary – Service above Self : Tony Rae  
6 December : Christmas Party

Autumn Rally : Wed. 20 October : 7.30.pm : Jedburgh Old & Trinity  
Dedication : Sun. 31 October : 10.am : Ancrum Kirk

Coffee Evening : Fri. 19 November : 7.pm : Ancrum Village Hall  
Carol Service : Sun. 12 December : 6.30.pm : Jedburgh Old & Trinity

## **A Time to Renew, Refresh and Re-commit**

The Kirk Session will be writing to all members on the communion roll of Ale & Teviot United Church to invite you to renew your commitment to Jesus Christ, His Church, and His Kingdom, on the occasion of the autumn communion celebration in each of our three places of worship.

In addition, anyone who wishes to make a public declaration of faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord will have an opportunity to do so.

One particular aspect of this Time of Renewal will be the opportunity to sow a financial seed into the work of Christ and His church. Not all of us are able to devote our lives full-time to ministry, mission and service – but we can all partner financially with those who do.

In God's Word, we are promised that, when we invest in His Kingdom, He will meet all our needs through His glorious riches in Christ Jesus [Philippians 4.19]. The dates for your diary are as follows :

Lilliesleaf : 19 September : 11.30.am and 6.30.pm

Ancrum : 10 October : 10.am

Crailing : 28 November : 10.30.am

\*\*\*

### **Not just on Sundays**

The **Tuesday Girls** meet on alternate Tuesdays in the manse at 7.pm. Led by Alexis Campbell, the emphasis is on health and wholeness, and for all who wish to participate, there is a "Pray & Weigh" session.

On alternate **Thursdays**, there is a meeting for Prayer & Bible Study at the Manse from 7.pm to about 8.30.pm. John Marshall will lead us through Paul's 1<sup>st</sup> letter to the Corinthians.

At each of our churches, there is a **Prayer Box** at the door to receive your prayer requests, anonymously if you prefer. You can also e-mail your prayer requests. A **Devotional Diary** is produced monthly, with a daily prayer point, accompanied by three suggested Bible readings. The Diaries are available at the church door, or on the website.

## *Our Historical Heritage*

*One of Ancrum's oldest residents, Mrs Doris Harvey, died in January 2010. Among her many interests in local history was the old railway station at Belses, where her late husband's grandfather, Hugh Harvey, was for 32 years station-master. Mrs Harvey provided much material for railway magazines!*

Hugh Harvey was station-master at Belses from 1874 to 1906, at a time when the station was served by ten trains daily. Many fascinating snapshots of the life of a Victorian country station-master came to light in documents unearthed in the 1980's during the conversion of Belses station into a private home. These were published in an article by Paul Rees in the "Backtrack" magazine, Vol.8, No.1, January/February 1994, Pendragon Publishing.

In the last edition, we noted that Harvey's *bete noir* was one Jas. McLaren in the General Superintendent's Office of the North British Railway in, Edinburgh, who seemed to take perverse delight in despatching terse and imperious missives, such as this charming note of 8 July 1885, advising Harvey of an unusual cargo.

*Dear Sir*

*Body of the late Mrs Anderson*

*Please note that the undermentioned vehicle, conveying the above, will be run through from Belses to Edinburgh, by 8.15.am, train ex-Carlisle on 9<sup>th</sup> inst.*

*Vehicle : corpse van, which will be attached to the train at Hawick.*

*Of course you must take care that no unnecessary delay occurs to the train.*

*The charges will be collected at Edinburgh.*

*Acknowledge receipt.*

Sadly, the preserved documents – like the epistles of Paul! – leave us guessing what the other side to the correspondence might have been. What, for example, prompted McLaren to send a telegram from Carlisle to Harvey in these terms?

*You may, as a special case, send on the pig to Belses in the guards van of a passenger train provided all Privy Council regulations are complied with.*

Rail travel in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century appears to have been even more fraught than in the early 21<sup>st</sup>, with live-stock in, and dead-stock [!!] attached to, passenger accommodation! At least efforts were made to enable journeys to take place in spite of harsh winters. On 6 March 1881, McLaren sent a telegram to Harvey.

*It is expected that we shall be able to run the 5.45.pm passenger train from Hawick through to Edinburgh tonight. Tell passengers that every effort will be made to get them through.*

The efforts appear to have been successful, as a further telegram arrived later.

*You will now resume booking to all stations on the Waverley route except the Borders Counties lines.*

To set this in context, although the Waverley main-line traversed inhospitable terrain, especially between Hawick and Newcastleton, this route was positively metropolitan compared to the barren, sparsely-populated Northumberland hills served by the Border Counties lines, which ran from Riccarton Junction through what is now the Kielder Reservoir to Bellingham, and then via Wark to Hexham, or across to Scots Gap and Morpeth. Winters here were long and harsh.

Another “purler” of a note from Edinburgh HQ concerned, of all things, a cheese.

*The cheese which you have on hand is evidently the one short [of a consignment of 12 from South Leith] and as you have kept it on hand since March without doing anything in the case and, further, seeing that I have been writing to you since June without receiving a single communication from you on the subject, I will have to arrange the claim and debit you with the loss.*

This note was dated October 1886 ... by now, after no less than 7 unrefrigerated months, the cheese could surely have walked out of the station by itself, and it’s surprising that Harvey had not disposed of it quite some time before!



*Some glorious steam action at Belses as a B1 roars through.  
From the Robin Barbour Collection, by kind permission of Bruce McCartney.*

Another aromatic cargo – an important one in farming territory – was manure, as in a letter from the “Guaranteed Manure Company”, from Carlisle to Belses.

*On 9 May 1884 we sent 1 ton manure to Mr Jas Rutherford, Old Belses, carriage paid to your station. Mr Rutherford now states that you urged him not to take it, as it was wet & damp & unfit for use. I will be glad to know under what circumstances you gave this advice and if it is true. I must request you to favour me with a reply by return. All this quality of manure was made for at least 5 months & stored away perfectly dry. If it was wet, the manure got damaged in transit for which the Railway Co. are liable.*

Clearly Belses Station was not a place to wake up and smell the flowers!

Hugh Harvey was born in 1841 and married his wife Margaret in 1864. They had two daughters – Margaret, normally called “Love”, and Nellie, who worked at the station with their father. Hugh moved to Belses in 1874 and turned down what appeared to be a more prestigious appointment to Millerhill, on the outskirts of Edinburgh, preferring to stay at Belses until he retired in 1906, when he and his wife occupied a smallholding at Firview, on the hill above the station.

The link with the railway continued, however, as Hugh’s daughters Margaret and Nellie worked on at the station, and the family acquired a gig to run a taxi service – a logical and lucrative complement to the train. Hugh died in 1914, followed the following year by his wife Margaret, who had been in poor health for some years. Both are buried in Ancrum Kirkyard.

Arthur, his grandson, supplemented the taxi service with a coal delivery and bookshop. Arthur and his Westmorland-born wife Doris – who died earlier this year, aged 95 – lived on at Firview until 1969, the same year as the railway closed, then moving to Croupyett.

Two interesting footnotes relative to the Waverley Line. First, part of the old line is now coming back to life. The Whitrope Heritage Centre, at Whitrope Summit, the highest point of the line between Hawick and Newcastleton, has its official opening on Sunday 18 July at 2.p.m. As well as historical information about the line ... there are rails, there is rolling stock, there is a locomotive!

Second, over 40 years after the closure of the line, there is once again a direct public transport link from the central Borders to London. This is provided by the low-cost daily Stagecoach Megabus, which leaves Galashiels [Bus Station] at 06.05, Selkirk [Market Place] at 06.20, and Hawick [Mart Street] at 06.40.

It stops at Preston [Bus Station] at 09.20, Bolton [Horwich Parkway Station] at 09.45, and Manchester [Shudehill Interchange] at 10.30, arriving in London [Victoria Coach Station] at 15.00. The return journey leaves London at 15.00, Manchester at 19.30, Bolton at 19.55, and Preston at 20.30, arriving at Hawick at 23.10, Selkirk at 23.30 and Galashiels at 23.45.

To book, it's best to go on-line at [www.megabus.com/uk](http://www.megabus.com/uk)

**Photography for every occasion**

**Chris Morrison**

**10 Muirhouselaw, Maxton,  
Melrose TD6 0RH**

**01835-823561**

# LILLIESLEAF GOLF COURSE

[2½ miles west of Lilliesleaf]

A fun 9-hole course, approx. 2550 yards. Par 68

*Red, yellow and white tees*

*Dress informal ; dogs & children welcome*

*Membership : £100*

*Green fees : £5 [Mon – Fri] ; £10 [Sat – Sun]*

*Under 16 years on 1 May 2010 : half-price*

*Club / trolley hire : £5 including balls and tees*

*Buggy hire : £10 for 9 holes ; £15 for 18 holes ; £20 per day*

**Contact Norman on 01835-870733 or 07831-144037  
Dimpleknowe, Lilliesleaf, Melrose TD6 9JU**

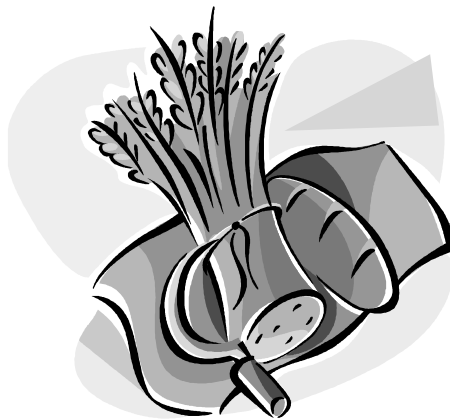
## **Guild Coffee Evening**



**Friday 19 November : 7.pm**

**Ancrum Village Hall**

## **Harvest Celebration**



**Sunday 3 October**

**United Service at Lilliesleaf Kirk : 11.am**

**Harvest Praise at Crailing Kirk : 6.30.pm**

## **I think I might give church a miss today ...**

*Ever looked out the window, saw the rain, and thought "I won't bother today"? Alastair Scougal's friends in Congo really appreciate their freedom to worship.*

Since Paul is District Evangelist for the Northern Lodja District, we decided to visit one of the village churches and surprise them. We chose to go by motorbike as it is impossible to travel all the way to the village of Yolo by car. We took off with our Bibles, Otetela songbooks and our tithe. Our motorbike is a Yamaha 200 TW with wonderful large knobby trail bike tires which are great in the sand and of which we have an abundant supply.

I am sorry that I do not possess adequate language skills to describe to you the road we had to travel. At one point, the hill was almost straight up with washouts galore and hardly a place seemingly for Paul to place the tires. (I am sick that I did not take the camera!) Somehow, he was able to maneuver the ruts and we made it! Whew! We came back down into a valley with lots of moist sand.

We crossed two bridges (bridge is relative!) which weren't wide enough for a car. We proceeded on and suddenly there was a 'bridge' in process; obviously being constructed by local villagers. At this point, it was impossible to go over even with a motorbike. On the left, there were some small logs lying across the creek.

We got off the bike and a villager helped Paul push the bike across. I took off my shoes and crossed by foot. The logs were wet and slick. I was thankful I had taken off my shoes or I would have fallen in. I did however, step on one little log that gave way and it went into the water. Fortunately, the water was not too deep so I only got about 6 inches of my pants wet BUT my shoes were dry.

On the other side, we mounted the bike again and off we went through villages of mud huts and thatch roofs with goats, chickens, and children playing outside. Paul was constantly using his horn since the path was so narrow and there were many folks traveling either by bike hauling their produce to market or many on foot. This road too, was washed out in places so it was up and down and weaving in and out which did not make for a very comfortable ride.

After having turned onto a small path toward the village of Yolo, we arrived at the church. The church has 'previously used' tin roofing which had been donated to them last year from a building that had been torn down. The roofing was on poles with few nails. The old walls were poles with mud stuck in them. At one point the church had been white washed but was now fading with age and wear.

Inside there were about 600 adobe bricks the villagers had made themselves. They'll need about 4,000 to redo the walls of this small church. Of course, there was no ceiling - nothing but the poles holding up the roof. Fortunately, it was a slightly overcast day or we'd have felt like we were in an oven. God was gracious!

When we arrived it had been decorated with palm branches and flowers. We asked the pastor if he had got word from the District Superintendent that we were coming but he said, “no, they decorate like this each Sunday”.

We entered and were thankful that they put us up by the podium (podium meaning that the dirt had been built up by about 6 more inches taller than the rest of the dirt floor to make a sort of platform) and where there were old chairs. At least, we had a flat seat and back! The members sat on small old logs that had been split in two with the bark removed. They had been placed in a Y stick on each end and that is what holds them up. They were so old and had been used so many times that they were slick and shiny with age.

The women sat on the right while the men were on the left. The two choirs were up front facing each other, the girls on the right and the boys on the left. Choirs are composed of younger folks. We sat through 40 minutes of singing! Most of our folks do not know about singing in tune so it was a challenge sitting there.

If the women like a particular song, they stand up and dance, or take their francs (worth about 1p) and place in the offering. They may stand up one at a time or several will dance in their places to the tune. Just imagine what would happen in the Borders if women stood up during the praise and danced in place or went up to the altar and dropped in some money because they liked the song!

After the music, there was a testimony time. The Congolese are very honest with their testimonies. If a man has been a drunkard or a womanizer he will openly admit it and tell how the Lord has touched him. There was a small table between the choirs up front with three small plastic basins on it. These were for the different offerings. I guess the idea behind this is that the more basins you have the more you can give. At the end of the service they gave an accounting of the numbers who came, the number of Bibles, and the total of the offering.

After the service, everyone filed out of the church and stood in line ; shook hands with the person who went in front of them. Then turned around and stood beside that person and it continued until everyone filed out of the church and shook hands with everyone. There was a final prayer and the people dispersed.

They are very giving folks so they had us sit down and gave us a bowl of rice, a chicken and a large pineapple. We hate to take from them as they have so little, yet to refuse their hospitality would insult them. They then took us across the road to their mud hut dispensary. The ceiling was so low that Paul had to lean way over just to get in. I told the nurse then to come to my house this week and I would give her some medical supplies. She did show up today and I was able to send several things back with her. Little is much when God is in it!

*Point to ponder – because worshipping Jesus in Scotland costs us so little, do we then value it too little? Worth thinking about on the next wet Sunday ...*

## **Mr David Balderston**

David Balderston, who died at Papworth Hospital, was a faithful elder at Crailing Kirk for many years. Born at Carrbridge, Inverness-shire, he soon moved with his family to Southdean and was educated at Hawick High School, where David recalled receiving the belt after being sent off in a rugby match against Melrose – not for the breach of the law but for losing to such despised opposition!

David's entire adult life was devoted to agriculture, and he was willing to go wherever an opportunity opened up. So it was that he was working in a dairy in Braco, Perthshire, and met Isa Davenport at a Badminton Club Dance. Romance blossomed, wedding bells followed, and the happy couple started a new life in the Borders where David served as a farm manager, rapidly making a favourable impression and putting himself firmly in the "frame" for Nisbet Mill.

To say that David was a hard worker is a bit like describing Buckingham Palace as a big house. Farming was his passion and, in the immortal words of Sinatra, his anthem was "I did it my way". Delegation of duties was a concept foreign to David – he enjoyed being his own boss, he knew his own mind, and spoke it, and he famously had little truck with committees!

Despite that, David always had a visionary and positive contribution to make to Kirk Session and Presbytery meetings. His faith in Jesus was unfussy, but very real, and expressed in great generosity of spirit. It was a matter of great sadness to David that Isa's health problems meant they could not enjoy the retirement they had planned together and, when his own health issues surfaced, David dealt with them in his typical honest and courageous fashion.

David was much-loved throughout the Borders farming community and beyond, and is much-missed, and our prayers are with his family, the stars of David's show – Isa, Jamie, Robert, Claire, Tom and Emily.

## **Major Jock Sprot**

Jock Sprot, who died recently in his 100<sup>th</sup> year, the oldest resident of our parish, was a true gentleman and a true local character. He was also a true man of faith, who served Lilliesleaf Kirk as an elder, and as Session Clerk, for many years.

Jock was born at the old Riddell House, and enjoyed a remarkable life, which he recorded faithfully in several publications, the latest being an autobiography – published on his 98<sup>th</sup> birthday last year! With Jock's kind permission, we will print a series of excerpts from the book under the "Historical Heritage" heading during the next year or so, to celebrate what would have been his centenary year.

Typical of Jock's meticulous nature was that he had carefully planned his funeral service ... but surely not even Jock could have arranged the heron – the bird on

the family crest – flying over the kirkyard on the day of his burial! Or could he?  
Please remember in your prayers Aidan, Celia, Andrew and all Jock's family.

## **Parish Registers**

*8 March to 10 July 2010*

### **Baptisms**

21 March <i>Lilliesleaf</i>	Anna Caterina Lo Russo, <i>daughter of</i> Gianpiero & Diana [Millar], c/o Nether Whitlaw
2 May <i>Ancrum</i>	Aiva Zoe Barker, <i>daughter of</i> Ryan & Leah [McConnell], Alemoor Court, Hawick
4 July <i>Lilliesleaf</i>	James Michael Henderson, <i>son of</i> Michael & Alison [Marsh], Calne, Wiltshire

### **Funerals**

30 April <i>Crailing</i>	Mr David Balderston Nisbet Mill
7 May <i>Lilliesleaf</i>	Mr Arthur Cranston Midlem Mill
18 May <i>Ancrum</i>	Mrs Mary Law 3 North Myres Croft
1 June <i>Lilliesleaf</i>	Major Jock Sprot Clerklands
3 June <i>Crailing</i>	Mr John Middlemass Brownrigg <i>Service conducted at Mortonhall by Rev Barrie Cash</i>
26 June <i>Ancrum</i>	Lt-Cdr John Barrett, <i>formerly of Hampshire</i> <i>Thanksgiving service conducted by Mr Tom Burnham</i>

### **Members Joining – Certificate**

John & Ann Turnbull, West Nisbet Steading

### **Members Leaving – Certificate**

Tom & Sandy Burnham, *formerly* Townhead, Ancrum, to Earlston

## Weddings

1 May <i>Roxburghe</i>	Craig Hirons & Frances Cade <i>now of</i> : Clavering, Essex
22 May <i>Kelso</i>	Ross Goodfellow & Louise Allan <i>now of</i> : Jedbank Drive, Jedburgh
26 June <i>Crailing</i>	Ross Newton & Julie Linton <i>now of</i> : Abbotseat, Kelso
3 July <i>Crailing</i>	Neil Gilfillan & Joanne Robson <i>now of</i> : Forthill Avenue, Jedburgh
10 July <i>Lilliesleaf</i>	David Gardner & Kirsty McKenzie <i>now of</i> : Viewfield, Lilliesleaf
10 July <i>Hawick</i>	Mark Cornwall & Esther Lindores <i>now of</i> : Dunsdalehaugh Square, Selkirk

### SUNDAY SERVICES : 1 August to 28 November 2010

<b><i>ANCRUM</i></b>	Sunday at 10.am : EXCEPT 29 Aug, 3 Oct Communion : 10 Oct, 10.am [no evening service]
<b><i>LILLIESLEAF</i></b>	Sunday at 11.30.am : EXCEPT 29 Aug, 12 Sep, 31 Oct Communion : 19 Sep, 11.30.am & 6.30.pm [Healing]
<b><i>CRAILING</i></b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Sundays at 10.30.am : EXCEPT 12 Sep Communion : 28 Nov, 10.30.am 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday Aug/Sep/Oct [ <b>not</b> Nov], 6.30.pm : <i>Songs of Praise</i>

### ***United Services***

*Outdoor : Lilliesleaf School : 29 August : 11.30.am*

*Elders Service : Ancrum : 12 September : 10.am*

*Harvest Service : Lilliesleaf : 3 October : 11.am*

*Guild Dedication : Ancrum : 31 October : 10.am*

# ALE & TEVIOT UNITED CHURCH

Website : [www.aleandteviot.org.uk](http://www.aleandteviot.org.uk)

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## **Worship with us at home!**

As part of the refurbishment of our church buildings, provision is now in place for the recording of church services on CD for the enjoyment of those who are unable – whether through infirmity, lack of transport, work or family commitments, holidays, or simply living too far outside the parish – to be physically present with us at Sunday worship.

If you would like to take advantage of this, please speak to anyone you know who attends Ancrum or Lilliesleaf churches, or use the contact details on this page. It only takes 10 minutes or so before a CD of a Sunday service is ready to uplift, so please remember to ask a friend or neighbour to wait – at Ancrum, with a cuppa – and collect it for you. CD's can also be sent by post, on request.

You can also download “hard copies” of most Sundays’ sermons from the website, so you can catch up with messages you may have missed, or want to study at your leisure. We are here to help you to grow in faith and in your relationship with the Lord Jesus!

*Ale & Teviot United Church of Scotland. Scottish Charity No. SC 016457*