

GOOD NEWS!



The magazine of

ALE & TEVIOT UNITED CHURCH

Christmas 2012

20 years bringing Good News to the parish



*Glory to God
in the highest*



As we approach the end of a singularly soggy year ☹, the twinkling Christmas lights going up throughout our communities shine some very welcome cheer and brightness into the long cold winter nights.

At a time when “good news” in the economy, international affairs, or just about anything else in the “world” is just about as rare as a stirring victory for Scotland’s football team [!], the Christmas lights appearing in shops, houses and town centres give us a much-needed boost.

It’s no accident that the season of “comfort and joy” comes – at least in Britain – at a time of year when days are short and temperatures are low. Though, if anyone **did** offer us a chance to spend Christmas in the Canary Islands, in warm sunshine, we might just think about it!!

In the opening verses of John’s gospel, we read : *The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it ... the true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.*

Isaiah 9.2 reads : *The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. The light will shine on those living in the land of dark shadows.* In the same book, Isaiah 49.9 says : *I will say to the prisoners, ‘Come out in freedom’, and to those in darkness, ‘Come into the light.’*

These verses tell us that Jesus came into this world to meet people right at the darkest and lowest point in their lives, to bring hope to the hopeless and help to the helpless. That’s “bang on the money” NOW!

If, at this very moment, you’re looking forward to Christmas not with joy and excitement, but with fear and anxiety – perhaps because you can’t find a job and you don’t have money to make Christmas special for your children, or because something has happened that means you face spending Christmas alone – these prophecies are for YOU.

No matter what sort of darkness you're struggling through right now, you need to know that God has not abandoned you, and never will. He promised : *I will never leave you nor forsake you.* God wants to turn your life round, pick you up, and set you on the right track again.

The Bible says, in 3 John 2, that God wants to see you, His precious child, *prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.* Jesus came into this world to do make that happen, to bring light into your situation, to set you free from whatever may be holding you back.

In fact, if YOU were the only person in the world needing help, Jesus would have come just for YOU. That's how much YOU mean to Him!

Okay then, you ask, how does this work?

First, understand who you really are. You are NOT a failure, a waste of space! You are a unique individual, created by Father God to walk in His love and His blessings, to fulfil His good purpose for you all the days of your life on earth, to be with Him for eternity in Heaven.

Oh come on! How can that be true, when I've messed up so badly?

Because Jesus came! He came to forgive your past, transform your present, and secure your future! It's not about what you have done – it's all about what Jesus has done! *He took up our pain and bore our suffering. He was wounded for the wrong we did. He was crushed for the evil we did. The punishment, which made us well, was given to him, and we are healed because of his wounds. [Isaiah 53].*

Believe in Jesus! Receive from Jesus! Let Jesus turn your life around, set you free, and shine light into your situation. But there's one more exciting thing Jesus can do – He can make you a light for others!

Think how small a set of Christmas lights is – then think how much it can cheer up the coldest, darkest night. When you receive the love of Jesus, that love inside you will shine through and brighten up the lives of everyone around you. Will you be a “Christmas light” this year?

With love in the precious Name of Jesus, this Christmas and forever,

Frank & Alexis

Kirk Session Updates

Talents Scheme : At a recent Kirk Session meeting it was agreed that we, meaning the whole congregation, should all try to raise funds for our church. One suggestion was to ask you to take part in a “Talent” scheme, in which you are invited to raise money by your own efforts.

For example, invite some friends to your house for a tea or coffee party and ask them to donate what they think it’s worth. Or, you could open your garden to all and sundry and again ask for donations from those visiting. There are various ideas that you may think of, I have only mentioned these two to give you some idea of what you can do. Thank you in anticipation! : *Harold Inglis, Treasurer*

Lilliesleaf Greetings Cards & Calendars : One “Talents” initiative comes from Session Clerk, John Rogerson, who has produced some beautiful greetings cards with full-colour photographs of Lilliesleaf and its kirk. In addition, Lilliesleaf 2013 calendars are available, featuring pictures of the village. These may be obtained from any Lilliesleaf elder or at the kirk any Sunday. We intend to have calendars featuring all the communities within our parish in the near future!

Fund-raising Committee : The Session appointed a sub-committee comprising Marion Davison, Rosemary Elwell, Joe Hannaford, Marjorie Hunter, and Margaret Smith, to explore various fund-raising ideas and report to a future meeting of the Session. Watch this space!

A Coffee Morning was hosted by Rosemary Elwell on Saturday 10 November, raising over £350. Many thanks and well done, everyone! Thanks also to all who organised and supported **Blythwood Care’s Shoebox Appeal**. We sent 48 boxes plus £140 for transport costs.

Wedding Fees : In view of rising fuel and other costs, the Session resolved to increase the church fees, in respect of all weddings booked as from 11 September 2012, to £200, including organist’s fee, subject to the discretion of the minister as appropriate.

Transport Co-ordinators : The Session considered the challenge of enabling members who live outwith walking distance of the church and who have no car, to attend Sunday services. Transport Co-ordinators have now been appointed for each of the three places of worship.

If you need a lift to church, contact your local Co-ordinator, giving a day or two's notice if possible : Ancrum : Margaret Smith, 864378 ; Crailing : Joe Hannaford, 850779 ; Lilliesleaf : Mary Jones, 870306.

Help required : The Session would be very pleased to hear from anyone interested in taking on the important jobs of Flower Convener at Ancrum ; and Safeguarding Co-ordinator, ensuring that all who work with children and vulnerable adults are properly police-checked and trained, and that adequate records are kept.

Grateful thanks to, respectively, Elizabeth Forsyth and Agnes Stott for all their much-valued work in these roles in previous years. Please do speak to the minister or any elder if you feel able to help. Thank you.

Many thanks! : We were very sorry to note the retirement of our Clerk of Works, Bill Anderson, who masterminded the recent refurbishment of all our church buildings, amongst many other duties. What a superb job you've done, Bill! We noted also the retirement from the Session of long-serving Lilliesleaf elder Mary Preston. Many thanks to you both.

General Assembly Celebration 2013 : The Kirk Session has agreed that services in our three kirks on Sunday 13 May 2013 be cancelled, with a view to running a bus to Edinburgh for the annual General Assembly celebration in Princes Street Gardens.

Food Bank : . Local churches, led by the Salvation Army in Hawick, have responded to the ever-increasing challenge of families in poverty – especially as changes to the state benefit system take effect – by setting up a network of Food Banks. At our all-age service at Ancrum on Sunday 16 December, there is an opportunity to support this work by bringing donations of non-perishable foods to help those in need.

News Round-up

Friday Club : by Elaine & John Marshall : On 5th October we held our first Friday Club for P1-P5. The four children that have attended appear to really enjoy themselves and are telling their friends. We are currently running target challenges to see if (like David, the shepherd boy) with practice their aim would improve.

Thanks to the loan of a digital overhead projector they are watching a series of 5 minute stories told by Roy Castle of the stories of David from a shepherd boy to a king. With much hilarity the children have taken turns to dress up as one of the characters and so far we have had a shepherd boy, a prophet and a 4ft giant!

In other activities they have produced self portrait masterpieces, friendship bookmarkers and prayer shields. We had planned to put the prayer shields up in our comfy Prayer Pod but they were taken home to show their families! When the STOP sign is held up we gather the children together in the prayer pod for a quiet time and a prayer and the letters in the STOP sign help us know what to pray because it stands for : Sorry, Thank you, Others and Please.

Royal recognition for Lilliesleaf artist : Victoria Baden-Powell, who recently returned to Lilliesleaf following a successful exhibition of her work at the prestigious Ivo Bouwman Gallery in The Hague, has now been honoured by having one of her works acquired by Her Majesty the Queen. The painting, of Balmoral Castle, in Victoria's distinctive "chromoluminarist" [mosaic] style, first earned the admiration of The Princess Royal and is expected to hang at Buckingham Palace!

Borders Talking Newspaper : A local charity producing a free audio version of around 50 edited items from the Southern Reporter and Berwickshire News, and from the Hawick News. Volunteers work in teams to edit, read, record and copy the talking newspaper on to CD's which are then posted out in a special wallet with free return postage. If you'd like to receive a copy, or to share in the work of the production team, contact Wendy on 01361-884206 or office@btn.org.uk.

Lilliardsedge Holiday Park and Golf Course

TEL : 01835 830271 or 01835 830263

Golf Club Membership now available

Daily Pay and Play

Superb Greens

Golf Parties Welcome

Golf Course eminently suitable for seniors

Caravans for sale (on and off site)

Caravans for hire.

Graham Macdonald [Ancrum] Ltd

The Old Smithy, Ancrum, Jedburgh, TD8 6XH

Tel / Fax : 01835-830394

Painting & Decorating

Ceramic wall and floor tiling

AMES taping

Spray painting

P & S DORRICOTT

Ironmongers, Fancy Goods and Garden Sundries

53 High Street, Jedburgh.

Tel : 01835-862423

Raleigh Cycles now available

You'll be amazed at our range, low prices & unbeatable service!

Woodside Plant Centre & Café

Your local independent plant centre & café based in a lovely old walled garden which formerly served Monteviot House.

Situated just off the A68 near Ancrum, on the road to Nisbet, 200 yards beyond Harestanes Visitor Centre.

Café serving fresh food and snacks prepared on the premises using locally-sourced produce.

Now under new management : Stephen & Emma Emmerson

Open : 10am to 4pm Daily

Telephone : 01835 830315

Website : www.woodsidegarden.co.uk

VisitScotland 4-star Visitor Attraction

Daisychains Garden & Home

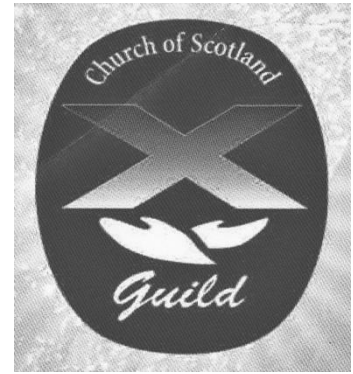
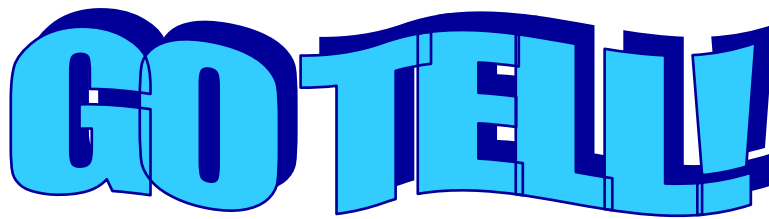
Love your garden? Too tired or busy?

For a professional, reliable service call Susan

07707 872128 or susanheard1@hotmail.co.uk

Also available for ironing, dog walking and housework

Church of Scotland Guild



Report on the National Guild AGM by Joan Hodges

A Century and a quarter of service was celebrated by more than 2000 Guild members who flocked to the Caird Hall in Dundee for a spirited annual meeting in August. Margaret Smith and I were amongst a small contingent from our area who travelled up together by coach.

To mark the 125th anniversary, and in a tribute to its roots, the Guild strategy for the next three years of partnership projects will be '*Whose we are and whom we serve*' – the organisation's founding principle. Guild members will be encouraged to fund-raise for six new projects, reflecting their aim to bring comfort to those most in need. Our own Guild has chosen '*Heart for Art*' and '*Mary's Meals*'.

The Moderator of the General Assembly, the Right Rev Albert Bogle addressed the meeting. In a speech that embraced a theme of '*Faith, Festival and Family*', he said "The Guild's motto and 125 year history is a continual reminder to the Church that we belong to Christ."

He had attended T in the Park. The Organisers had told him that they wanted the 75,000 young people who attend to be socially aware and were interested in how the Church could help. Street Pastors were there connecting with young people. They are about older people connecting with young people, being there at festivals and changing lives and speaking of Christ. "We were to get rid of the myth that older people can not be involved with the work of younger people."

He emphasized the importance of both taking part in local festivals and in connecting with family in 'passing on faith', the theme of his year. The Moderator said "We need to proclaim the Faith. What also do we need today? We need to live it in our communities, partnerships, open our churches and embody the presence of Christ among our people.

There is no division between faith in action and proclamation. They go together.” In a musical closing, he encouraged the Guild to embrace their theme for the day to ‘Go tell’.

Jennifer Rees Larcombe, founder of the charity counselling and retreat centre in Kent ‘*Beauty from Ashes*’ was the other main speaker. She said the premise of the charity’s foundation was the theme of Jesus’s first sermon from Isaiah 61 ‘*I have come to mend the broken hearted*’, which is what the Guild had been doing for the past 125 years.

Beauty from Ashes aims to support people suffering loss, grief and trauma and firmly believes that God heals broken hearts, bodies and lives. Echoing the theme of the day, she admitted it was much harder today to ‘Go Tell’ and that it had to be done in a different way, leading by example.

The afternoon saw the launch of the new theme and the six new projects – Building a Better Rwanda (Comfort Rwanda), Heart for Art (CrossReach), Making a Difference in Liberia (Mary’s Meals), Passage from India (Ministries Council), Julius Project (Scottish Churches Housing Action) and Out of Africa into Malta (World Mission Council).

There was a video presentation of costume through the 125 years, showing how ladies were dressed in earlier days. This caused much amusement! As well as a look back there was a look forward as the winner of the Guild’s 125th anniversary hymn competition was announced. This had been written by a member from Aberdeen, and we sang the new hymn called ‘Inspire Us’ to the tune ‘Londonderry Air’

As usual, we felt privileged to be able to attend and inspired to continue to support the work and aims of the Guild.

Our own Guild continues to meet on the first Monday of the month from September to April. All are welcome – both men and women. We start at 2 pm, usually have a Speaker ... and always have a Cuppa!

*PS : The annual **Ancrum Guild Coffee Evening** was to due be held on Friday 23 November, and we trust this was its usual great success!*

From Ghana : Claire Law reports on her recent visit

I can not explain how so very special this trip to Ghana has been for me and I really wish that all of you who helped support Grace and her brothers were able to experience it too.

Africa was, as it always is, hustling and bustling, full of life with many smells and noises to go with what you are seeing. It was lovely to see Pastor. We then went to the church as it was his wife's mother's funeral which was an experience in itself. I had to dance around the congregation before offering some money to help pay for the funeral.

Of course they were all laughing at my lack of rhythm as I waddled round very uncomfortably. Afterwards we embarked on our 4 hour tro tro ride back to Takoradi which felt longer than I remember it being!! This journey, however, made me realise why I love it so much here.

The whole way back people were laughing and joking, they are so happy and content with their lot in life. I think many of us could learn a thing or two from them ; instead of moaning or worrying about if we will have a job next month, or continually compromising our 'right now' life for what we are striving to get or become (I fear this is what I may be doing) we should stop, look around us and be thankful for what we actually have, especially our family and friends. In the tough times that we may face in the future it is going to be our friends but most of all our family that are there for us and who can help us!!



It was almost dark when I arrived at Nazareth School so it was hard to make the kids out. I didn't have to though as my little Amazing Grace came *running* up to me shouting "Madam Claire" with pure excitement in her voice and wrapped her arms around me lovingly.

I was a bit apprehensive about my trip as Grace and Gabriel were so young and really didn't know me that well, I was a bit scared of their reaction toward me.

However, I had nothing to worry about and our bond only got stronger as the days went on. I want to thank each and every person who has helped transform this little girl's life because she is a changed girl from the last time I saw her. I wish you had all been able to experience our meeting and observe her and her brothers at the school.

I am 100% confident that they are very happy with their lives at Nazareth. Pastor and Aunt Esi (who the children stay with) deserve great credit too, Being here, chatting to them and seeing daily life it is glaringly obvious that they want the best for them and are bringing them up very well indeed. I took out some presents for them.

I got Joseph a pair of Adidas trainers – he loves them!! He was showing them to some of the other boys and their reactions almost brought me to tears ; one boy kissed them all over, another whispered, 'WOW'!! I think of the kids I teach here in Saudi who have ipads, iphones, you name it they have it, and I think about which children are the happiest. Without a doubt it is here in Ghana. They play with sticks and bottle tops and have a number of chores to complete during the day but they are always happy and occupied!!

I took the Turksons to visit their dad in the local village. I was so touched when Grace and Gabriel voluntarily took my hand and chatted away as we walked through the village. Mr Turkson was so pleased to see me, greeted me with a huge hug, and asked Joseph to tell me how much he appreciates what we are doing for them. On the way home we went for a coke and plantain chips, which they wolfed!!

It was a school holiday on the Friday so I took the Turksons into town to get some things they needed : socks, underwear etc. I got totally ripped off on the school bag front, but I couldn't say no when I turned around to see all three children already wearing their new bags with a huge smile on their face. I bet the market seller was loving it! I most definitely got an Obruni (white person) price!

We went and bought some bread and peanut butter and biscuits to take to the beach. I don't think Grace or Gabriel had been before. Madam Nicki had taken Joseph back in 2007 when he attended the Orphanage and he could still recall every detail from that trip.

It just shows how much they appreciate and remember those kind of things. They got their clothes ripped off and we headed in.



Gabriel and Joseph were diving around having so much fun. Grace, on the other hand was a little more hesitant, but took my hand and we jumped the waves.

Hearing their laughs and seeing their smiles made this one of the best days of my life. I realised that all of us in Ancrum and beyond have given these kids, especially Grace a whole new life and it is such a special thing to be part of. Thank you for making it possible.

I may have had the initial want to do it but without all the money from you guys it would never have materialised. I would like to thank you all again for all that you have done and if anyone feels that they would like to continue to help support Grace it would be much appreciated.

At the moment we have enough money in her fund to pay for two more years of schooling which will take her to Primary 6. However, please don't feel obliged to give money as you have all done more than enough as it is and I wanted to share my experience with you not badger you for more money. Also if any of you have any fundraising ideas that would be greatly appreciated too.

Oh and if any of you fancy taking a trip out to Ghana, let me know, we could have a wee Ancrum Trip out there one day :-)

Lots of love to you all,

Claire

The Big Dig at Ancrum

It might have come as a surprise to our readers to have seen Ancrum on both the BBC Scotland and Border Tyne Tees TV news during the early part of October as an team led by Dr Chris Bowles, Archaeology Officer of Scottish Borders Council, dug for buried treasure in a farm field and found ... a palace! Dr Bowles writes as follows :

The site of Mantle Walls, immediately east of Ancrum, was long suspected as the site of a large building, possibly built by the medieval Bishops of Glasgow or, rather less likely, the Knights of Malta (thus the original name for the field: Maltan Walls). However, very little was known about the nature of the building, or if it even survived below the cultivated field that currently occupies the site.

In 2010, the SBC Archaeology Officer was contacted by a member of the public concerned about metal detecting on the site. On a site visit, large masonry blocks were seen in the field margin and several shards of medieval pottery were discovered in the plough soil. With the possibility of a major site being impacted by 'nighthawking' (metal detecting where finds are not reported to Treasure Trove Scotland), a project was embarked upon to ascertain what survived of the building.

With grant support from Historic Scotland, SBC's Archaeology Officer contracted the services of Glasgow University to conduct a geophysical survey and small keyhole excavation. The geophysical results from the survey conducted in 2011 showed that substantial wall lines existed.

In October of this year, the Glasgow team were back to excavate small trenches over the geophysical anomalies. The results were stunning. Not only did they discover evidence for the construction and destruction of a large building, the also discovered substantial walls and very finely carved stonework for a doorway. This evidence was proof that the building remains not only existed, but that they were well preserved despite years of ploughing and metal detecting.

While more work needs to be done, the evidence is mounting that this building was the palace for the medieval Bishop's of Glasgow and was the chief administrative centre for the Archdeaconry of Teviotdale. Men like Bishop de Bondington called Ancrum home and the affairs of the entire Bishopric were run from this field on the edge of Ancrum.

The Lost Palace

Reflections on "The Big Dig" by Jedburgh-born author Doug Jackson, whose best-selling historical novels include Defender of Rome, Hero of Rome, Claudius and Caligula. Doug, who lives now in Bridge of Allan, is married to Ancrum lass Alison [Law], kindly agreed to our publishing this blog from his website : <http://www.douglas-jackson.net/>

I've passed the field a few hundred times. It slopes down to the road, between the village of Ancrum and the River Ale, just a couple of hundred yards from a cliff with caves where the local residents once sought refuge during the troubled times of the Wars of Independence.



There's nothing remarkable about it, but I'd seen people with metal detectors or field walking a couple of times, so I had an idea there'd been something there once, perhaps an Iron Age settlement or Neolithic Fort. But when we were visiting on Saturday I noticed the unmistakable signs of an archeological dig, so I put on my wellies and took a walk over to discover that the diggers had just uncovered one of the most important ecclesiastical sites in Medieval Scotland, a long lost Bishop's Palace. Dr Chris Bowles, who led the investigation, told me that the Palace had been built in the 12th Century, and was in use for most of the 13th. It had been built by a Bishop of Glasgow, and one Bishop de Bondington, responsible for founding Glasgow Cathedral, had actually died there after dictating his last writ to the Pope.

To put the importance of the site in perspective, you have to be aware that the palace was built at a time of enormous significance in Scotland's history. King David I, a pious and devout ruler, endowed the four great Border Abbeys around that time, handing over vast swathes of land. Jedburgh Abbey just four miles away was founded in 1138 by the king and Bishop John of Glasgow, so there is likely to be a direct correlation between the two. Perhaps it was where the Bishop's representatives lived while they oversaw the building work of the magnificent Augustinian church, which took over 100 years to construct

It was unfortunate to be completed at a time when relations between England and Scotland began to deteriorate, and when the Abbey suffered from the various incursions - it was burned five times - the Bishop's Palace would have suffered with it. The end probably came in the mid 16th century with Henry VIII's Rough Wooing of Scotland when Sir Ralph Evers triumphantly wrote to his king that he had burned 'seven monasteries, sixteen castles, five market towns, 240 villages and three hospitals', and had followed Henry's instructions to put man woman and child to the sword to the letter. Jedburgh Abbey never recovered and the power of the Bishops was ended.



*Part of a medieval window
with beading and slots for bars*



Foundations of a massive wall

The limited archaeological dig has uncovered portions of wall that give some hint of the massive scale of the structure and it sent a shiver down my spine to be able to look on tangible evidence of its existence and significance nine hundred years after it was built. They've also come across various finds associated with the period.

The one that fascinated me most was a lead musket ball, one of a number found in this field. By the time it was fired, the Bishops of Glasgow were long gone, but it points to another time of turbulence, probably in the 18th century, perhaps a long forgotten skirmish in the '45, when Bonnie Prince Charlie's army passed this way. Who knows what other stories it has to tell ...

ED'S NOTE : Two large stones from of the Palace, including the part of the medieval window shown above, are now in Ancrum Kirk for safekeeping, and may be viewed any Sunday morning.

Our Historical Heritage

In 2011 an excellent little book was published : The Village Kirks of the Scottish Borders, by James Denham. James kindly consented to allow edited extracts to be printed in the GOOD NEWS. You can buy a copy of the book from James at : 24 St. John Street, Galashiels, TD1 3JX

To the north-west of Ancrum, once stood Longnewton Church, which became part of the parish of Ancrum some 130 years following the Reformation previously having been a chapel of dependency of the church at Lessudden (St. Boswells).

Known by the name of Neutoun, the chapel and its tithes were granted to Dryburgh Abbey by Robert of Londonia. In 1220, Longnewton was created a vicarage at a meeting between the powers of Glasgow and Jedburgh, with the proviso that the new vicarage should receive eight marks, or the whole of the alterage, and the vicar should pay homage on the Feast Day of St. James, 25th July.

At the demise of the Londonias, the parish came in to the hands of the Franceis family, one of whom, William le Franceis, witnessed a charter pertaining to lands at Maxton. In 1296, Johan Franceys de Longa Neutoun swore fealty to Edward I. In 1305, a meeting was held at Newtoun between the abbot of Melrose and the rector of Wathstirker, a church in Eskdale, to agree on their differences. In 1390, King Robert II granted the church to Walter Douglas.

By the time of the Reformation, Longnewton was one of four churches being cared for by one minister – *plus ca change* and all that! – but it soon became a parish in its own right and that persisted until its annexation to Ancrum in 1684. The lands, including tower and tenants and the service of Freeholders, passed to Francis, Earl of Bothwell.

The church fell in to decay soon after its joining Ancrum, as did the old village. Now everything has gone including the church, the tower and the school, though the graveyard is still extant and well cared for. The site of the kirk on the highest ground of the cemetery can still be seen but the glory that was Langneuton has long since departed.



Two images taken from the Geograph project collection, licensed for reuse under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 2.0 license.

Above – Longnewton Kirkyard. © James Denham.

Below – Belses Station. © Ben Brooksbank.



YOU are the disciple whom Jesus loves! : from John 13 : 31-38

Sermon preached at Crailing, 26 August 2012

The apostle John had a habit of describing himself as the *disciple whom Jesus loved*. Which wound up his pal Peter, something awful! There was a bit of rivalry between these two disciples, and I used to sympathise with Peter. I thought John must have had a head the size of Arthur's Seat to talk of himself as the *disciple whom Jesus loved*.

As he did, all the time! I now realise that I misunderstood John. Badly. Compare John with Peter. Peter, great guy, very powerful apostle, but inclined to open his mouth and put both feet in it. At least until Easter, Peter thought of himself as *the disciple who loved Jesus*. He was always first to answer the questions, to put himself forward, to declare his undying loyalty to Jesus, even at the cost of his own life. In John 13.37, Peter thunders : *Jesus, I will lay down my life for you*.

But when the crunch came, just a few hours after these brave words, when the soldiers came to arrest Jesus, Peter didn't deliver. With a few expletives, he denied ever knowing Jesus. He was nowhere to be seen at the crucifixion. It was John who dutifully turned up to support Jesus during His last horrible hours, who accepted responsibility for Mary the mother of Jesus. It was John, not Peter, who stuck it out to the end.

And here's why. Peter's focus was on how much *he* loved *Jesus*. John's focus was on how much *Jesus* loved *him*. What's the big deal about that, you might ask? Well, which do you think is stronger – our love for Jesus, or His love for us? No contest! The great thing to remember is that Jesus has done all the hard work for us already.

Hebrews 1.3 : *When He had by offering Himself accomplished our cleansing of sins and riddance of guilt, Jesus sat down at the right hand of the divine Majesty on high*. Job done!

Jesus is the Giver. In Mark 10, Jesus is approached by a blind man named Bartimaeus. Jesus asked : *What do you want **me** to do for **you**?* To us, especially if we come from a religious background, that seems a bit "off". We'd be far more comfortable asking Jesus what He wants **us** to do for **Him**! But no. First things first. There's a very simple truth here. You can't give away what you've never received.

Look at John 13.34, where Jesus says : *A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.* Take careful note which way round it is. *As I have loved you, so you must love one another.* Which comes first? We can't do what Jesus commands and give to others love, forgiveness and healing, until we have first humbled ourselves to receive it from Him.

Peter hadn't quite got that. But John had. By describing Himself as the disciple whom Jesus loved, John wasn't being pompous or presumptuous. He was showing spiritual maturity. He knew that, before you can be a good and faithful giver, you first need to be a good and faithful receiver. And that's a big issue facing many of us right now.

Today I pray that each and every one of us reading this message – and it really doesn't matter if we've been coming to church week by week since 19-canteen, or if we haven't been inside a church since we were at primary school – I pray that we will get hold of one simple but vital truth, and to get hold of it with the determination of a rottweiler with a fillet steak – and here it is : **Jesus loves you!**

You might react to that astonishing revelation – *yeah, I know that.* But do we really know it? Really know, deep in our heart, what the love of Jesus is, what the love of Jesus means? I am absolutely convinced that the biggest single cause of just about every problem that human beings face is down to **not** knowing Jesus loves you.

Addiction to everything from drugs to gambling to comfort food. Stress. Anxiety. Depression. Insecurity. Broken homes. Broken relationships. A whole bunch of physical illnesses. Scratch the surface and you find the root cause of that trash is feeling unloved, unappreciated, rejected. And when you feel unloved, unappreciated, rejected, what happens?

You tie yourself in knots trying to please people and manipulate them into loving you, or you do all sorts of crazy things to seek attention and affection. And, of course, all that does is make matters worse. That's what happens when faith is absent. What is faith? FAITH is simply KNOWING, for sure, that Jesus loves you, that He is always there for you, He is always on your side, as the Bible says, no matter how you're acting. It's KNOWING that Jesus loves you, unconditionally, whatever.

But if you don't have FAITH in the love of Jesus, if you don't trust and depend on the free gift of His love, you've got no choice but to trust and depend on the love of other human beings, and I'm sorry to say you will be disappointed. Humans can't deliver. Only Jesus can. John knew that. Peter had to find out the hard way. Now are you beginning to see why it's so vital to KNOW, not just as a theory in your head, but as a living truth in your heart, that Jesus loves you?

So much so that He gave His life for you. The Bible tells us, in graphic detail, exactly what happened to Jesus within 24 hours of the words He spoke in John 14. He was arrested on a false charge. He was beaten almost to a pulp by Roman soldiers. He was convicted by a kangaroo court and sentenced to death.

As He carried His own cross through the city, He was abused, sworn at, spat on, treated like the lowest of the low. He was stripped naked and nailed through the wrists and the ankles to a piece of wood and left there in agony until His broken body could no longer fight for breath. His dead body was taken down and dumped in a borrowed grave.

I remember, in 1981, going to Israel to watch Scotland playing a World Cup tie and, for something to do one day, I went down to Jerusalem and walked what's called the Via Dolorosa, the path Jesus took on Good Friday carrying His cross to His place of execution. Up till then, I was religious, but a religious mess. I was a motor-mouthed football administrator who was too fond of the jungle juice!

I tried to keep in with God through church activities and hope He wouldn't notice my seven-day-a-week life was going down the pan, big time. I had no conception that He loved me. Until that day, when for the first time I began to have a glimmer of understanding what Jesus actually experienced, and I heard a voice deep within me say ; *and all this, Frank, He did for you.* That was a life-changing moment.

I suddenly realised that what Jesus suffered had a purpose in my life. He did it to pay off all the wrong things I had done, to wipe my slate clean, to let me start again. But you don't have to go to Jerusalem to get a fresh start. You can receive it here and now, because : *all that, He did for you too.* What you must remember is that Jesus didn't stay dead. On the third day He rose again, and even the Jewish and Roman historians who hated Jesus have no answer to that.

No other explanation makes sense of the recorded facts. Over 500 people saw Jesus alive again. His rising from the dead means that one day, by His love, we will go to be with Him in Heaven, but until that time, again by His love, Heaven can be in us. You also, right now, can draw on His resurrection power to change your life dramatically.

The risen Jesus didn't come to me because I was the greatest thing since sliced bread! He came because I **wasn't**! Jesus came to me because He loved me, not because I was loveable! Jesus came to a man called Saul of Tarsus, a hot-headed bigot who hated Jesus and all He stood for, who'd done all he could to smash the early church. Why? Because Jesus loved him. Result? The apostle Paul who preached the gospel all over Greece and Turkey and wrote half the New Testament!

The risen Jesus came to a drug-crazed gangster in New York called Nicky Cruz. Why? Because Jesus loved him. He gave Nicky a new life, as a powerful preacher who led many former gangsters to the Lord. The risen Jesus came to a woman from a no-horse town in Missouri who'd been abused from childhood. Why? Because Jesus loved Joyce Meyer, set her free, and now she's one of our best-loved TV ministers.

Jesus is here for **you**. He's not reaching out to you because **you're** so wonderful but because **He is**. Jesus knows what a mess you've made of your life so far. Jesus knows the turmoil inside your head, the bad news you've had from the doctor, the state your bank and credit card balances are in, but He still loves you and nothing is impossible for Him who stilled the storms and even raised the dead.

There will be no illness nor disease in Heaven, so we don't need it here on earth either. The Bible tells us that Jesus went around healing the sick and that by the wounds He suffered we also have been healed [Acts 10.38, 1 Peter 2.24]. There will be no fear nor depression in Heaven, so we don't need it here on earth either.

Time after time Jesus told us : *Do not be afraid. I am with you always.* Whatever trouble you may be facing, it's not Superman nor Spiderman you need – it's Jesus. With the King of Kings and Lord of Lords right by your side, who or what would dare to get in your face? And when you KNOW that Jesus loves you, His love takes over your life. You'll treat people right without even trying, because the love Jesus gave you will just overflow out of you as naturally as breathing.

Photography for every occasion

Chris Morrison

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

01835-823561

LILLIESLEAF GOLF COURSE

[2½ miles west of Lilliesleaf]

Lilliesleaf Golf Course is a fun course for the less discerning golfer. Dress is informal, and dogs and children are welcome at all times.

The course is made up of 11 challenging holes, one par 5, seven par 4's, and three par 3's. In total the course measures 2563 yards.

Hazards include trees, water and bunkers. Occasionally additional hazards may appear from time to time.

Membership fee : £175 per year

Visitors : £10.00 per person per round ; £15 each per person per day

Visitors (evenings after 5pm) : £5.00 per person

Guests of members : £5 per person per round

Juniors (under 16 on 1st May): half the above prices

MUNRO'S OF JEDBURGH

Private Hire Specialists
14-53 seater coaches available

*For a fully reliable service at very
competitive rates phone
01835-862253 for a free quotation*



BONJEDWARD GARAGE

Kelso Road, Jedburgh TD8 6SL

Tel / Fax 01835 : 863307

*** Sales ** Servicing ** Repairs ***

IF YOU HAVE A CAR WITH A PROBLEM ... WE CAN HELP!

We carry out MOT testing servicing & repairs on all makes of vehicles including most leased vehicles.

We carry stock of tyres & operate fast fitting of exhausts at very competitive rates.

We now have air-conditioning testing and recharging facilities at very competitive rates

**IF YOU HAVE A CAR WITHOUT A PROBLEM ...
WE CAN HELP KEEP IT THAT WAY!**

J. & J. LAW, Timber Merchants

Stobs, Posts, Rails, Battens, Panels, Trellis Fencing etc

Standing or roadside timber always required

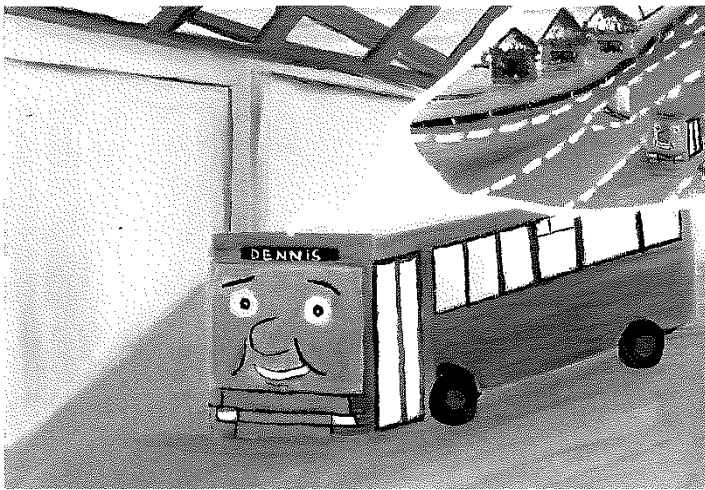
Lilliesleaf Sawmill, Melrose TD6 9JP

Tel : 01835-870373 or 01835-830363

A wee story for the children

Big Alex's Christmas Crunch : from "The Adventures of Big Alex and his friends" © C A Graham. A limited number of autographed copies of this book are available for a donation of at least £5 to the Kirk – contact Frank Campbell if you would like one.

Christmas Eve dawned bright and frosty, and all the buses in the garage expected a very busy day indeed, taking their passengers into town for their last-minute Christmas shopping, and then safely to their families in good time for Santa ... and Christmas dinner of course! Hector the Inspector came in to give the buses their duties for the day.



"Dennis, you're going to the Big City". Dennis was SO excited! He didn't often get to go there. However, as he dreamed of the twinkling bright lights in the city centre, the German market, and the funfair with its Big Wheel, he heard a noise that meant trouble. It was Big Alex clearing his exhaust pipe.

"Em, Mr Hector, sir". Dennis didn't like the sound of that. Whenever Big Alex was nice to Hector, it meant he was looking for a favour – and so it proved.

"As you know, Mr Hector, I used to work in the Big City". At this, the other buses let out a groan. If they'd heard Big Alex's tales of the Big City once, they'd heard them a million times.

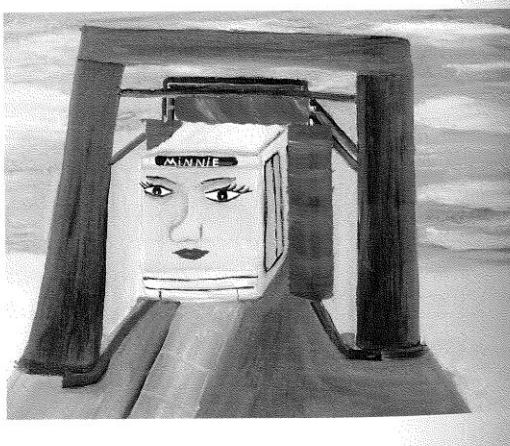


And they didn't get better with telling! Big Alex went on [and on!] "But ever since I've come to this garage, I never seem to go anywhere but the school run. Every morning, every afternoon, school, school, school.

But there's no school today, Mr Hector, so I'm free. And – no offence, Dennis ...” [Dennis knew he wouldn't enjoy hearing this ...]

“You see, Mr Hector, Dennis is just too small for the city today. If you send Dennis, lots of passengers will have to stand all the way home, with their parcels between their toes, and they won't like it. In future ... they might go ... BY CAR!!!”

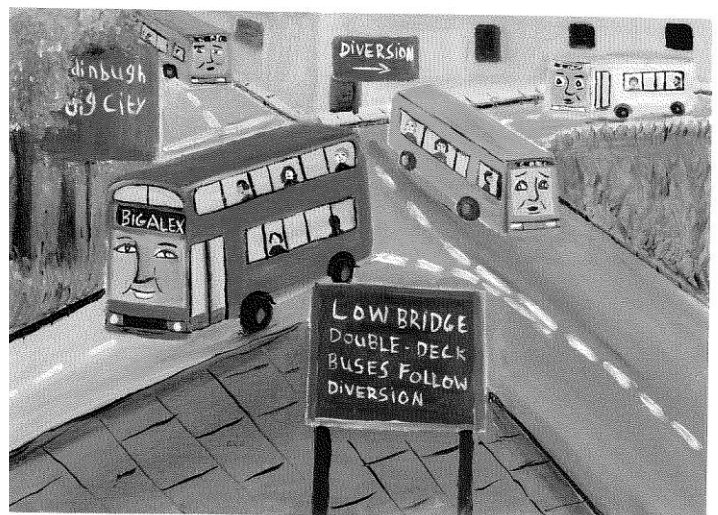
Mr Hector thought for a moment before agreeing : “OK, Alex, the city for you. Dennis, sorry, but you'll be on the local run today”. Big Alex puffed out his radiator grille with pride. Dennis was disappointed, but he didn't let it show. He was a good honest bus who did his job well.



Hector then turned to Minnie. “Minnie”, said Mr Hector. “You're on standby. You can go to the workshop and have a wash and brush-up, but I've a feeling I'll need you later”. That was a strange one. Standby? On Christmas Eve? Minnie was puzzled, but said nothing. Hector was usually on the ball, so why worry? There were worse ways to spend Christmas Eve than having a “minnie-makeover”!

Big Alex proudly glided away to the bus station to pick up his passengers. Almost all his seats were full as he set off to the Big City. Everyone was happily chatting about their plans for Christmas Day. The journey went like a dream ...until Big Alex got to the outskirts of the Big City, and found out things had changed since he'd been away. Since a new railway had been built, the road system had changed too.

But Alex was daydreaming about his glorious past and didn't notice the road signs : **Low Bridge. Double-Deck Buses Follow Diversion.** So Alex just followed the road he'd always taken, until a thought suddenly struck him : “Oh! That looks like a new railway bridge. I don't remember ...”





CRR! Expensive tinkling noises! Oops! Big Alex had made a mistake. He hadn't followed the signs, and now he was jammed under a railway bridge he didn't know was there!

He couldn't budge an inch, and he felt **very** silly. The single-deck buses sniggered as they passed Big Alex, stuck there.

But what about his passengers? There was only one thing to do. Big Alex's driver got on the phone to the depot. Hector the Inspector quickly sent Minnie out on the local run and despatched Dennis to the Big City ... followed by a breakdown truck with a very big tin-opener.

Minnie was happy on the local run, helping all the mums home with their turkeys and Christmas pud's for the Big Day.

Dennis was delighted with a trip to the Big City, and he had a giggle as he heard the passengers joke about how silly Big Alex had been.

And Big Alex himself? Well, he sighed, as he was towed home, red-faced and rather battered, behind a breakdown truck, there's always jobs for an open-top double-decker in the summer!



Jesus said that he came so that you may enjoy your life, and have it in abundance, to the full, till it overflows. That's a Christmas gift worth having, and it's yours for free, if you just welcome Jesus into your life. Don't be like Big Alex – so full of "aye been" that you don't notice the signpost to a great new life in Jesus, get stuck in the past, and miss it!

The Church of Scotland : Policy Statement

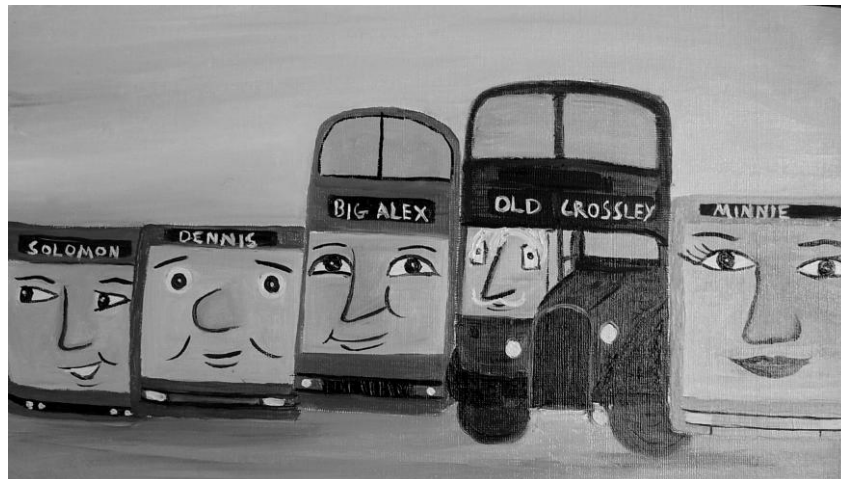
Ensuring a Safe Church for All



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

The Adventures of Big Alex & Friends : by CA Graham

Children's picture book by ... ahem, a local author, who may just have something to do with producing this magazine!



*A great stocking-filler for the kids ... order your personally autographed copy for a donation to the Kirk of £5 or more.
Speak to Frank or contact info@aleandteviot.org.uk*

Have you looked at our church website lately?

Keep in touch with what's going on :

www.aleandteviot.org.uk

Not just on Sunday mornings ...

In all our churches, there is a **Prayer Box** near the door, and Prayer Cards are provided for prayer requests, anonymously if you prefer.

A **Devotional Diary** is produced monthly, available at the church door, with a prayer point for every day, accompanied by three suggested Bible readings. You can also download this on-line

Prayer & Bible Study : Bible Study resumed on Monday 1st October and has met fortnightly to continue studying the book of 1 Corinthians. We started this session in chapter 14 and have had some very interesting and enlightening discussions on these passages. After the Christmas break, our meetings will resume in late January.

Tuesday Girls : Alternate Tuesdays, 7.pm to 8.30.pm in The Manse, a Bible study led by Alexis, with a emphasis on health and wholeness. After the Christmas break, our meetings will resume in late January.

The Church of Scotland's magazine "**Life and Work**" is available in each of our church buildings for anyone to take away for a leisurely read at home, and then to pass on to anyone else.

Also available, **free of charge**, are regular newsletters from various anointed ministries worldwide including Joyce Meyer, Creflo Dollar, Kenneth Copeland, Andrew Wommack and Joseph Prince. Enjoy!

On-line Sermons : You can download and print Sunday sermons from the website. Go to the "news" page and browse "sermons".

CD recordings of our morning services can be supplied on request. Please contact the minister or any member of the Kirk Session.

Healing : Alexis and Frank will gladly make ourselves available to offer healing ministry – please e-mail or phone.

Check the weekly Church News or the website for more information.

An Important Message from the Minister

Visits to Borders General Hospital

Throughout my entire ministry, upwards of 20 years, it has been my practice to visit the local hospital on a more-or-less weekly basis and to take advantage of the “chaplains’ lists” provided, giving the names and addresses of all those who had been admitted to that hospital.

The Borders General Hospital was one of the last hospitals in Scotland still to provide that courtesy to ministers. Alas, the constraints of “data protection” and so-called “human rights” have now prevailed, and the practice has been discontinued.

As a result, I am no longer able to find out who is in hospital UNLESS a patient, on admission, requests a visit ; or someone tells me. Please let me know if you, or someone known to you, will be going into the BGH – or indeed any hospital – otherwise, I’m sorry to say, you probably won’t receive a visit. Many thanks for your help and co-operation.

Blythswood Care : Uplift of good used clothes etc

Blythswood Care have a monthly uplift of clothing, non-perishable foodstuffs, bric-a-brac and small items of furniture for needy people in Eastern Europe. Larger items of furniture may also be accepted, by arrangement – please call 0141-882-0585 or 07947-617047. Listed below are provisional collection dates for early 2013 :

MONDAYS : 4 February, 4 March, 1 April [January not yet known]

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

TUESDAYS : 5 February, 5 March, 2 April [January not yet known]

Hawick	Morrisons Car Park	9.00-9.45.am
Jedburgh	Bus Station Car Park	10.15-10.45.am
Kelso	Knowes Car Park	11.15-11.45.am

RGB

PHOTOGRAPHY

BEAUTIFUL TIMELESS IMAGES

Modern, Reportage Wedding Photography

Our membership of the Wedding Photojournalist Association is your guarantee that we will provide you with a beautiful story of your special day, including all the laughter, tears, joy and excitement

Stunning Coffee Table Books
Luxurious, Custom-made Wedding Story Books
DVD Options

WEDDING | PHOTOJOURNALIST
ASSOCIATION

Portrait, Event and Commercial Photography

We plan and discuss every detail of the shoot and the final product with you to make sure that you get exactly what you want from our service. Our Mobile Studio means that we can shoot almost anywhere and at a time that suits you.

Contact us today to start creating a beautiful, timeless record of your big day.

www.rgbphotography.co.uk

0845 0945 981

12 The Glebe

Ancrum

Parish Registers

23 July – 16 November 2012

Baptisms

12 August <i>Ancrum</i>	Iyla Irene Barker, <i>daughter of</i> Ryan & Leah [McConnell], 20 Alemoor Court, Hawick
26 August <i>Crailing</i>	Ethan Gareth Scott, <i>son of</i> Gareth & Claire [Parsons], 29 Headrig, Jedburgh

Weddings

26 July <i>Lilliesleaf</i>	Donald Galbraith & Fiona Murdoch <i>now living at</i> : 16 Merchiston Park, Edinburgh
11 August <i>Lilliesleaf</i>	David Wilson & Jennifer Hendry, Aberdeen <i>Conducted by Rev Ian Mackenzie</i>
18 August <i>Lilliesleaf</i>	Neil Darling & Karole Redburn <i>now living at</i> : Lochside, Clerklands
14 September <i>Lilliesleaf</i>	David Rutherford & Joan Thomson <i>now living at</i> : Midview, Netherraw

Funerals

26 July <i>Jedburgh</i>	Mrs Margaret Wood 89 Howden Road
30 July <i>Jedburgh</i>	Mrs Barbara Scott 20 Bountrees
7 August <i>Jedburgh</i>	Mrs Jean Macdonald 1 Balfour Court
13 September <i>Ancrum</i>	Miss Jenny Frater 15 Milfield Gardens ; <i>formerly</i> 5 North Myres Croft
14 September <i>Ancrum</i>	Mrs Dorothy Winterflood 14 Myres Croft Road

19 September <i>Ancrum</i>	Mrs Kathleen Fairbairn Springwood Village, Kelso
25 September <i>Ancrum</i>	Mr Tom McRobert Crawford, Lanarkshire ; <i>formerly</i> 4 Landene
22 October <i>Lilliesleaf</i>	Mr Bobby Dalgliesh 9 Muselie Drive
7 November <i>Ancrum</i>	Mrs Moira Scott 12 Weensgate Drive, Hawick
8 November <i>Lilliesleaf</i>	Mrs Ella Hope Galashiels ; <i>formerly</i> Cross Keys & Riverview
16 November <i>Ancrum</i>	Mr Robert Anderson 6 Milfield Gardens ; <i>formerly</i> 16 Landene
16 November <i>Ancrum</i>	Mr Brian Liddle 32 South Myres Croft

New Members : Transference

Mr Robert Burnside & Mrs Zena Burnside
Highcroft, Allerton Place, Jedburgh [from Jedburgh Old & Trinity]

Members Leaving : Transference

David Hunter, Fernbank, Midlem [to Bowden & Melrose]

Mrs May Reid, 15 The Valley, Selkirk [to Selkirk]

Roxburghshire Landward Benevolent Trust & Miss Frances Sprot Trust

Through local Trust Funds, it may be possible to offer some modest help toward winter heating bills – more than ever, a major item in the household budget, especially for those living on low or fixed incomes. If you would like to apply for help, or to recommend someone for help, in either case on a totally confidential basis, please contact Frank Campbell *in writing* – either by e-mail or by “snail-mail”.

Ale & Teviot United Church

Special Events over Christmas

We look forward to seeing you at any of our celebrations of Jesus' birthday!



NOTE : ALL DEPENDENT ON WEATHER!!

If in doubt, check the Website : WWW.ALEANDTEVIOT.ORG.UK

Sunday 2 December : Morning Services

Ancrum : 10.am ; Lilliesleaf : 11.30.am. No service at Crailing

Monday 3 December : Guild Christmas Party : Ancrum : 2.pm

Come and enjoy a warm welcome, some entertainment, and a lovely afternoon tea. Bring a party piece if you have one!

Sunday 9 December : Morning Services

Ancrum : 10.am ; Crailing : 10.30.am ; Lilliesleaf : 11.30.am.

Sunday 16 December : United Service : Ancrum : 10.am

ALL-AGE SERVICE. Donations may be brought of non-perishable food items for the local churches' Food Bank. There will be NO SERVICES at Crailing or Lilliesleaf that morning.

Sunday 16 December : Riddell Fiddles : Lilliesleaf : 6.30.pm

A happy celebration for the holiday season, led by this locally based, and internationally renowned, group of musicians.

Wednesday 19 December : Ancrum School Concert : 6.30.pm

In Ancrum Church, followed by mince pies in the Village Hall.

Friday 21 December : School End-of-term Services

In church – all welcome : Ancrum : 9.30.am ; Lilliesleaf : 11.15.am.

Friday 21 December : Carol Service : Eckford : 6.30.pm

Fun event in Eckford Village Hall, followed by coffee, mulled wine and mince pies. For more details, please contact Annette Fraser [850213].

Sunday 23 December : Lessons & Carols : Lilliesleaf : 11.30.am

Listen to the Christmas story, and sing along with well-loved carols, old and new. There will be NO SERVICES that day at Ancrum or Crailing.

Christmas Eve : Family Service : Ancrum : 6.30.pm

If you have young children to get safely tucked up in bed in good time for Santa, or if you are keen to get safely home before the weather turns too cold, come to our United Family Service.

Christmas Eve : Carol Singing : Lilliesleaf : 6.30.pm

Meeting at the Village Hall, singing around the village and collecting for the War Blinded ... then coffee and mince pies in The Plough!

Christmas Eve : Watchnight Services Crailling & Lilliesleaf : 11.30.pm

Come and greet the new-born King as the Christmas bells ring out! Bruce McNicol presides at Lilliesleaf, Frank Campbell is at Crailling.

Christmas Day : Family Service : Ancrum : 10.am

A happy half-hour to give thanks for the Saviour's birth. Kids of all ages are welcome to bring along a new toy that Santa has brought.

All offerings in church on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day will be "sown" into the new BGH Margaret Kerr Unit

Sunday 30 December : Communion : Crailling : 10.30.am

We end 2012 together around the Lord's table. All welcome, of all ages or denominations. NO SERVICES that day at Ancrum or Lilliesleaf.



ALE & TEVIOT UNITED CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Scottish Charity No : SC 016457

Website : www.aleandteviot.org.uk

- Minister : Rev Frank Campbell
22 The Glebe ; Ancrum ; Jedburgh ; TD8 6UX
Voicemail : 01835-830318
e-mail : info@aleandteviot.org.uk
- Session Clerk : Mr John Rogerson
24 Cotgreen Road ; Galashiels ; TD1 3SG
Phone : 01896-754817
e-mail : B16ESS@yahoo.co.uk
- Treasurer : Mr Harold Inglis
72 Back Row ; Selkirk ; TD7 4AG
Phone : 01750-23172
e-mail : harold.inglis@btinternet.com

TIMES OF SERVICES : January to March 2013

- ANCRUM** Every Sunday at 10.am
- LILLIESLEAF** Every Sunday at 11.30.am
17 Mar : Communion, 11.30.am [no evening service]
- CRAILING** 13 & 27 Jan ; 10 & 24 Feb ; 10 & 24 Mar ; all 10.30.am
NO Songs of Praise evenings during this period

*Easter events in the next edition of GOOD NEWS.
Any changes will be notified in weekly Church News*

**A Very Merry Christmas and a
Happy, Healthy, Prosperous New Year!**