

GOOD NEWS!



It was for you that Jesus did this

The magazine of
**ALE & TEVIOT
UNITED CHURCH**

Easter 2013



ALE & TEVIOT UNITED CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

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TIMES OF SUNDAY SERVICES : April to July 2013

ANCRUM Every Sunday, 10.am **except** 14 April, 19 May, 30 June
12 May : Communion, 10.am & 6.30.pm [with Healing]
2 June : Prizegiving & All-age communion, 10.am

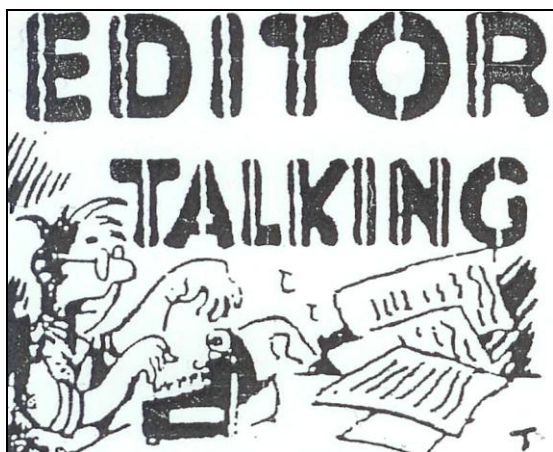
LILLIESLEAF Every Sunday, 11.30.am **except** 19 May, 2 Jun, 30 Jun
12 May : Communion, 11.30.am [no evening service]

CRAILING **10.30** : 28 Apr ; 12 & 26 May ; 9 & 23 Jun ; 14 & 28 Jul
6.30.pm : 7 Apr ; 5 May ; 2 & 30 Jun [none in July]
26 May : Communion, 10.30.am [no evening service]

SPECIAL EVENTS : NO SERVICES IN CHURCH

Sun. 19 May : "Heart and Soul", Edinburgh. Bus from our churches.
Sun. 30 June : With 42nd Dundee BB at Ancrum Football Club, 10.am

Any changes will be notified in weekly Church News



With the first, very welcome, blinks of spring-like sunshine, as I write these notes in the final days of February, I note that the spring flowers are shooting through, there's buds and blossom appearing on the trees ... and the grass needs cut!!! Yes, already!!

These natural signs of spring shattering the grip of winter's gloom are a reminder of a vital spiritual truth – that life is a far more powerful force than death. This should not surprise us. That famous text, John 10.10, reveals very clearly the author of each of those conditions.

The devil, who is a thief, comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came, said Jesus, that you may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance – to the full, till it overflows.

No matter what dastardly deeds the devil will stoop to in his attempt to trash our lives, the God who sent His Son Jesus into the world – not to judge us, but to save us – will frustrate and, ultimately, annihilate him.

Never is that more starkly illustrated than at Easter, when we reflect on the pathetic little intrigues of the religious leaders – aided and abetted by their sworn enemies, the pagan Roman occupation forces – to get rid of Jesus, whose only “crime” was His transparent, uncompromised, grace toward all who were broken in body, soul and spirit.

Because the loving-kindness of Jesus – as demonstrated by His words of encouragement and acceptance, His deeds of miraculous healing and authority over the forces of nature – won the hearts of the people in a way the religious traditionalists in Jerusalem could never dream of, they allowed their jealousy and envy to fester into murderous hatred.

The weapons they deployed were abuse and violence, intimidation and deception, spears and swords, thorns and nails, a rough wooden cross. When they had expended their loathing on Jesus, they made sure His body was placed in a cave, a massive boulder was rolled in front of it, and an armed guard set to ensure His body stayed there.

That was the best that death and its author, the devil, could do.

That was Friday. A horrible day.

Then came Saturday. In its oppressive silence, it was pretty grim too.

But then came Sunday ...

Mark tells the story [Mark 16 : 1-7, New International Version © Biblica]

Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?" But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away.

As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'"

HE HAS RISEN! HE IS NOT HERE!

Of course not! Jesus didn't belong in a place of death! The whole point of His coming was to defeat death, once and for all. He did that Himself on Easter Day ... and now He freely offers, to all who make the quality decision to put our faith and trust in Him, that we will share that victory!

For all of us who allow the love of Jesus to penetrate into our hearts, there is the promise, the sure and certain promise, that death has no more authority over us. Oh yes, one day – maybe when we're about 120, which the Bible identifies as the proper life-span for His people, you can confirm that from Genesis 6.3 – this body, this "earth-suit" we presently wear, will be past its sell-by date ... but that is not the end.

No indeed! That's when we check out of this life and our spirit and soul go to be with the Lord ... who will give us, we see in 1 Corinthians 15, a "resurrection body" which will never grow old, get wrinkled, acquire a spare tyre, go grey or bald. Please be assured, there will be NO need for cosmetic surgery, botox or hair extensions in Heaven!

And if, thanks to Jesus, we have a promise of everlasting life beyond this one, does this mean we can also expect to enjoy supernatural life-over-death while we're still here on earth? Oh yes!

God's purpose is ALWAYS *that you may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance – to the full, till it overflows* ... and the victory of Jesus has made every blessing freely available NOW to all who believe.

Paul writes [2 Corinthians 9.8, Amplified Bible © Lockman Foundation] *God is able to make all grace (every favour and earthly blessing) come to you in abundance, so that you may always and under all circumstances and whatever the need be self-sufficient, possessing enough to require no aid or support and furnished in abundance for every good work and charitable donation.*

ALL grace! EVERY favour and earthly blessing! In ABUNDANCE! ALWAYS and under ALL circumstances!

It is God's plan and purpose that you and I can enjoy a foretaste of Heaven right here, right now, on earth. Now, the world out there might like that idea, but it hasn't a clue how to make it happen.

You and I have. Follow the instruction Jesus gave to a desperate man by name of Jairus who was staring down the barrel at the death of his 12-year-old daughter. He was buffeted by waves of fear inside, and by a bunch of bad news outside. Jesus said : ONLY BELIEVE.

Jairus did. His daughter was made well again in an instant. When he followed the command of Jesus, ONLY BELIEVE, he released into his own critical situation the superior power of life [that is, God] over death [that is, the devil]. We do the same, we can have the same results.

ONLY BELIEVE! With love this joyful Eastertide,

Alexis & Frank

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A bird's eye view of God's Grace

Once upon a time, a minister in a small country parish was walking through town when he saw a young boy coming toward him swinging a bird cage. At the bottom of the cage were three little wild birds, shivering with cold and fright. The minister stopped the lad and asked, *"What do you have there, son?"*



"Just some old birds," came the reply. *"What are you going to do with them?"* the minister asked. *"Take 'em home and have fun with 'em,"* the boy answered. *"I'm gonna tease 'em and pull out their feathers to make 'em fight. I'm gonna have a real good time."*

"But you'll get tired of those birds sooner or later. What will you do then?" *"Oh, I got some cats,"* said the little boy. *"They like birds. I'll take 'em to them."* The minister thought silently for a moment, before asking : *"How much do you want for those birds, son?"*

"Huh?? !!! Why, you don't want them birds, mister. They're just plain old field-birds. They don't sing. They ain't even pretty!" *"How much?"* the minister persisted. The boy sized him up as if he were crazy and said, *"Tenner?"* So the minister reached into his pocket, took out a £10 note, and placed it in the boy's hand. In a flash, the boy was gone.

Then the minister picked up the cage and gently carried it to a quiet grassy spot beside a tree. Setting the cage down, he opened the door, and waited patiently till the birds flew away, free. Well, that answered the curiosity of the congregation who wondered why on earth their minister had brought a battered, rusty, empty bird-cage into the pulpit!

The minister continued with his message : Satan had just come from the Garden of Eden. Suddenly, he met Jesus, and started gloating and boasting. *"Yes, sir, I just caught a world full of people down there. Set me a trap, used bait I knew they couldn't resist. Got 'em all!"*

"What are you going to do with them?" Jesus asked. Satan replied, *"Oh, I'm gonna have fun! I'm gonna teach them how to marry and divorce each other, how to hate and abuse each other, how to drink and smoke and curse. I'm gonna teach them how to invent guns and bombs and kill each other. I'm really gonna have fun!"*

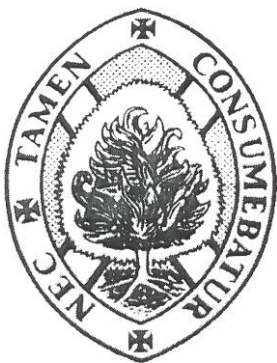
"And what will you do when you are done with them?" Jesus asked.

"Hah, I'll just kill 'em, worthless creatures that they are!" Satan glared proudly. "How much do you want for them?" Jesus asked.

Satan laughed, a horrible laugh. "No, you don't want those people. They ain't no good. Why, you'll take them and they'll just hate you. They'll spit on you, curse you and kill you. You don't want them!!"

"How much?" Jesus persisted. Satan sneered at Jesus "Your blood, your tears, your life." Jesus said, "DONE!" Then He paid the price.

The minister picked up the cage and walked from the pulpit.



Heart and Soul 2013

Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh

A celebration for the whole Church

Sunday May 19th, 2013.



Instead of our normal Sunday services that day, we plan to run a bus, picking up at each of our churches, through to this event.

More details soon ... check the website or weekly church news

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.

Uplift dates are as follows :

MONDAYS : 1 April, 6 May, 3 June, 1 July, 5 August

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 : 2 April, 7 May, 4 June, 2 July, 6 August

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

Easter Egg-stras?

Although we have our own programme of Easter events, as set out on the back page, at **Ale & Teviot**, you may be interested in additional celebrations organised by other local churches.

For the more energetic among us [!], the linked churches of Hobkirk & Southdean with Ruberslaw have a “sunrise service” on the summit of Ruberslaw at 7.am. A nice hot breakfast will be served afterwards at Denholm Church ... richly deserved!!

Also, during Holy Week, there is a Time of Reflection at 10.am every morning [Monday to Friday] in **Jedburgh Old & Trinity**. On Good Friday, there is a “Walk of Witness” organised by Jedburgh Churches Together, leaving from Jedburgh Old & Trinity at 10.45.am.



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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

Now closed, the old Eckford Kirk building leaves behind a long and proud history, though much of it was of the unwanted kind. Eckford lies in the beautiful valley of Teviot, where the Kale Water cuts through on her journey to the larger river. Rich farmlands are surrounded by gently undulating hills, forming an enchanting backdrop.

It is believed that the first farming community, from deep in pre-history, populated the area and ploughed the fields before being joined by the people of the Elbe district of what is now modern day Germany. Many artifacts from those early times right up to the coming of the Romans and beyond, have been found, and it's known that Wooden Hill was a place of flourishing activity in the early days of discovery.

All that suggests the hill people of the old British tribes were busy in that place which became known as the *ford over the river, surrounded by oak (eck) trees* – the “eck ford”. As the years passed, Eckford flourished and many powerful families, at one time or another, as we shall see, held sway in many parts of the parish.

As the farm towns grew and agriculture became more important, many trades followed, including more 'hands on' farming occupations along with the busy quarrying and fishing industries. Shops opened and more people joined the expanding hamlets, making Eckford a most desirable and secure parish in which to live and raise children. At one time, there was even a racecourse in the parish, at Beaumont Moor.

The 16th century saw violent times locally. Churches, towers, castles and houses were razed time after time and many of the common folk died during the ferocious Border conflicts. The towers of Ormiston, Eckford, Caverton and Moss were wrecked with Moss suffering on at least three different occasions. Even Cessford Castle, one of the strongest fortifications in southern Scotland, was badly damaged adding to the church of Eckford, which was destroyed by fire but not before the lead was removed and taken from the building.

Eckford Church was part of Jedburgh Abbey and the Diocese of Glasgow from before 1220 until the Reformation. Although the 12th century church was destroyed during the notorious battles of 1545, services were still held, and there is notice of John Clerk, the minister, being granted a new, increased, stipend. Around 1660, the Kirk was re-built, forming much of what we see today.

In 1772, a north aisle was added to accommodate a laird's loft and a burial aisle giving the building a 'T' shape. A mort house, which incorporated a watch tower, was built in the days of body snatchers – the “Burke and Hare” era of the early 19th century. The interior was greatly enhanced and new seating arrangements added in 1774, while further large scale renovation took place just over a century later.

At Caverton, another hamlet in the parish, a chapel existed to which the Ker family, ancestors of the Dukes of Roxburghe, were the benefactors and granted lands for house and glebe, a grant James IV confirmed in 1560. Hospitals with chapels are believed to have existed in early times at Harlaw, Caverton Hillhead and Graham's Law.

In Covenanting times, blanket sermons were held in the fields and hills of Haughhead, with the Hall family encouraging the Cameronians to conduct the rousing services on their lands. Many notable families lived in various parts of the parish, which had least four hamlets, including, the de Ormestouns, Kers, Bennets, Stewarts, de Soulis, de St. Clairs and de Coucys. The Potts, Rutherfords, Marshalls, Mowbreys, Halls of Haughhead and the Scotts of Buccleuch were others with association.

The historical importance, power and wealth of the Parish of Eckford had, by the 19th century, reached its peak and the parish had begun to wane and depopulate. The Agricultural Revolution had taken hold ; farms were being amalgamated ; automation was making for less jobs ; forcing the people to move to more urban areas in search of a living.

The Teviot Smokery is located in an old coaching inn which was once a home to Lady Jane Scott, later of Spottiswoode, author of the ballad “Annie Laurie”. The first minister of Eckford after the Reformation was Robert Richardson, the Treasurer of Scotland, whilst Rev Joseph Yair, who died aged 92 in 1894, was minister of the parish for 63 years!

A further extract will appear in the next edition.

Ale & Teviot United Church : Summary of Accounts 2012

Income	Offerings and donations	35261
	Tax recovered on gift aid	4462
	Legacies	100
	Use of church premises	1335
	Investment income	12
	Fund-raising etc	3511
	TOTAL	44681

Expenditure	Ministries & Mission	27793
	Presbytery dues	1484
	Ministry expenses	2980
	Pulpit supply & other wage costs	8165
	Office expenses	2244
	Building improvements and repairs	10387
	Other building costs	3571
	Professional fees etc	1800
	Other expenses	9259
	TOTAL	67683
Operating <DEFICIT> for year		<23002>
Refund of fabric expenses 2009-12 from "121"		67850
Overall surplus for year		44848
Balance of funds at year end		73695

You can get the full Trustees Report & Accounts in church or online : **www.aleandteviot.org.uk**. Our Annual Meeting is in Lilliesleaf Kirk, on Sunday 14 April at 11.30.am. Please come along and share your ideas on how we can take forward the work of God's Kingdom in our parish.

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After Church Refreshments at Ancrum

At the end of December 2012 we were able to send £162.12 to Tear Fund to be used to feed people in the Sahel Region of West Africa. Full details on the Notice Board in the Church Meeting Room. Many thanks are due to the generous contributions of the folk who enjoy the Fellowship on a Sunday morning.

Don't forget – all are welcome to come and have a 'Cuppa' after Church. We do need more people to help with the making of the refreshments on a Sunday morning, and if you feel able to assist in this way, please let Joan Hodges know. Contact number is 01835 830620.

Ancrum Church Guild

We are very sorry to be saying 'Goodbye' to Mrs Dorothy Williamson who is moving away to live at Gretna. She has been an enthusiastic member of the Guild for several years and her cheerful presence will be greatly missed. We wish Dorothy and her husband Albert well in their new home.



Dorothy's going leaves a big gap for the Guild, as she has been our Treasurer. The Guild is not allowed to function without a Treasurer, so if anyone out there could help us, it would be much appreciated.

The Treasurer doesn't have to be a member of the Guild, but should be a Church Member. Anyone wishing further information should speak with Mrs Carmen Martin. We continue to meet on the first Monday of the month (September – March) and all are welcome to come and join us at 2.pm – both Gentlemen as well as Ladies!

Off to Nepal!

During April, Chris Tracey from Lilliesleaf has the privilege of spending 2 weeks in Nepal seeing first hand some of the work of Tear Fund, a Christian International Aid and Development agency. Chris is excited, and a bit apprehensive, about the trip and would value our prayers. **Go ; Experience ; Change** is the tag line for the trip and Chris looks forward to sharing some of those experiences on her return.

Flying off into the sunshine ... eventually ...

From Frank's sermon on 27 January 2013

Yes, thank you, we enjoyed our annual January exodus to sunny Fuerteventura, where we rested, relaxed and reflected for almost a fortnight, doing – well, frankly, not a lot. Read a few books here, had a few walks there, browsed round the weekly market and the shops both in the resort of Caleta de Fuste and the big city of Puerto del Rosario

And, yes, the odd run on the local bus and even a Friday night venture to a non-league football match in town – Alexis sat that one out. But most days would find us perched on our little roof terrace, sheltered from the breezes that give the island its name, and can give, shall we say, a distinct freshness to the January air.

Either side of that welcome break, our journeys to and from the island were more than usually interesting, though not in a way that we would actively recommend. The return journey wasn't that bad, despite the apocalyptic weather reports trickling out of the UK.

Our flight touched down at a snow-covered Newcastle Airport only 20 minutes late and, after an overnight stop at the Premier Inn to catch up on our beauty sleep, the northbound drive over Carter Bar in daylight at a steady 30mph – yes, I'm now officially the sort of granddad driver I used to fume and fret about if stuck behind – was fairly straightforward.

It was the outward journey that dealt us some jokers. We travelled to Newcastle the day before our flight, went shopping in the city centre, and had a relaxing night and a leisurely breakfast in the hotel before checking the car into the airport car-park. This was the point when the first cloud, no bigger than a man's hand, drifted across the clear blue sky of our holiday horizon, as the car-park supervisor took our details, heard the word "Fuerteventura", furrowed his brow, and enquired "Have they changed the time of that flight then?"

Okaay ... so to the airport and, oh dear, no sign of our flight on the departure board for the time indicated on our ticket. A purposeful trot to the airline enquiries desk elicited only a sickly smile and a bead of cold sweat on the brow of the clerk. The flight had been brought forward by some 4½ hours, but, alas, no-one had thought to advise us of this – fairly significant – development. What were they going to do about it?

In a word, or two, not much. The next flight by that airline was the Wednesday, which we might get, but it couldn't be booked till Tuesday. Hmm. Or we could make our way to Prestwick for a RyanAir flight early the following morning. OK. Will you help us book that? No, you booked through an on-line travel agent, you'll have to contact them. Fine.

The next two hours were spent on the phone, being stonewalled by the travel agent, which is actually part of airline company [No names ... I will spare their blushes, and myself a potential law suit]. They insisted that their copy of the e-ticket document I held in my hand gave not only the *wrong* flight times that I had but also, on the other side of the page, the *right* flight times, therefore it was not their responsibility to do anything to help us. Sorry about that, cheerio. Riiiiight ...

To add to all the fun of the fair, RyanAir charge a whole shed-load of dosh extra to book by phone, so I had to find, and pay for, a computer at the airport. It took an age to register the booking, by which time the price, needless to say, had risen by £50 since the process had begun!

The tickets then had to be printed off, but though the printer gobbled up my cash like a starving dog would bolt down sausages, it steadfastly refused to print. Happily, the EasyJet agent was able to help and ran off the tickets on his printer. Success at last, but at a price. Almost £400 out of pocket already, and still at the wrong airport.

Choice? Get the car back and drive to Prestwick, but then face the same long road trip on our return, or leave the car where it was and go by rail. With the benefit of hindsight, with the weather being as it was when we got back, it was a shrewd choice to let the train take the strain. Happily, too, we have family in nearby Irvine, who were gracious enough to let us stay the night and run us to the airport in the morning.

So, we gathered up our goods and chattels and took the Metro to Newcastle Central, where we encountered a bit of a setback. Once upon a time, there was a fairly regular through service from Newcastle to Stranraer. Not, it appears, in winter. Various options were offered, but finally a circuitous route via Edinburgh and Glasgow proved to be the least troublesome. £70 each, single ticket. Ouch.

Now, I like trains. In the normal way of things, the thought of four train journeys in a single day would make my heart sing. This time, the song was distinctly off-key!

And when the Edinburgh to Glasgow Central via Carstairs service, so slow even the conductor of the train tried to persuade us not to use it, was held by a lengthy signal check directly outside the State Hospital, in pouring rain, we could either laugh or cry. We laughed. Hysterically, I admit, but we laughed. A few more laughs as we shared a curry with Barbara and Graham at Irvine, then a few hours' welcome shut-eye.

Finally, off we went to Prestwick Airport at 4.am for the RyanAir flight to Fuerteventura. Were we mightily relieved when the plane taxi-ed down the runway and headed off into the sky? You bet! Did we feel like emulating the Pope and kissing the tarmac when we touched down at our destination? Very nearly! Talk about Phineas Fogg!!

All credit to RyanAir, a good flight, with plenty of seats available so we didn't even need to pay for extra leg-room. As regards the other firms involved in this episode, let's just say we are in correspondence, and you may see familiar faces on Angela Rippon's TV show if we don't get answers! OK, so what's the spiritual sting in this tortuous travel tale?

Well, the New King James version of James 1.2-3 says : *Count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.* Paul says much the same thing in Romans 5.3-4. Let me tell you that patience was not my immediate reaction that day. My flesh was not feeling patient with anyone. My flesh was ready to chew someone's head off and spit out their eyeballs. But, thankfully, we who follow Jesus can walk in the spirit, not the flesh.

It doesn't happen automatically. It is a choice, a quality decision, one that I had to make over and over again that Saturday morning as I had to deal with intractable attitudes at the end of a phone, with computers as slow as the proverbial week in the jail, with printers as inefficient as the EU Common Agricultural Policy. It would not have been difficult to let natural frustration and disappointment boil over into gratuitous rudeness, but I had to remind myself of good reasons not to do so.

First, the situation we were in was not a deliberate ploy by the travel agents to foul up our holiday by way of a personal vendetta. It was a simple administrative mistake, in that someone somewhere had omitted to tell us about a change in flight time. Mistakes happen. They are not a hanging offence. Believe it or not, I have made mistakes!

There was once a funeral, a very big funeral, which I conducted ... but, alas, forgot to organise an organist. Oops. Major oops! Thankfully, there was someone present who stepped in a very short notice and did a great job, though it cost me a bottle of good malt afterwards.

Jesus said in Luke 6.37-38 : *Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.*

These words of the Lord make it clear that, for those of us who have *received* grace and mercy, the *practice* of grace and mercy is not just a suggestion, it is a command, and a covenant obligation. It is perfectly OK to seek restitution of genuine loss suffered as a result of someone else's mistake. There is no Christian virtue in being a doormat.

Likewise, it is that other party's duty to provide restitution. But it's not OK to pursue an agenda of vengeance, like try to get somebody sacked, nor is it OK to cross the invisible but very real line which separates assertive but courteous pursuit of your cause, from outright rudeness and aggression. It was Jesus who called us to treat others as we would like to be treated – the old theme of sowing and reaping.

Second, there is a sense of proportion involved. Our holiday plans were disrupted, which was irritating, but that was all. Billions of people in this world would cheerfully have swapped places, and swapped inconveniences, with us. We were not, like many people in Syria, stuck in the middle of a civil war. We were not, like gas workers in Algeria, kidnapped by terrorists. We were not starving in an insanitary refugee camp. We were not seriously ill in hospital or a hospice.

That famous old Sunday School chorus : *Count your blessings, name them one by one* : is a very wise exercise that we do well to practise every so often. By and large – though you wouldn't know it from eary-wigging in the queue at the supermarket check-out – we have very little to complain about, and very much to be grateful for.

One thing that comes to mind right away is that we still enjoy freedom to come and worship the Lord Jesus Christ openly, without fear of a knock on the door at midnight. Christian brothers and sisters in many countries would very much appreciate that liberty.

One thing we can all do to cheer up the spiritual atmosphere of our nation is to be as ready to praise and commend as we are to grouse and complain. Yes, we're entitled to register disappointment at poor service, but do we remember to register satisfaction at good service?

I sent a thank-you to EasyJet for the help given by their agent that day. It's a very powerful spiritual weapon for us to make a habit of sowing a seed of praise and honour into those who do well on our behalf.

Finally, and under-girding what I've already said, I had to remember – and indeed all of us who are known to follow Jesus have to remember – that we are being watched, all the time, by other people and by the Lord. Does our walk match our talk? Let's not give away a cheap advantage to the devil by behaving like him under pressure.

A lady became increasingly frustrated by the driver in front who was committing the unforgivable sin of sticking rigidly to the speed limit. The final straw came when traffic lights changed, the driver in front decided not to be an amber gambler, and he stopped. The lady went ballistic. She tooted her horn, uttered unbiblical language, made hand signals not found in any reputable version of the Highway Code, and then, in mid-tirade became aware of a policeman standing sternly at her side.

The policeman told her to get out of the car, slapped a set of handcuffs on her, took her down to the nick and flung her in the cells. About six hours later, when the officer let her out, he explained : *Sorry about the misunderstanding, madam, but you'll understand that when I heard you cursing and swearing like a pirate's parrot, and then saw the "I love Jesus" sticker on your car, I naturally assumed you must have stolen it.*

True, we are saved by grace and faith, not by works, but faith without works, without evidence of Christ in us, is dead. It's a lousy witness. The Lord calls us to live and behave in such a way that honours Him, to bear wholesome fruit. To help us to do so, He's given us His Holy Spirit, the presence, the power and the personality of Jesus in us.

As we let His Holy Spirit take root in our lives, the 9-fold character traits of the born-again believer – listed in Galatians 5 as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control – will manifest in our lives ; supernatural qualities we can't manufacture by ourselves, supernatural qualities that mark us out as followers of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and enable us to be His true disciples.

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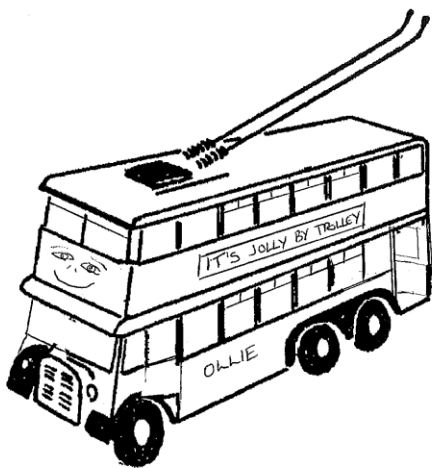
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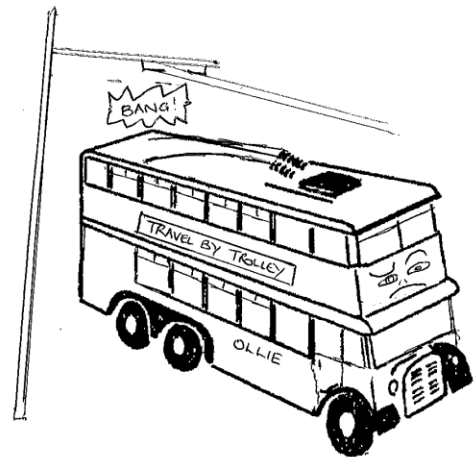
A story for the children ... Ollie the Trolley comes unstuck



Ollie was a very old, and very unusual, bus – what’s called a trolleybus. Ollie didn’t have a diesel engine, like all the other buses in the garage. Instead, he got his power from two overhead wires, via two big poles sticking out of his roof. Once upon a time, Ollie had quite a few brothers and sisters working beside him, but they had all retired now.

Now Ollie was the only trolleybus left, and he ran every day along the same route to Hay Cross and back. Because he was an electric bus, Ollie could run very quickly and very quietly, and all the passengers loved travelling on him.

But one cold winter morning, Ollie hit trouble. There was ice on the wires, and his trolley poles slipped off! Down they fell with a clatter on Ollie’s roof, giving the passengers on the top deck quite a fright. Mr Tetley, who had been fast asleep, stood up and banged his head. The curly hair on Miss Lefevre’s poodle went straight and stood on end.



Mrs Dalglish screamed so hard, her false teeth fell out ...

... and landed right in Granny Gillies’ knitting.

What a commotion! And while all this was going on, Ollie ground to a halt.



“Oh dear”, said Joe, his driver. “No power! Whatever will we do?”

But Clara the conductress had already sprung into action. “Right folks, if we’re to get going, we’ll need some batteries. Can anyone help?”

No-one said a word, so Clara took charge. “OK, anyone on board with an ipod, digital camera, anything with a battery in it – hands up NOW!”

When Clara spoke like *that*, nobody argued! Soon she had quite a bunch of batteries, dug out of everything from torches to hearing aids.

Joe wired the batteries up to Ollie's engine and pressed a few buttons ... but Ollie just gave an apologetic little cough and didn't move.



Clara was not to be outdone. She rounded up all the children on the bus, gave them all the money in her fare pouch, and packed them off to Handy Andy's Hardware shop to buy every single battery he had in stock! Soon they staggered back, hundreds of batteries of all shapes and sizes in their hands, under their arms, on their heads, and between their knees.

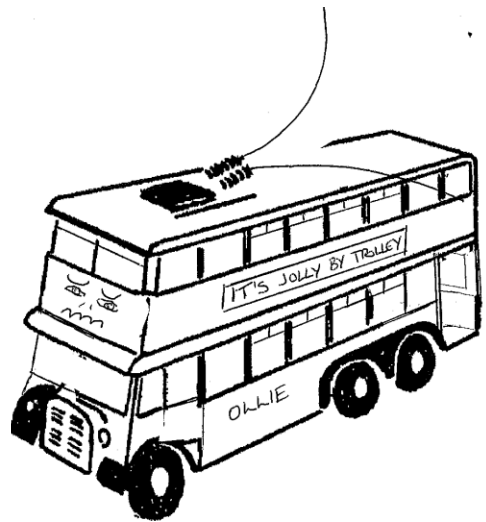
Clara and Joe did their best to wire all these batteries up to the engine, but to no avail. Ollie just coughed again, miserably, and stayed right where he was.

Clara then had a brilliant idea. Her beady eyes spotted Tiny Thomson, who was 6 feet 6 inches tall and built like a flagpole.

"Tiny! I need your help! Get over to Handy Andy's ask if you can borrow the biggest ladder in the shop!"

"OK Clara", Tiny answered. "But what for?"

"So that YOU can climb up and put Ollie's poles back on the wires. Come on, big fella, we're running late as it is!"

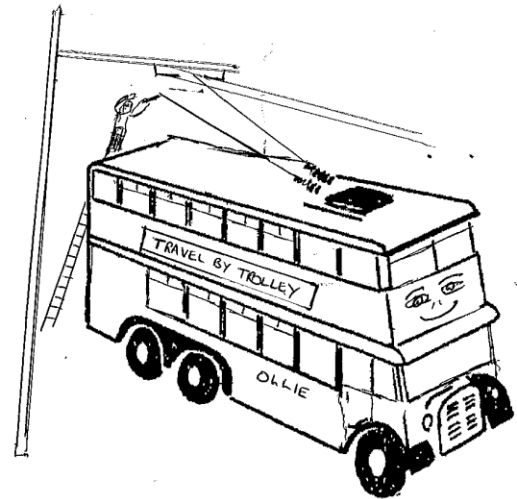


Tiny's face lit up like a Christmas tree. He loved to be of help, and he ran as fast as his long legs could carry him toward the hardware store. "Mind you don't slip on the ice!", shouted Clara after him, but Tiny was just fine and very soon he appeared back with the longest ladder you ever saw.

"Right Tiny," Clara ordered. "Prop the ladder against Ollie's back, up you go, and get those poles back on the wires"

Tiny did exactly as he was told, and in two minutes the poles were back where they should be, on the wires. Job done, Tiny took the ladder back to the store and thanked Handy Andy from Ollie, Joe, Clara and all the passengers.

By now quite a crowd had gathered to watch all the fun, and what a cheer there was when Ollie glided off, safe and sound with a special cheer for Clara, whose quick thinking – not for the first time - saved the day.



© 2013 C A Graham

Think of a trolleybus, with its two poles reaching up and drawing power from above. It's the same with us. One pole reaches up to the Word of God, the Bible, the other to the Holy Spirit of God released in the church at Pentecost. When we know the Word, its promises and its challenges ; when we receive the Spirit, its gifts and its fruit ; we're ready to roll! But we need to keep both poles on the wire.

If we forget about the Bible, and rely only on what we feel God wants, instead of what He has said, we may start doing weird things. If we forget about the Spirit, and treat the Bible just as a rulebook, we're likely to get stale. Worse still, if both poles fall off the wire, we'll end up driven by what the world thinks and says, and miss God altogether.

To get God's job done God's way, to change this world for good as Jesus has planned for us [Ephesians 2.10] we need to keep both poles on the wires – by trusting what God says in His Word, the Bible, AND being filled with the Holy Spirit of love and joy, peace and power.



Christian Aid Week 2013

Christian Aid Week is approaching, and once again I appeal to all residents of our parish, whatever your religious persuasion, to dig deep to help those who are least able to help themselves.

As creation waits, as Paul writes, in eager expectation for the children of God to stand up, be counted, and rule over all the earth, according to His Word and not mere human opinions, we have power to change things for good, here and now – the power of money, rightly used.

Money is a resource entrusted to us by God, enabling us, through our generous giving, to share in releasing people from suffering, whether from earthquakes, droughts, floods, or political upheaval.

Ale & Teviot parish has always supported **Christian Aid Week** well, and although we **cannot** undertake a door-to-door collection this year, we trust that the community will continue to support this worthy cause.

A **Christian Aid Week** envelope is enclosed with this magazine, and you may bring the completed envelope to any church service, or hand it to any church attender, or send it to **Freepost, Christian Aid** ... or indeed give on-line at <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/scotland/>

It's a sobering truth that there is more than enough food in the world for everyone, but 1 in 8 people will go to bed hungry tonight ... so this **Christian Aid Week** will focus on projects around the world that are supporting communities to find ways to not only survive but to thrive, with enough food to eat not just today but tomorrow.

In the heart of Kenya, **Christian Aid's** partner the Christian Community Services Mount Kenya East (CCSMKE), is working with remote farming communities who are experiencing increasingly erratic weather patterns. Where once seasons were reliable, farmers are no longer able to predict the best times to plant or harvest.

This has led to many failed crops and to many farmers being left unable to feed or provide for their families. Despite national weather forecasts, farmers in these remote areas were not provided with specific forecasts, crucial in a region where it may rain for days in one area and remain dry in another, only an hour away.

As a result, specific weather forecasts have become very important for farmers as the climate becomes more erratic. With many families unable to access a television or radio, mobile phone technology is providing an innovative way of delivering much-needed information.

Over the past year CCSMKE has begun a new project that is changing the lives of farmers and helping them reap a richer, more valuable harvest. By sending small-scale farmers scientific weather predictions via text message technology, translated into their local language, CCSMKE enables them to plant armed with valuable information.

Furthermore, farmers are able to respond to the text messages they receive with follow-up questions or to share crop information that may be valuable to others beyond their own community. With training provided alongside the forecasts, farmers have been able to adapt their farming techniques and crop choices to the changing climate.

They are now able to make informed decisions about what and, importantly, when to plant, particularly with a variety of local crops available, many of which are best suited to different lengths of rainy season and other conditions.

Justin Ireri is one of the farmers who receives the texts. He describes how ‘they [CCSMKE] tell you when to start planting and what kind of fertiliser to use, which is related to the forecast weather.

Justin and his wife Truphena work their land together. Truphena explains that ‘when there is poor judgement of the weather and we find ourselves in crisis – the crops have dried up because the weather was poorly judged or there was no information – it actually becomes very painful and frustrating for a mother or for a family, looking at the children looking at you and you’ve got nothing to offer to them.’

Even in rural areas, most families now have access to a cheap and simple mobile phone; often it is the only means of communication or access to information. It is particularly essential for Justin, whose son is often ill, so he can return to care for him.

*Your support for **Christian Aid** helps farmers like Justin and Truphena to look forward to the future with hope, rather than despair. Once again this year, let’s dig deep and commit to **Make Poverty History**.*

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 continues to meet on alternate Mondays to complete our study of the book of 1 Corinthians. Since Christmas, we've been looking at chapter 15 and have had some very interesting and enlightening discussions on these passages.

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, and we've been considering the person and work of the Holy Spirit. After the Easter break, our meetings will resume in April.

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.



Headway

We are here to help

Headway is a charity set up to give help and support to people affected by brain injury, their families and carers. We would like to set up a support group in the Kelso area. Whether this injury was caused by accident or illness we offer contact and support from people with real experience. If you have sustained a brain injury or know someone who has, or if you have a few hours to spare and would like to help as a volunteer please contact: Maria Murray

M: 07826 519 567 W: www.headway.org.uk
E: scotlandeast.regional.coordinator@headway.org.uk

Free phone the National Headway Helpline: 0808 800 22 44

Photography for every occasion

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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

Ale & Teviot United Church Coffee Morning



Saturday 11 May, 10.am – 11.30.am
Royal British Legion, Jedburgh

J H Maunder's

From Olivet to Calvary

By Abbey Consort

Musical Director Colin Fox

Ancrum Kirk

Good Friday, 29 March : 7.pm

Admission at the door by donation

Beetle Drive

Up and coming very soon ... a real old-fashioned family night in the Meeting Room at Ancrum Kirk on Friday 12 April at 7.pm. Yes, it's a Beetle Drive! If you've never taken part in one of these before, come along, bring the family and have an enjoyable night. And, honestly, you don't need to have the artistic talent of Michaelangelo to draw a beetle! The cost will be £10 for a table of 4, light refreshments provided.

Friday Club

The Friday Club, for children from P.1 to P.5 in Ancrum Kirk on Friday evenings from 6.30 – 7.30.pm, goes from strength to strength, and are always happy to welcome new friends. We're presently following Paul in his journeys with the Gospel. Parents and friends are invited to our Open Night on Friday 22 March, and we hope that some of the children will take part in the all-age service at Ancrum on Easter Sunday. There will be a break over the school holiday, with no meetings on Good Friday. nor 5th and 12th April, but we'll be glad to see you on 19th April!

Transport Co-ordinators

To help those 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 Transport Co-ordinator. A day or two's notice is helpful : Ancrum : Margaret Smith, 864378 ; Crailing : Joe Hannaford, 850779 ; Lilliesleaf : Mary Jones, 870306.

Borders Talking Newspaper

This local charity produces a free audio version of around 50 edited items from the Southern Reporter, the Hawick News and the Jed Eye. 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. To receive a copy, or to help the production team, contact Wendy on 01361-884206 or office@btn.org.uk.

Happy Birthday, Lilliesleaf School!

Lilliesleaf Primary School is 50 years old and is enjoying a year-long celebration of this Big Birthday! As part of this, the school is preparing a Time Capsule containing memories, examples of the pupils' work, and small artefacts relating to the school. They're looking for help ...

If you have memories of your time at the school – funny stories ; tales of who your teachers were and what you learned ; what resources you had in school and how they differed from those used today ; what behaviour was like then and what you did during break times ... please pass these on to the school and they will be made into a book which will be placed in the time capsule for future generations to enjoy.

If you're in touch with former pupils who have moved out of the area, please do let them know and ask them to help. Please send your stories to Harris Macdonell or Monroe Job, Lilliesleaf Primary School, Lilliesleaf, Melrose, TD6 9HX. Very many thanks for your help!

The Garbage Truck

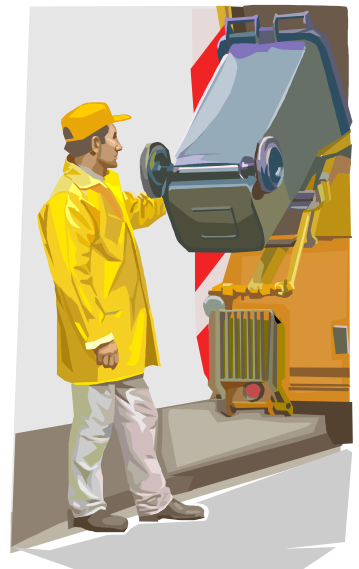
From Peter Davis



How often do you let other people change your mood? Do you let a bad driver, rude waiter, curt boss, an insensitive employee or supposed Christian ruin your day?

The Law of the Garbage Truck : Many people are like garbage trucks. They run around full of garbage, full of frustration, full of anger, full of disappointment. As their garbage piles up, they need a place to dump it, and sometimes they'll dump it on you.

Don't take it to heart. Just smile, wave, wish them well, and move on. Don't take their garbage and spread it on to other people at work, at home, or at work. Don't let garbage trucks take over your day. Life's too short to wake up in the morning with regrets, so, love the people who treat you right. Pray for the ones who don't.



Parish Registers

Baptism

3 March
Ancrum Owen George Liddle, *son of*
Colin & Claire [Burns], 6 Landene

Funerals

29 November
Bedrule Mrs Mary Rae
12 Landene

7 December
Lilliesleaf Mrs Margaret Munro
24 Elm Park, Selkirk

15 January
Crematorium Mr Jack McAdam
4 Queens Court : *formerly* Lanton Mill
Conducted by Rev Graham Astles

18 January
Yarrow Mr Tommy Heard
Ormiston Mains
Conducted by Rev Samuel Siroky

31 January
Jedburgh Mrs Patricia Lightbody
Queens Court ; *formerly* Lothian Road

4 February
Jedburgh Mr Eric Reay
East Lothian : *formerly* Innerleithen ; Bankend

22 February
Crematorium Mrs Nettie Mathewson
26 Bongate Gardens

22 February
Crematorium Mrs Irene Finlayson
27 Headrig

28 February
Jedburgh Mrs Edith Cowe
4 Cairnmount

28 February
Jedburgh Mrs Jenny Murdoch
14 Howden Crescent

4 March
Crematorium Mrs Christina Collin
26 The Avenue, Eyemouth

A Tribute to Mr Thomas Heard, 1929-2013

Tommy was born at Philiphaugh in 1929 and left school at just 13 years of age to help his uncle on a farm in Lilliesleaf. When he came back to Bowhill, he was hoping to become a joiner.

However, no such opportunity presented itself at the time and as Tommy sat in front of the house contemplating the future, the gamekeeper from Bowhill – a redoubtable, if not notorious, local character – walked by. Seeing Tommy sitting idly, he issued the gruff invitation – come to me tomorrow morning. Thus began a lifetime as a gamekeeper, for many years as head keeper with Lothian Estates.

Tommy met Margaret after her family moved to Bowhill from Ayrshire and soon they fell in love and enjoyed 63 years of married life – a remarkable achievement in this age. Tommy's life was fulfilled not just by his love for Margaret, but also by his five children – June, David, Tommy, Iain and Ivor – and an impressive battalion of grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was a loving father and took great pride in them all, although whenever it became a little bit “lively” at home, Tommy would just say : “Margaret! Take care of your sons!”

Tommy enjoyed music and played drums in various Borders bands as well as singing. His gardening skills were inherited from his father, who was a gardener at Philiphaugh, and Tommy was always great source of information on how to grow things. He had a lifetime love for animals, especially his dogs who accompanied him everywhere.

Tommy was a long standing elder of the Kirk, first at Yarrow, where in January of this year he was laid to rest beside his parents, then at Ancrum before being admitted to the Kirk Session at Crailing. The Kirk and the Christian faith were immensely important to Tommy throughout his life and for some years he served as a Presbytery elder.

His contributions to Session meetings were invariably thoughtful and perceptive, often articulating in a polite but persuasive manner what his colleagues thought privately but would not say publicly! With Margaret, Tommy upheld the highest standards of old-fashioned pastoral concern for the flock in his district, often quietly and without a fuss going the second or third mile for those in need whenever the need arose.

Tommy was a fixture at the annual Kirk Sale in the Lothian Hall, and was a redoubtable salesman of butchery products on such occasions ... to the horror, no doubt, of the commissars of health and safety! To the best of our knowledge, all his customers remained defiantly in good health after eating Tommy's goods at the Christmas dinner table!

A true country gentleman, with an easygoing nature, Tommy was a great people's person. He could talk knowledgeably and perceptively to anybody, from any walk of life, and was a true and trustworthy friend. Tommy will be much missed, especially by Margaret and all his family, to whom all at Ale & Teviot United Church extend our love and prayers.



Acknowledgement : <http://gospelgifs.com>

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

Special Events : Easter 2013

Maundy Thursday, 28 March : School end-of-term services

Ancrum Kirk at **9.30.am** ; Lilliesleaf Kirk at **2.pm**

Maundy Thursday, 28 March

United Communion at **Lilliesleaf** : 7.pm

Good Friday, 29 March : Ancrum Kirk : 7.pm

Maunder's "*From Olivet to Calvary*", by Abbey Consort.

Easter Sunday, 31 March

ALL-AGE services at Ancrum [10.am] and Lilliesleaf [11.30.am]

Crailing : *Songs of Praise*, 6.30.pm : *with Jedforest Instrumental Band*

Sunday 7 April

Morning services at Ancrum [10.am] and Lilliesleaf [11.30.am]

Songs of Praise at Crailing : 6.30.pm

Friday 12 April : Ancrum : 7.pm

Beetle Drive! Lots of fun for all the family. £10 per table of 4.

Sunday 14 April : Lilliesleaf Kirk : 11.30.am

Annual Congregational Meeting, followed by refreshments.

NO SERVICES that day at Ancrum or Crailing

A truly blessed Easter to all our readers