

GOOD NEWS!

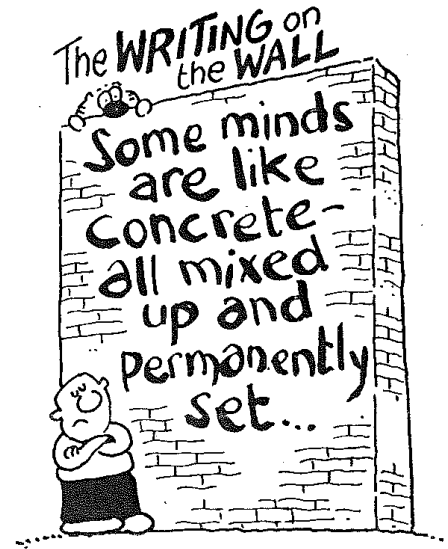
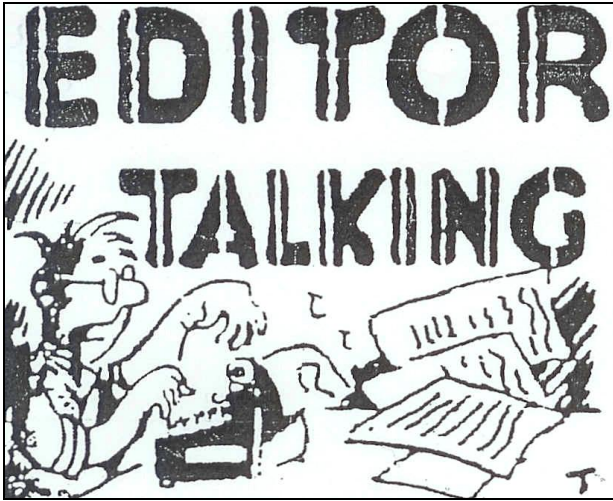


The magazine of

ALE & TEVIOT

UNITED CHURCH

Summer 2013



Summer has come, and Andy Murray has won Wimbledon! Yeeeeesss!!!

That Sunday's epic Final on the Centre Court was gripping stuff indeed, though not recommended for those of a nervous disposition. It was instructive to reflect just how far both participants – almost exactly the same age, growing up as friends together on the youth tennis circuit – had come. Even more so, it was sobering to recall just how close both players had come to having their lives snuffed out at an early age.

For Andy Murray was a pupil at Dunblane Primary School on the awful day Thomas Hamilton, whose boys' club in the town both Andy and his brother Jamie had attended, shot dead 16 children and their teacher in the school gym. Indeed Andy's class should have been in the gym next.

Novak Djokovic, born exactly one week later in Belgrade, grew up amid the bombing, shooting and general lawlessness that followed the end of the Soviet domination of Yugoslavia and its subsequent fracturing into various countries divided by race and religion.

Understandably, neither man talks much about those dark days but, in consequence, both have a greatly heightened appreciation of the gift of life – so precious, so fragile – and an utter determination to make the most of every opportunity that comes their way.

Whatever life may have thrown at you so far, good or otherwise, now is the time to take a quality decision to make the most of every day of it. Now is not a time to look back, to think "if only", to run "action replays" of yesterday and yesteryear and try to change the past.

That may make for a good fantasy film – *Sliding Doors* – but the truth is we don't get to re-run what's gone before. We start where we are. Now is the time to look forward, outward and – above all – upward, and to remember that this is the first day of the rest of our lives. We cannot erase what went wrong in the past, but we certainly don't have to be bound by it. God's life-changing grace is free to all who will receive it.

How can we find freedom and healing from all the guilt and hurt of the past? How can we find hope for the future? Only by coming to know the One whose blood shed at Calvary has forgiven our every wrong deed, every wrong word, every wrong thought. Only by embracing the One whose body, broken at the cross, has healed all our wounds. Only by faith in the One whose victory over death has broken every bondage.

Jesus is alive, and Jesus loves you, no matter what a mess you may have made of your life so far, no matter what a mess someone else may have made of your life for you. His gift of new life is available, now, unconditionally. He will be delighted to receive you just as you are.

Oh no, Jesus wouldn't accept me after all that I've done, all the people I've hurt. Well, He accepted the lifelong career criminal crucified at His side, didn't He? What makes you think you're the only person Jesus would ever reject?! Think of it this way. Many of Jesus' closest friends were fishermen. How long would a fisherman stay in business if he refused to land any fish that hadn't already been cleaned?!

Paul wrote to the church at Corinth – a pretty rum lot! – *Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone. A new life has begun! And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. I tell you, now is the time of God's favour, now is the day of salvation.* Let today be your day of salvation and new life.

And when you take that step of faith, God will more than make up for everything you've missed out, through your own doing or anyone else's. As Joel 2.23 colourfully puts it : *I will restore for you the years that the locust has eaten.* That's quite an offer, isn't it? Jesus is waiting for you to come to Him and be made new in every way. Don't wait any longer.

With love and blessings in the Name of Our Lord Jesus

Frank & Alexis

Cell Phone vs. Bible [sent by Ken Fotheringham]



*I wonder what would happen ...
if we treated our Bible like we treat our cell phones?*

What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets?

What if we turned back to go get it if we forgot it?

What if we flipped through it several times a day?

What if we used it to receive messages from the text?

What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?

What if we gave it to kids as gifts?

What if we used it as we travelled?

What if we used it in case of an emergency?

This is something to make you go ...

hmm...where is my Bible?



Oh, and one more thing.

Unlike our cell phone, we don't ever have to worry about our Bible being disconnected because Jesus already paid the bill! In full!

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 times – please note time changes on Mondays – are as follows :

MONDAYS : 5 Aug, 2 Sept, 7 Oct, 4 Nov, 2 Dec

Galashiels	Asda Car Park	1.30-2.00.pm
Melrose	Rugby Club	2.20-2.50.pm
Selkirk	West Port Car Park	3.20-4.00.pm

TUESDAYS : 6 Aug, 3 Sept, 8 Oct, 5 Nov, 3 Dec

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

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Ancrum Youth Club : Report by Trevor Gallon, Leader

Ancrum Youth Club meets every Thursday night in the village hall between 6.30 and 8.pm. We rely on volunteers to help run our club. Our members' age range is 9-14 years. Subscriptions are £1 per session, including a snack and a juice drink. I'm delighted to share with you some recent Youth Club events and some activities taking place soon.

Nine of our members took part in the very first 'Ancrum Youth Club Photography Competition'. Using 'Ancrum : a village life' as their theme, they took some great pictures which were exhibited and judged in the village hall. We are very grateful to our judges John Marr, who works with youth groups teaching photography and who gave our members a session back in February, and Ian Oliver, a professional photographer with his own gallery in Newton St Boswells who, as well as giving us an outdoor photography session, enlarged and mounted our images and gave lots of technical support, help and advice to members.

The winner was Jodi Darling – below – whose picture of four calves engaged the imagination of the judges. Prize money was donated by the 'Art@Ancrum' exhibitors earlier in the year. All pictures will again be exhibited in the village hall at the 'Go Garden Ancrum' day on July 27.



Youth club members have also started a 'Garden Project', based along the lines of assisting village residents with their own garden or plot. This 'helping hands' style project has been created so the children can learn more about gardening while taking advantage of lots of fresh air and exercise. We hope team work and organisational skills will play a part in this too because two of our senior girls will be spearheading the group as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme involvement.

A Youth Chex grant was applied for on behalf of the club by our members Catherine Fouracres and Ronan Hill. This was successfully awarded, and has allowed us to purchase workwear and personal protective equipment. Earlier in the year our 'Digging for Youth' appeal for donations of tools to our project brought in twenty plus implements including rakes, forks and spades. together with smaller hand tools and some brand new child sized kit donated specially for the job!

So, if you are finding it difficult to sort out your garden or maybe just require a bit of enthusiastic help to 'kick start' your motivation again then call Trevor on 830625 and we may be able to assist you. Our team will always be accompanied by a supervisor. Look out for our little signs around the village and us working in our red and blue boiler suits.

During the school holidays the youth club will be trying to make a scarecrow for the 'Go Garden' event and will also be constructing some bird and bat boxes, feeders and planters. We hope this fine summer weather will continue so we can get out for another of our very popular bike-ride picnics and perhaps do a riverside walk one afternoon.

Already we are planning our Autumn program which will include more bush-craft, orienteering and some additional special guests. We are very fortunate that during the next youth club year no less than five of our regular senior members have chosen to complete their Duke of Edinburgh award scheme participation with us.

Their emphasis will be on youth and the community, social awareness and community involvement. Each person will be presented with three projects or tasks so there is potential for 15 new or different activities which could add up to a very exciting youth club year indeed! Thank you for your interest in what we do. Have yourselves a great summer!

Can you help the Fish & Chip Babies?

Newborn babies in Africa, often suffering from AIDS, are being called “fish & chip babies” because many are being sent home from hospital wrapped only in newspaper for warmth – because their mothers are too poor to provide clothes for them. They need your help.

To assist these tiny babies, can you knit a small jumper which will be sent to Africa to keep tiny children warm? Average knitters can complete a jumper in an evening. It's a quick and easy pattern.

Special instructions : Only use double knitting. No baby pink, blue, white or pastel colours please, as these garments may never be washed. Bright and mixed colours are best, or a mixture of stripes.

Baby Jumper knitting pattern

(Knitted all in one, approx 50g DK wool)

Use double knitting wool and 4mm needles, cast on 44 stitches.

Work 18 Rows in K2, P2 rib

Work 30 Rows stocking stitch (1 row plain, 1 row purl)

Cast on 12 stitches at beginning of next 2 rows and at the same time change to K2,P2 (for sleeve)

Rib 22 more rows.

Next row: Rib 21, cast off 26 stitches, rib 21 (Please cast these stitches off loosely in rib, to Allow The neck to stretch over a baby's head)

Next row: Rib 21, cast on 26 stitches, rib 21 (Please cast these stitches on loosely, using one size bigger needles if necessary).

Work 22 rows in K2, P2 rib

Cast off 12 stitches at beginning of next 2 rows

Work 30 rows stocking stitch

Work 18 rows, K2, P2 rib

Cast off. Sew side and sleeve seams.

You can bring finished jumpers to church any Sunday ; to Clem Mallen at 6 Howden Drive ; or to the regular Blythswood Care uplift. Thank you!

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Giving for Growth

Your Kirk Session takes seriously its responsibility to maintain a living witness to the living Jesus in our communities, and to do so in spite of the financial challenges faced by the Kirk locally and nationally. We will be undertaking a Christian Stewardship programme over the next year or so, entitled *Giving for Growth*, to strengthening the congregation and to encourage greater involvement in sharing the Good News of Jesus. We will keep you informed every step of the way!

Smarties and Coffee Jars

Do you like Smarties? Then please take a packet with our compliments! Enjoy them and then, if you wish, put your spare 20p coins in the empty packet and, when it's full, return it to us. Smarties available in church every Sunday! Also, if you drink coffee, why not use the empty jar to save loose change for the kirk? You can pick up a sticky label for your coffee jar at the church door. Every contribution makes a difference!

Thank You ...

The Beetle Drive on Friday 12 April was a great success, a lot of fun for all the family, and raised almost £300. The Coffee Morning in the Royal British Legion on Saturday 11 May was very well-attended and raised in excess of £500. And, although there was no door-to-door collection for Christian Aid this year, donations of over £600 were received. Well done, and very many thanks, to all concerned!

Healing Service

The next Healing Service will be on Sunday 8 September in Lilliesleaf Kirk at 6.30.pm. All are welcome, whether church members or not, and we will stand with you to release the healing power of the Risen Jesus into your life. Don't sit at home and suffer, come along and be set free!

Flodden 500

There is a Flower Festival in Yetholm Kirk to commemorate the Battle of Flodden. The church will be open on Thursday 5 September from 2.pm to 8.pm and Friday 6 to Sunday 8 September from 10.am to 4.pm.

Ancrum Church Guild

The Guild summer recess has been blighted by the death of our longest serving member, Mrs Elizabeth Smart MBE. She has left a big gap in our Guild and in our lives. A staunch supporter of the Guild and all it stood for, Lizzie led from the front and kept us all on our toes.

As we move on, we look forward to a new session with the Guild Dedication on Sunday 1 September and the first meeting on Monday 2 September. A new programme with interesting speakers is being prepared. The theme for 2013-14, the final part of the current strategy, *Whose We Are And Whom We Serve*, is entitled *A World to Serve*.

Please do join us on the first Monday of the month at 2.pm in Ancrum Church Meeting Room. You'll not regret it!

Keswick in the Borders

This is an inter-denominational Bible teaching conference, to be held in St Boswells Church, featuring Gareth Bolton, an international minister with Operation Mobilisation, and his wife Malou, also serving with OM. Sessions on Friday 27 September [7.30.pm] ; Saturday 28 September [9.45 and 11.30.am] and Sunday 29 September [10.30.am].

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. At Ancrum : Margaret Smith, 864378 ; Crailing : Joe Hannaford, 850779 ; Lilliesleaf : Mary Jones, 870306. A day or two's notice is helpful

BB Camp

It was, as ever, a pleasure to share our worship on Sunday 30 June with the 42nd Dundee Boys' Brigade, who held their annual camp at Ancrum Football Club ... happily, and unusually, enjoying fine weather!

Friday Club [by Elaine Marshall]

Fun, enjoyable, uplifting, challenging, rewarding; these are some of the words we would use to describe our first year of running the Friday Club for primary school children. We initially started with 4 children but after Christmas our numbers jumped to a whopping 19! But on average we get between 10 and 15 each week.

We have been using Scripture Union's "Eye Level" club programme that has given us some guidance to running themes through each 8 week block with suggestions for games, activities and a DVD with a short biblical story for each week. The children really enjoy that.

At the nativity at Christmas time the children did a sterling job, considering there were so few of them to start with. However, for Easter we had more children, with many keen to volunteer to be involved in the Easter service. Hopefully, with further opportunities, some will overcome their stage fright.

Working with us we have Anna Gilmour, to whom we are very grateful for the regular help and support she gives. Also we have two teenagers Nikki and Claire, both very good at supporting the younger ones when it comes to team games and tricky construction and craft work, and very helpful clearing up at the end of the evening.

Friday Club begins again in Ancrum Kirk on Friday 23 August, and all children from P.1 to P.5 are welcome. The club runs each Friday from 6.30.pm to 7.30.pm. We would be glad to hear from anyone who would like to help at the Friday Club either occasionally or regularly ; or maybe just to help set things up on the evening prior to the club starting.

NB: Volunteers would need to be willing to submit to the SCRO checking procedures to be able to work with the children.

PS : The Friday Club was well represented in the Jethart's Got Talent contest in the Town Hall during the Festival and they were all brilliant! Survivor's "Eye of the Tiger", featuring about half of West Myres Croft [!] was performed superbly. Special congratulations to overall runners-up Pick'n'Mix, starring Amy and Tamzin, with their friends. Their lively and colourful version of "Wings" easily out-flew the original by Little Mix!

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 meets on alternate Mondays and, when we start again in early September, we'll be starting a new study of the book of 2 Corinthians. Do come along and develop your faith.

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.

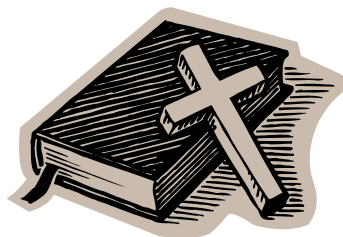
The Church of Scotland's magazine "**Life and Work**" is available in each of our church buildings for anyone to take away for a leisurely read at home, and then to pass on to anyone else.

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.

Exercise bikes, frogs and work-outs

From Frank's sermon on 23 June 2013

Jesus says : John 15.7-9 : *If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. Now remain in my love.*



Those last four words are the key to the whole business of living a life that honours Jesus. It isn't down to our own effort, it's all about Him. Trying to be "good Christians" under our own steam is impossible. It's like setting up an exercise bike in your living room, wiring it up to a generator, and trying to run every electrical appliance in your house off pedal power. You'll exhaust yourself and it won't work. Don't try it!

And why would you want to do it when you've got mains electricity and all you have to do is plug the stuff in? It's the same idea with living as a disciple of Jesus. Our natural selfish flesh can tie itself in knots and turn itself inside out but we'll never make it by ourselves, for the simple reason that God never intended us to make it by ourselves.

But hang on, Frank, you say, surely God gave the 10 commandments in the Old Testament so the people could keep them by their own effort and please Him that way? Let me ask you, how well did *that* pan out? They never *did* manage to keep the 10 commandments. Deuteronomy 1.2 tells us it should have been an 11-day journey from Egypt to the Promised Land. Instead they spent 40 years going round in circles!

Not one adult who crossed the Red Sea finally made it into the Promised Land except Joshua and Caleb. Not even Moses. I feel sorry for Moses. He was always getting caught in the middle between God, who miraculously delivered the people from slavery, and the people who very soon forgot all about the God who saved them.

When Moses went up the hill to receive the "Big 10", he was no sooner out of sight than the people began muttering : *Who is this guy Moses anyway? He's deserted us. So has God. Here we are out in this desert starving to death. Wish we were back in Egypt. Things were so wonderful back then.* Talk about selective memory loss!

So they melted down the jewellery God had told them to take off the Egyptians, which was supposed to be used for decorating a place of worship to God, and instead decided to make a golden calf with it, to bow down to and pray to and sing praises to. How stupid was that? That was the first two commandments down the Swanee right away!

Put like that, we can all see how foolish it is to worship a “god” of our own invention, but stop and think just how easy it is for us, now, to be fooled into making the same mistake – our career, our family, our hobby, our bank balance, our dreams of a big house, a big car, a fancy holiday, nice clothes. These things aren’t evil, but if we put them above our loyalty to Jesus, we’ve made a golden calf too. The technical term for making the good the enemy of the best is “idolatry”.

It can happen in church life too. People get very aerated over church furnishings, hymn tunes or whose turn it is to make the coffee. Do we honestly think God cares 2p about things like that? When that stuff assumes an importance it should never have, it’s a sure sign that we’re trying to earn His favour by our own efforts. Here’s a revelation. That’s unnecessary and it will be unsuccessful, 100% of the time.

By the way, when God gave the 10 commandments, He didn’t expect the people to be able to keep them. He knew they couldn’t. His hope was that the penny would drop, that they would realise they couldn’t save themselves by their own efforts, and that they needed a Saviour. The 10 commandments weren’t a blessing, they were a manifestation of the curse. They didn’t bring life, but death.

Gasp! How can you say such a thing! It’s not me that’s saying it, it’s the Bible! Galatians 3.13 : *Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree”*. If you read that verse in context, it’s abundantly plain that “the curse of the law” refers to the Old Testament commandments.

Same again in 2 Corinthians 3.7-9 : *if the ministry that brought death, which was engraved in letters on stone, came with glory, so that the Israelites could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of its glory, transitory though it was, will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious? If the ministry that brought condemnation was glorious, how much more glorious is the ministry that brings righteousness!*

Paul says, in so many words, that the 10 commandments brought condemnation and death. There is no hope under the Law. We need a Saviour. And, praise God, He gave us one, Jesus! John 1.17 : *the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.* We can't save ourselves, and we don't need to. God already has!

If we remain in His love, securely enfolded in His eternal arms, held in His nail-pierced hands, washed in His blood poured out as a sacrifice, that's it. It's not our love for others that opens the door to discipleship life, it's His love for us. Without His love for us, we're powerless.

The sad thing is there are so many people in our communities, in our families and – yes – even in our pews who do not yet know for sure the love of Jesus, who cannot yet sing with certainty : *Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.* Religion won't teach you that Jesus loves you, oh no, religion will teach you what hoops you have to jump through to earn His love.

I learned very recently about the word religion, by the way. The first two letters, re-, mean again, “Ligion” comes from the same root as “ligature”, something that ties up. Religion, then, means tied up again, returned to bondage, bondage to the curse of the law that brings death. Jesus brings freedom and life, as a free and undeserved gift.

How do we walk in the assurance of His love day by day, even when we're not perfect? Anyone here not perfect? By the blood of the Lamb and the filling of the Holy Spirit. Easter and Pentecost. How do we qualify for these gifts? First, do you have a pulse? Check quickly to make sure if you need to! If the answer is yes, continue. If the answer is no, we'll come round and raise you from the dead right now!

Second, have you ever said or done something you shouldn't have done, or harboured an unkind or nasty thought? If the answer is yes, continue. If the answer is no, please put up your hand and we'll cast out the lying demons! Third, receive the blood of Jesus, shed once for all. 1 John 2.2 : *He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.*

Whatever you have done, whatever sin you have committed, it can never be greater or more powerful than the atoning sacrifice of Jesus.

Listening to Creflo Dollar recently, I was reminded that a fair old chunk of the Bible has been written by people who had committed murder. Moses, in a temper tid, bumped off an Egyptian. David arranged a contract killing on Uriah the Hittite just to nick his wife. Paul, a serial persecutor of Christians, was complicit in the assassination of Stephen. Were any of them thus disqualified from God's grace? Of course not!

So you and I, whatever skeletons may be rattling about in the cupboard of our murky past, qualify for the saving grace of God through Jesus, and if you have never received that saving, forgiving, reconciling grace, why wait any longer? I'm amazed at the stupidity of Pharaoh in Exodus 8, during the plague of frogs. In case you didn't know, the deadliest animal in the world is the poison dart frog. A beautiful, but very scary, creature, it has enough toxin to bump off our entire congregation.



A plague of frogs wasn't funny. Climb into bed – *boing!* – frogs under the covers and on the pillow. Get up after a sleepless night, go for a shower to wake up – *boing!* – frogs in the shower! Grab your clothes – *boing!* – frogs in your trousers. Grr! Breakfast time – *boing!* – frogs in the kettle, the fridge, the bread-bin.

Aargh! Now, notice the conversation between Moses and Pharaoh, Exodus 8.8-10 : *Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, 'Pray to the LORD to take the frogs away from me and my people, and I will let your people go to offer sacrifices to the LORD.'* Moses said to Pharaoh, *'I leave to you the honour of setting the time for me to pray for you and your officials and your people that you and your houses may be rid of the frogs, except for those that remain in the Nile.'* And Pharaoh replied ... *'TOMORROW!!'* How crazy can you get!

Was Pharaoh so desperate for one more night with his precious frogs? I think you or I would have said : *Get those so-and-so frogs out of here NOW! Right this minute!* If you wouldn't tolerate frogs, then don't tolerate guilt and fear and condemnation either. Get them out of your heart and out of your mind right now, by the blood of Christ, poured out for you at the cross. This minute! Do what your uncle Frank tells you! NOW is the day of salvation. NOW is the day to walk in freedom. *But wait a minute*, you may say, *doesn't the Bible say somewhere that you have to work out your own salvation with fear and trembling?*

I'm so glad you brought that up, as the lady said to the dog that had eaten her 3-carat diamond ring. Philippians 2.12 : *Continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling – yes, there it is – for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfil his good purpose.*

When breakfast TV started, the Green Goddess bullied – er, sorry, encouraged – viewers to do a work-out in the morning? Work-out? Sound familiar? Contrary to popular misconception, a work-out doesn't miraculously create muscles, it just exercises the ones that are already there. Working out your salvation isn't about trying to miraculously create favour with God, it is about exercising the favour you already have with God as a gift, to help others and witness to Jesus.

As the next verse says : *it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfil his good purpose.* God working IN you enables you to work OUT. The presence of God within you is His Holy Spirit. NOW is the time to be filled to overflowing by the Holy Spirit ; the presence, personality and power of Jesus Himself, exactly as He has promised, enabling us to think like Him, to speak like Him, to act like Him, to minister like Him, to will and to do what He wants you to will and do.

The Bible itself promises that we are like Jesus in this world, and the less we worry and fret about things, the more freedom the Holy Spirit has to work within us so that we act and speak and think the way Jesus does, and so point others toward Him. Today, let's choose to get ourselves off our minds, to stop focussing on and fretting about our own human strengths and weaknesses, our own human achievements and failures, our own human hopes and fears, and instead focus on the one absolute certainty in our life – the love of Jesus, unlimited, unconditional, unfailing, unquenchable.

Today, let's choose to invite His Holy Spirit to have free rein in our hearts and minds ; to let His Holy Spirit dictate every thought, every attitude, every feeling ; to put a stop to stress and worry and instead to let His Holy Spirit guide us on every decision, every action, every word. He will always get it right. Today let's invite the Holy Spirit of God to show us opportunities to change the lives of others for good, even when in the flesh it seems impossible, and give Him space to bring supernatural empowering. And all of this we can have because : *Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so,*

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A story for the children ... Watch your Words!

Next to Merryweather's bus depot was Mr Poppleton's garage, where, for many years, the people of the town had bought their cars – nice ordinary family cars, which were always friendly and polite to the buses, waiting for a second to let buses pull out safely from the stops.

But then Mr Poppleton retired, and the buses wondered who would take over the garage. Hector the Inspector knew, but he didn't seem too happy about it. "It's Fred McFadyen. I went to school with him."

"Oh! He's a friend of yours, then?" asked Dennis.

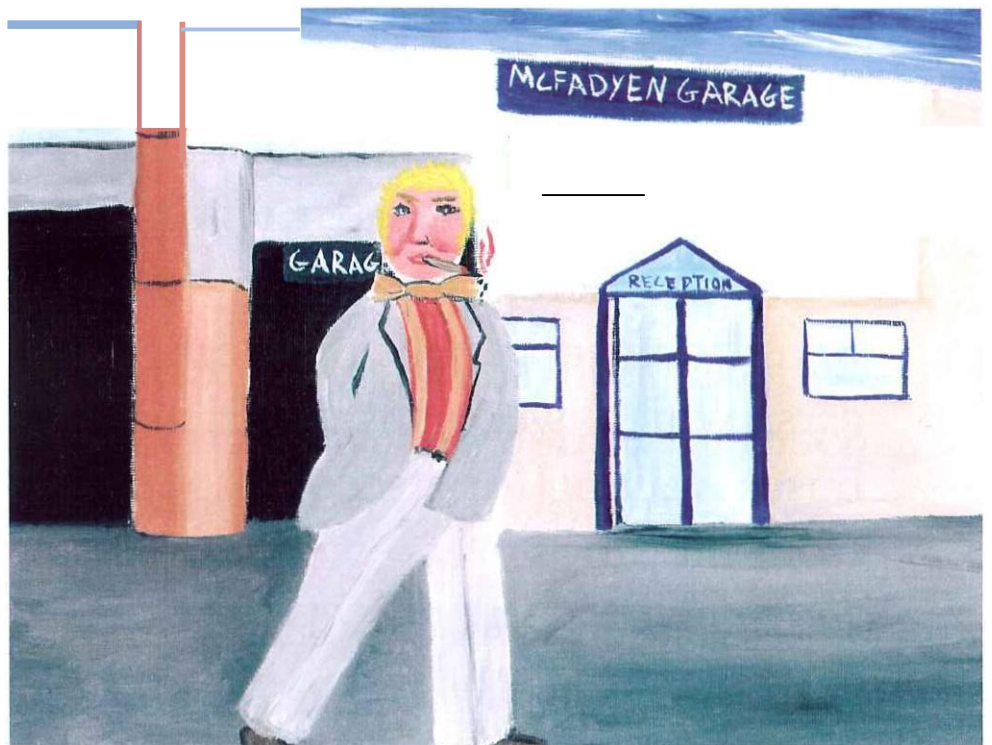
To Dennis' surprise, Hector, who hardly ever said an unkind word about anyone, snorted: "Flash Freddy? Hah! If he was a lollipop, he'd lick himself!" The buses just looked at each other. They didn't know what Hector meant by this odd human saying - but it didn't sound very nice!

It wasn't long before the buses caught site of Flash Freddy.

A man as round as he was tall, he had hair like straw and a chubby face as pink as tinned salmon.

He wore shiny silver suits, two sizes too big, with gold braces and a gold bow tie.

Not a pretty sight.



But worse even than Flash Freddy were his two big expensive sports cars, one shiny black, called Ponsonby, the other gleaming white, called Pierpoint. Ponsonby and Pierpoint were Freddy's pride and joy.

He drove Ponsonby on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and Pierpoint on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. On Sundays, it was said, Freddy never got out of bed.

Each day, the two cars would sit at the front of the garage, making very rude remarks at the buses as they went past.

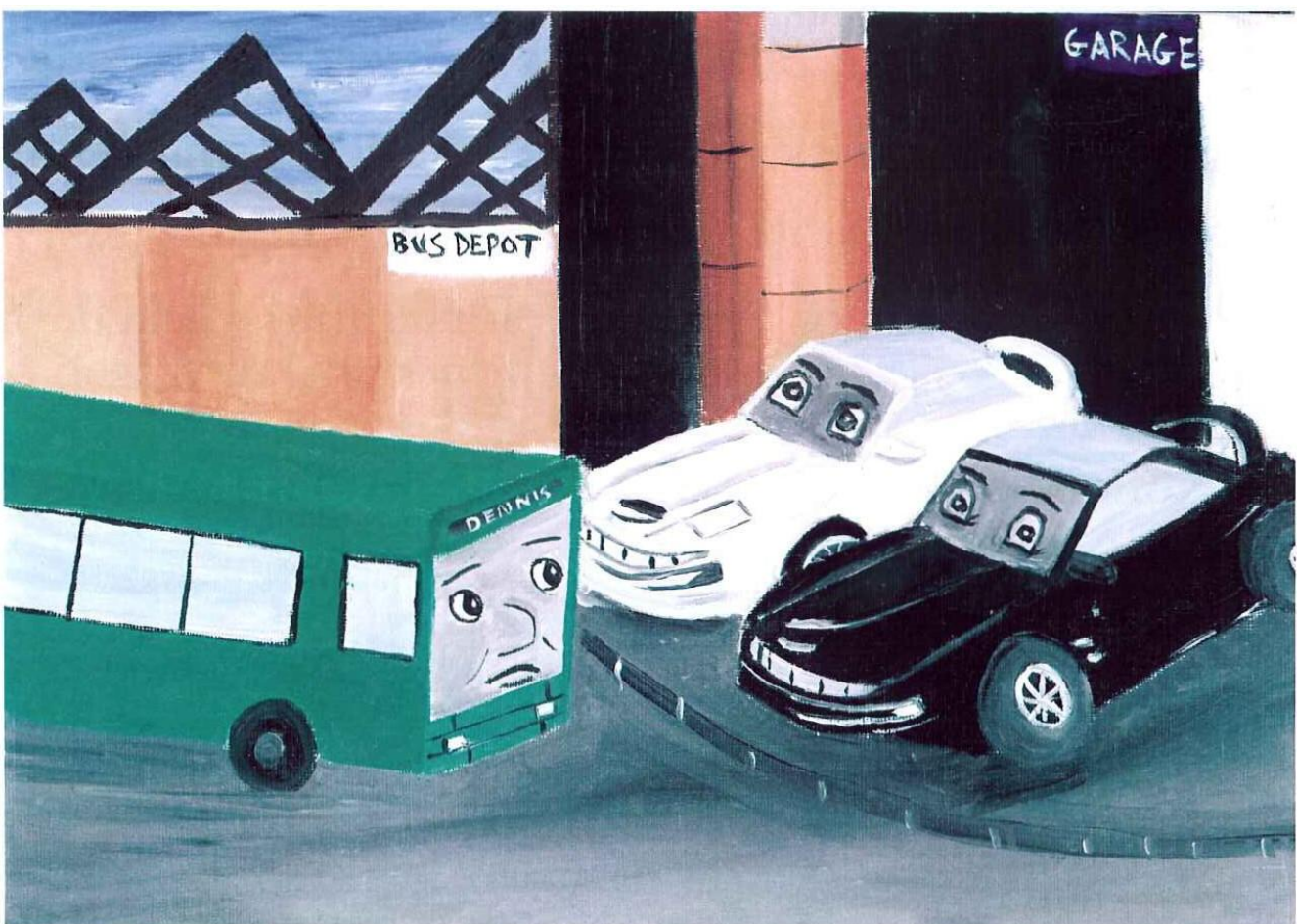
"Silly slow shaky smelly buses!" shouted Ponsonby.

"Rotten, rattling wrecks!" rasped Pierpoint

"Who wants to travel by batty old buses?" sneered Ponsonby .

"When you can have lovely posh cars like us!" boasted Pierpoint.

It got steadily worse. Soon the cars were making up ugly songs.



"You're off to the chop shop, off to the chop shop," warbled Ponsonby.

"Here today, teaspoons tomorrow," squawked Pierpoint.

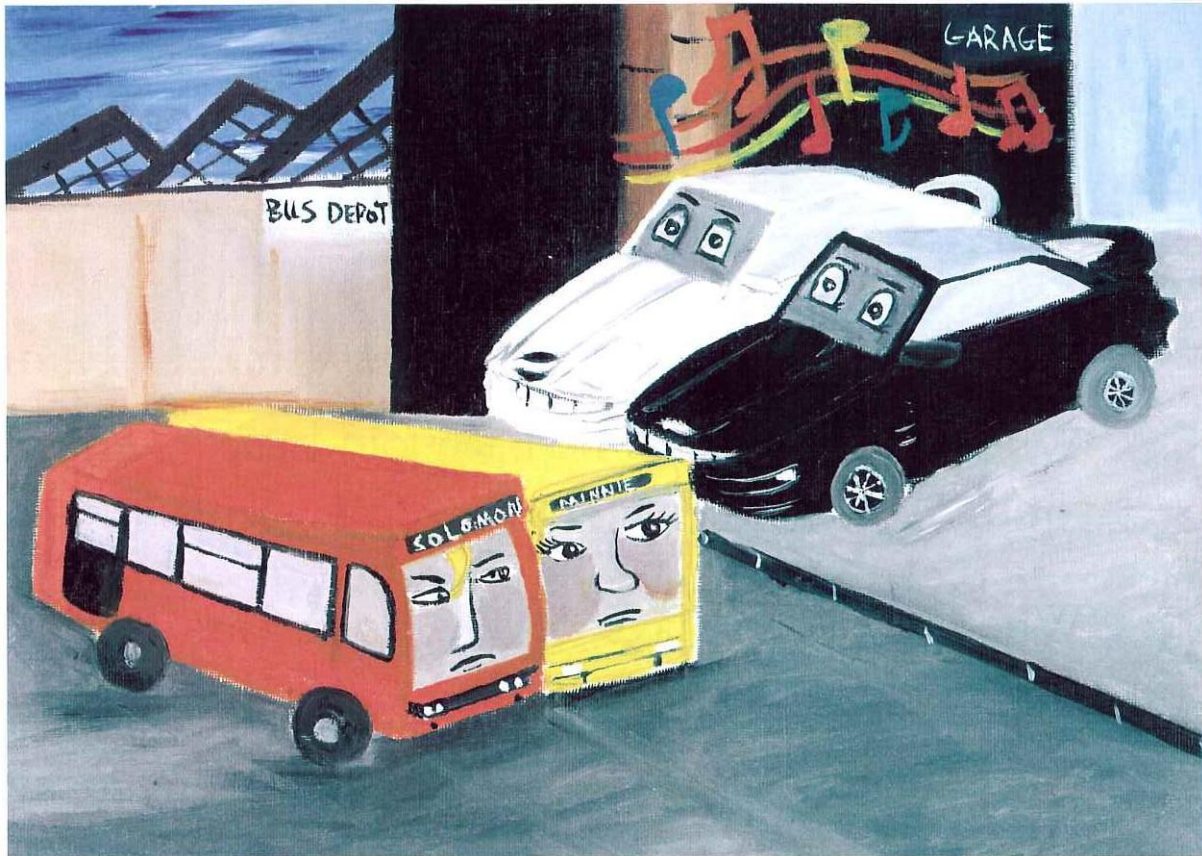
To make matters worse, they couldn't sing a note between them!

But then, it got personal. First, they picked on Minnie.

"Shortbread tin on wheels!" giggled Ponsonby.

Then it was Solomon's turn for the treatment.

"Mobile bread-bin!" chortled Pierpoint.



By now, the buses were fed up with Ponsonby and Pierpoint, and all their nasty comments. In Mr Poppleton's day, the cars in the garage had always been nice and polite to the buses.

One night, after the buses had gone off duty and the garage was quiet, they had a long talk about how to deal with Ponsonby and Pierpoint.

Big Alex had an idea. "When I'm out on the school run tomorrow, I'll speak to a friend of mine who lives out in the country. I'm sure he'll help."

"What do you have in mind, Alex?" asked Solomon.

Big Alex just laughed. "Don't worry, laddie, you'll see."

The next morning dawned warm and sunny. Ponsonby and Pierpoint sat in their usual places, their sunroofs rolled down, being rude to the buses - this time, to a rap beat!

"Going by bus, it ain't so jolly, " chanted Pierpoint

"You'd be faster in a shopping trolley," Ponsonby chirped back.

But the buses just smiled and drove past. Payback time was on its way.

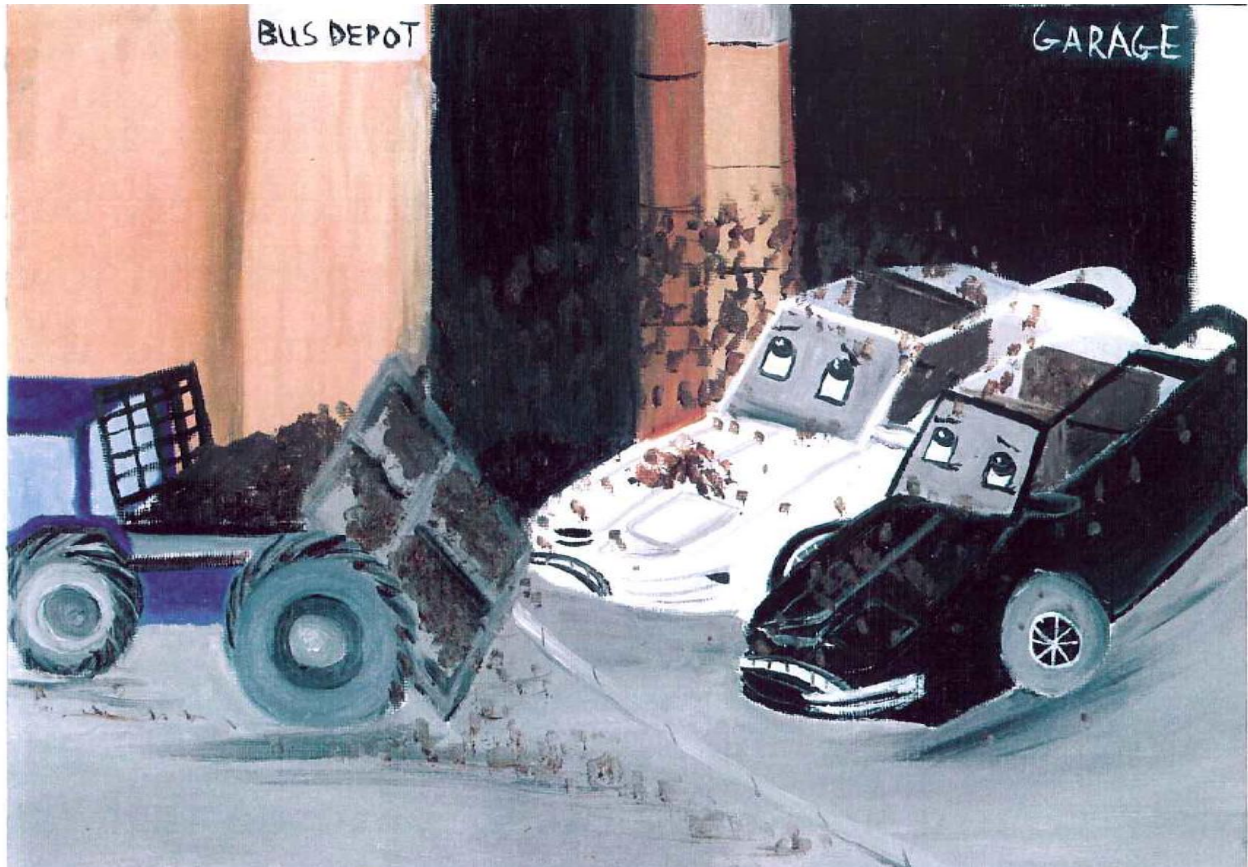


At exactly 1.30, Big Alex spoke : "Right, it's showtime!"

That was when Malcolm the Muck-spreader trundled down the road, slowly and noisily.

Ponsonby and Pierpoint sniggered unpleasantly as they thought of something silly to say to Malcolm. But they didn't get the chance.

WHOOSH! As he passed, Malcolm dumped half-a-ton of ripe, rich, steaming farmyard slurry on top of Ponsonby and Pierpoint. All over their lovely gleaming paintwork, all over their luscious leather seats!



Ponsonby and Pierpoint coughed and spluttered in rage. The buses laughed long and loud. Hector, who had come out to watch, sniggered into his hanky.

And on this hot afternoon, with every passing minute, Ponsonby and Pierpoint smelled even riper and richer.

That was the last the buses ever saw of Ponsonby and Pierpoint, or Flash Freddy for that matter.

That same day, a FOR SALE sign appeared in front of the garage, which soon – happily – sold nice polite cars again.

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Words matter! Every word we speak affects whoever hears it, and it affects us too. Kind, considerate, words encourage our friends, make up with people we may not be getting along with, and make us feel good about ourselves. Nasty, thoughtless words aren't clever. They can hurt. They can break up friendships. They make us feel bad about ourselves. The Bible tells us we really will "eat our words" – let's keep them sweet!

Photography for every occasion

Chris Morrison

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

A Journey to Love : *by Rosemary Dorricott*

So what is love? God tells us in 1 Corinthians 13:4 what love is, but have you ever struggled to understand the depth of love God has for us and what this looks like in our lives? Earlier this year I had the privilege of travelling out to Ghana for three months to be involved in volunteering in agriculture and assisting in an orphanage, during which God really showed me His love in action.

From day 1 it was a challenge, strange language, very different culture, exceptional heat and humidity and such lovely friendly and welcoming people. The first half of my program I spent in the beautiful market and farming town of Frankadua, near Lake Volta in the east of Ghana.

The journey there from Accra was interesting to say the least. We were in a hired tro-tro (a bit like a minibus) with a mattress and a couple of other volunteers ... well, the mattress didn't want to stay with us and we had to stop a couple of times to pick it up off the road and retie the back doors! In Kpong, Ruth and I who were heading to Frankadua got out of the tro-tro with our member of staff from Ghana Volunteer Corps, our luggage, a large bag of food and some trays of eggs and sat in the middle of the market waiting for a taxi.

Eventually, in good African time, we got a taxi and arrived into Frankadua in the middle of a tropical rainstorm. The current volunteers welcomed us and showed us round the yard, our home for the next 6 weeks. We were renting two rooms and a "kitchen" on a yard where some local people lived, giving us great insight into the real lives of the Ghanaians. The shower was a lovely wall, shared with the locals, and a bucket of water; the toilet was very basic and halfway across the field; and all water for washing us, dishes and clothes had to be collected from the local pump and carried back to the house on our heads!!

After settling in, the other volunteers took us to the sports field, where every day at 4pm the local lads come together to play basketball and football and saying no to playing would have been considered rude, so we had to play too! Over the following weeks I spent many happy hours at the sports field, not playing very often, but talking to the locals, gaining an insight into their lives, culture, hopes and dreams.

In the early mornings, before breakfast, we would head out to work on the farm. The farm was growing crops and rearing livestock to be able to provide for and support the orphanages with which Ghana Volunteer Corps also work. By breakfast time it was too hot to continue work in the fields, so we looked for other volunteering opportunities in the community to fill the rest of our days.

In the first few weeks, this was working at the local medical clinic, assisting them with paperwork and then once the national teachers' strike was over I went to work as a classroom assistant at one of the poorer local schools. I was helping in a class of about 40 children, aged 5 to 6 years who spoke mainly Ewe and not much English. It was a Christian school and much time was spent discussing God and teaching them songs that I learnt at Sunday School. It was a great experience but challenging and exhausting, especially the days that the teacher didn't turn up at school and I was left to take the class myself!

Whilst in Frankadua I also had the chance to go along to services in a few of the churches in the town. To see people struggling in their daily lives, but praising God wholeheartedly for what they did have, for providing for them, keeping them safe and even worshipping Him when things had gone wrong. Most of the population of the town were Christian and due to the number of churches in the town and the fact that their services generally last all day, we could hear worship all around the town from our home, well into the night!

The local people were very friendly and indeed it always took us far longer to get anywhere than we anticipated. It is expected that you greet everyone you meet or see, and as it is such a tight knit community they soon get to know the Yvuu's (White people) by name and shout to us wherever we went. Some of the children took this further and ran out to meet us, hug us and generally love us, in the market, from school and in and around their homes. Several of them gave me mangos off their tree as a present and when I was leaving they were all really sad.

I was asked by a teacher at a different school to take the creative arts class one day and teach them to crochet. The day after I took their class, several children from the class ran up to me in various parts of the town waving their crochet and hook at me to show me how much they had done; and they were all so happy about it!

We got to know some of the local lads about our own age quite well and they would come round to our house every so often to make sure we were all ok! I was very sad to leave Frankadua after a brilliant 6½ weeks, but moved south and west to Kasoa, near Accra to assist in an orphanage for the remainder of my time.

The West African Children Foundation is run by a Christian family and at present cares for 43 children and also provides education for another 80 children for whom it is their local school. The children get three meals a day and school children are also fed at lunchtime. This means they are providing for a large number of children with no financial income except from previous volunteers and friends of the home. But Patrick, the founder, has friends in the market in Kasoa, who will lend him food for the children until he has money to pay it back.

Water supply is a major issue and regularly whilst I was there, even in the wet season, the home runs completely out of water. This not only means the children have nothing to drink, but also means there is no water for cooking, washing the dishes, washing the children or washing clothes. They pray for provision from the Lord and time and time again He provides for their needs. The children are brought up as Christians and are taught God's word and ways.

There was a beautiful moment one day when Deborah saw Grace had fallen over and went to help her up and then proceeded to dust her down and clean her hands; and both of them only 3 years old! The older children were good at helping each other, the cook and a mother with 6 month old triplets; it was a common sight to see them carrying or feeding a baby to give the mother a rest.

Our time here as volunteers was spent providing care and love to the children, but also involved lots of serving dinner, helping in the kitchen and doing dishes, especially at lunchtime as we had 120 children to feed and only 70 bowls and 20 spoons! The home has their own church service on a Saturday and I managed to experience these too. They have a choir and have worship, then Bible study for the older children and adults and "Sunday school" for the younger children. Church generally lasts till noon, they have a special lunch and then another service in the afternoon and the rest of the day is treated as a holiday.

In general whilst travelling around the country I found the locals all very helpful, although if asking for directions always ask at least 3 people to make sure they agree! God used my times of travel to show me His love in so many situations. Isa, a volunteer friend, and I went to Kumasi one weekend and got lost many times. But the people were so friendly and helpful that we always managed to get back to where we were supposed to be. We decided to head to Lake Bosumtwé for a night, but had trouble. It was a Sunday and we missed the last tro-tro to get there.

So as we wandered the station trying to plan what to do, several people asked us where we were going. One kindly man took it one step further. He got us to follow him out of the station, up the hill, along a road and across the main road to a petrol station where he got us into a tro-tro and spoke to the driver and the mate, told us what to pay and left. The tro-tro took us across the city to another tro-tro station. There the mate and driver got us into a queue for a tro-tro to where we were going!

I was very sad to leave such a beautiful country and friendly people, but am so glad that I was able to make the journey, hopefully make an impact in somebody's life and learn so much more about God and His love in our lives, that I have made it my aim to continue this wholeheartedly on my return!



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Parish Registers

Baptisms

31 March <i>Ancrum</i>	Georgia Jean Wood, <i>daughter of</i> Kevin & Donna [Minto], 18 West Myres Croft
7 April <i>Crailing</i>	Archie Robert Andrew Little, <i>son of</i> Stuart & Karen [Linton], 34 Berry Moss Court, Kelso

Weddings

1 June <i>Kelso</i>	Edward Bell & Georgina Moor <i>now living at</i> : Woodside, Ancrum
22 June <i>Lilliesleaf</i>	Robert Burnett & Maria Murray <i>now living at</i> : Whinfield, St Boswells

Funerals

7 March <i>Lilliesleaf</i>	Mrs Aida Hendry 3 Muselie Drive
21 March <i>St Boswells</i>	Mr William Leitch 7 Station Court, Newtown
21 March <i>Ancrum</i>	Mr Tommy Munro 13 Myres Croft Road
25 March <i>Lauder</i>	Mrs Jessie Anderson 9 Landene
3 April <i>Jedburgh</i>	Mr Eddie Mills 2 Bongate
8 April <i>Crematorium</i>	Mrs Judy Smith Old Ormiston
15 April <i>Crematorium</i>	Mrs Elizabeth Livingston Bloomfield

18 April <i>Jedburgh</i>	Mrs Belle McGovern 1 Bongate
10 May <i>Ancrum</i>	Mr Tom Law 9 The Knowe
31 May <i>Ancrum</i>	Mrs Elizabeth Smart MBE 3 North Myres Croft
2 July <i>Jedburgh</i>	Mr Ian Wood 89 Howden Road
4 July <i>Crematorium</i>	Mrs Eileen Rae Wildcatcleuch
5 July <i>Lilliesleaf</i>	Mrs Euphemia Elliot Kingsknowes, Galashiels <i>Service conducted by Rev Marion Dodd</i>

We were saddened to learn of the death of **Lt-Col Nevin Agnew**, at the age of 91, on 6 June 2013. Nevin served his country in the Coldstream Guards, and his Lord as a lay reader and generous loyal supporter of Ancrum Kirk. Our love and prayers are with Margaret and all the family.

Want to be a Blood Donor? : The Blood Transfusion Mobile Unit will be at Jedburgh Town Hall on Sunday 18 August from 10.15.am to 12.30.pm and 2.pm to 4.pm. All donors, new or experienced, welcome!

From the Minister : Visits to Borders General Hospital

For upwards of 20 years, it was 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.

Data protection legislation now means that the hospital can no longer supply that information. As a result, I can no longer 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, is going into the BGH – or indeed any hospital – otherwise, sadly, you probably won’t receive a visit. Many thanks for your help and co-operation.

Mrs Lizzie Smart MBE : 1917-2013

The “Good News” magazine of summer 1997 stated : *there’s an old saying that no-one is indispensable, but so far as the village of Ancrum is concerned, LIZZIE SMART is as near to an exception to the rule as you can imagine!* Born on 25 August 1917 at Lintalee, Lizzie Oliver started school at Glendouglas, and made her way, with her mum, to the Old Parish Church in Jedburgh on a Sunday, on foot.

When, occasionally, they were offered a lift in the farmer’s horse-drawn carriage, it made Lizzie feel like royalty. Little did Lizzie realise that, nearly 80 years later, she would indeed come face to face with royalty to be awarded an MBE.

In 1928 Lizzie moved into Ancrum with her mum, joining the Sunday School and, in 1934, the choir in the parish church. For 85 years right up to the communion services in the last week of her life, there were very few Sundays when she was absent from her accustomed place. Indeed, it is reckoned that, since the present Ancrum Kirk was opened in 1890, Lizzie attended at least two-thirds of the services held there.

This remarkable faithfulness was recognised by Lizzie becoming one of a very select few to receive Long Service Awards from two Moderators, James Whyte in 1988 and Iain Torrance in 2004. And this despite having a foot in two church camps for a while, attending evening services in the old John Knox Free Kirk during Rev Linton’s tenure, as that young clergyman attracted quite a female following in his day!

When Ancrum and Lilliesleaf churches were linked in 1994, Lizzie reflected that, in her young day, going to Lilliesleaf was something you did for a summer holiday! She had relatives at that time running the Plough Inn, and Lizzie would travel by cab – horse-powered, at that – from Ancrum to Belses Station, and change there on to a similar conveyance up to “the Leaf”. Changed days indeed!

Lizzie began her working life in the North British Rayon Mill in Jedburgh but, on the outbreak of war, she moved to Hawick to serve in the munitions factory there. During that time she stayed at the Church of Scotland hostel at Linwood. For some years after the war, Lizzie

combined work with taking care of her elderly mum, before marrying Charlie Smart, a good friend of many years standing, in 1959.

Sadly, their time together was all too short, as Charlie died in 1973, and Lizzie never enjoyed the blessing of children of her own. However, Lizzie did relish the company of the children of Ancrum, as the last 13 years of her working life were spent in the local primary school where she was known to, and respected by, all as the dinner lady!

By contrast, Lizzie had at one time enjoyed a rather more glamorous role as a model! Along with the late Olive Macdonald, she would strut her stuff on the catwalk that was David Thomson's famous fashion outlet in the High Street, showing off the latest must-have items of womenswear to the admiring public of Jedburgh.

Over the years, Lizzie had an active involvement in just about every aspect of village life : the Fete, the Flower Show, the Women's Rural and the Community Council. In particular, her service to the Village Hall Committee was legendary. For this, above all, she was honoured by the Queen in 1998 with an MBE, awarded in a ceremony at Holyroodhouse, a very proud moment for Lizzie and indeed for the entire village who rejoiced to see due recognition of truly exceptional devotion.

For many years, she was part-time hall-keeper, and took a hands-on approach – walking up the road every day, in all weathers, even past 90 years old, to open the hall, set out the seats and ensure that the property was heated and ready for all the many organisations and events taking place there. It was a measure of the lady that her 90th birthday party doubled up with the official opening of the refurbished Village Hall, Lizzie – who else? – doing the honours and being presented with Sandy Milligan's masterpeice "Lizzie's Ancrum"

Within the church too, as well as almost 80 years membership of the choir, Lizzie was congregational treasurer for 21 years, served as an elder since Peter Gunn's time – one of the first Ladies ordained to the eldership in the Borders – and was President of the Women's Guild six times! As well as Lizzie's loyalty to her local Kirk here in Ancrum, it was truly humbling to see her equally regular in attendance at united services at Crailing and Lilliesleaf as well, right up to the very end.

In matters of faith, Lizzie was no stubborn prisoner of tradition. She was a fervent supporter of the refurbishment of Ancrum Kirk – indeed, for

Lizzie, it didn't go far enough, she would have taken all the pews out – and liked to pop in for a “wee bogle” at the work as it progressed.

If Lizzie's childhood holidays were spent on the Costa del Leaf, her destination in later life was Tighnabruaich, where for many years the Women's Guild had a holiday home, and Lizzie was among the hardy annuals who made the trip from the Jedburgh East Presbyterial Council until, alas, the facility closed. Amazingly, she also found time for a hobby, cross-stitch, and became a very accomplished practitioner.

Lizzie had a rich fund of great stories of Ancrum of yesteryear, which would have made a fine book had they ever been collected and published. She kept in touch with friends and acquaintances over many years, and was the definitive “enquire within” of people and places related to the village, to whom family-tree-tracers were always directed.

The grand old lady of the village, she was known and loved by us all – her extended “family” – and she will be greatly missed. The contribution Lizzie Smart made to Ancrum life over 85 years may never be equalled. Will we ever see her like again?



Photograph

*Lizzie at Holyrood
with her MBE*



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TIMES OF SUNDAY SERVICES : August to November 2013

Ancrum Every Sunday, 10.am **except** 6 October
1 Sep : United Service with Guild Dedication, 10.am
13 Oct : Communion, 10.am [no evening communion]

Lilliesleaf Every Sunday, 11.30.am **except** 1 September
8 Sep : Communion, 11.30.am & 6.30.pm [with healing]
6 Oct : United Harvest Thanksgiving

Crailing **10.30** : 11 & 25 Aug ; 8 & 22 Sep ; 13 & 27 Oct ; 24 Nov
10.am : 10 Nov [Armistice]
24 Nov : Communion, 10.30.am [no evening service]
6.30.pm : *Songs of Praise* : 4 Aug ; 1 Sep ; 6 Oct ; 3 Nov

Armistice Day : Sunday 10 November

Ancrum : 10.am, then to War Memorial

Crailing : 10.am [please note earlier start], then to War Memorial

Lilliesleaf : 10.55.am at War Memorial, then tea & coffee in church
before morning worship at 11.30.am