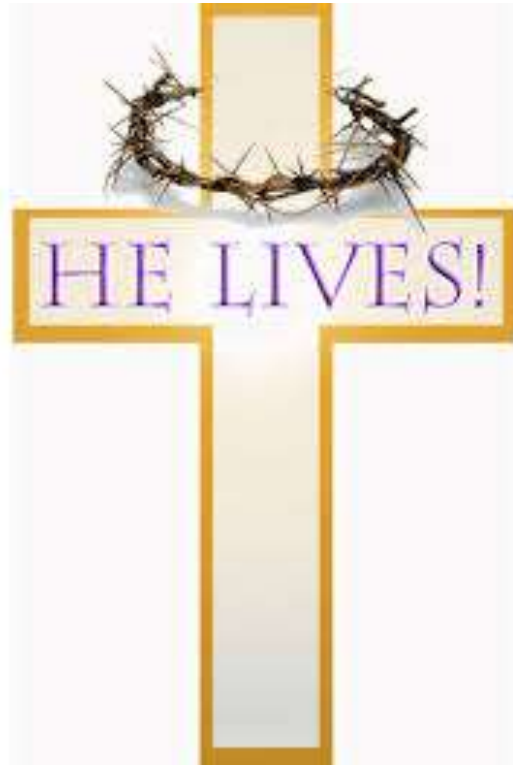


GOOD NEWS!



The magazine of
ALE & TEVIOT
UNITED CHURCH

Easter 2015



**ALE & TEVIOT UNITED
CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**
Scottish Charity No : SC 016457
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TIMES OF SUNDAY SERVICES : April to July 2015

ANCRUM Every Sunday, 10.am **except** : 19 April, 5 & 19 July
10 May : Communion, 10.am & 6.30.pm [with Healing]
7 June : Prizegiving & All-age communion, 10.am
21 June : Songs of Praise, with Riddell Fiddles, 6.30.pm

LILLIESLEAF Every Sunday, 11.30.am **except** : 7 June, 5 July
17 May : Communion, 11.30.am [no evening service]

CRAILING **10.30** : 12, 26 Apr ; 10, 24 May ; **14 June** ; 12, 26 July
6.30.pm : 5 Apr ; 3 May ; 7 June ; **28 June**
24 May : Communion, 10.30.am [no evening service]

SPECIAL EVENTS : United services

Sun. 19 April : Lilliesleaf : 11.30.am – Stated Annual Meeting

Sun. 7 June : Ancrum, 10.am – Prizegiving & All-age communion

Sun. 5 July : With 42nd Dundee BB at Ancrum Football Club, 10.am

Sun. 19 July : Lilliesleaf, 11.30.am – led by Elders



What a commotion! What a travesty! Western civilization, as we know it, threatens to grind to a juddering halt! The cause of the consternation? The world-famous, universally-loved Cadbury's Crème Egg has been – well, there's no way to soften the blow – changed forever.

No longer is this unique delicacy, so precious to the great British public, lovingly coated in its trademark Cadbury's Dairy Milk chocolate, but by what its manufacturers term "*standard cocoa mix chocolate*" – a suitably uninspiring name for this modern impostor, though outraged consumers employ more unflattering, indeed sometimes unprintable, vocabulary.

In the wake of this terminal blow to the Cadbury's Crème Egg beloved of ages past, we wonder, will Easter ever be the same again? Will the season survive the tragic passing of such a treasured Easter institution?

Permit me, please, to offer categorical assurance that, in spite of this bitter blow to the taste-buds, the essence of Easter remains resolutely and defiantly unchanged! The beating heart of Easter is not, never has been, and never will be, the calorie rush [*174 kCal, if you really want to know!*] of milk, sugar, cocoa butter, cocoa mass, vegetable fat, emulsifiers (E442, E476, soya lecithin), glucose syrup, invert sugar syrup, dried egg white, and – er, paprika extract? [yes, that's right, paprika extract!!] that go to make up the crème egg.

Rather it is that God, in His infinite love and grace, chose to intervene in the lives of His rebellious and estranged children ; to offer as a free gift of grace His forgiveness for every wrong deed, word and thought, past, present and future, to anyone of any age or background who will simply receive that forgiveness in the spirit of love in which it is offered.

God chose to offer a way out of the mess of mankind's own making, to offer to all humanity life and blessing, in place of death and the curse. Let's be clear what the terms "blessing" and "curse" actually mean. Blessing isn't just a superstitious throwaway line when you sneeze!! It is nothing less than empowerment to succeed in every area of life, and entitlement to share in all the riches of God on earth and in Heaven.

The curse is pretty much what you see on the news every night. It is the inevitable consequence of the human selfishness and arrogance that thinks we know all the answers and don't need God any more. Really? From Iraq to Ukraine to the streets of our cities, see how well ignoring God and doing our own thing is working out!

Easter, a spring weekend in Roman-occupied Jerusalem, was the time and the place for the decisive moment in human history. That was when God and man changed places ; when God took upon Himself, in the person of Jesus His Son, the crushing burden of all human rebellion and disobedience, and suffered in the flesh the death penalty for it.

It was when Christ himself carried our sins in his body to the cross, so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness [and] by his wounds you have been healed. [1 Peter 2.24]. That happened on Good Friday.

It was when, on the Sunday morning, as Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 15, Jesus was raised from the dead, just as the Scriptures said. He was seen by Peter and then by the 12 disciples. After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died. Just as death came into the world through a man, now the resurrection from the dead has begun through another man. Just as everyone dies because we all belong to Adam, everyone who belongs to Christ will be given new life.

And so now we have a real choice. Life or death? Blessing or curse? Prosperity or poverty in every area of life? The choice is surely obvious. This Easter, I urge us all to say a resounding YES! to the Risen Jesus and embrace His gift of life and blessing, love, joy and shalom.

Oh, and do enjoy your Easter egg, whatever the manufacturer or recipe!

With love from Frank & Lexy

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Paraprosodokians

[supplied by Ken Fotheringham]

Paraprosodokians are figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected ; frequently humorous. Winston Churchill loved them. Here are a few to give you a giggle.

1. Where there's a will, I want to be in it.
2. Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
3. I'd love to agree with you, but then we'd both be wrong.
4. We never really grow up, we only learn how to act in public.
5. War does not determine who is right – only who is left.
6. Knowledge is recognising that a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting one in a fruit salad.
7. To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.
8. I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.
9. In filling out a form, wherever it says, *In case of emergency, notify :* I put 'DOCTOR'.
10. You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.
11. I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not so sure.
12. Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.
13. You're never too old to learn something stupid.
14. I'm supposed to respect my elders, but it's getting harder and harder for me to find one now.

A message from Canada

We recently had the pleasant surprise of an e-mail from John Maxwell, and there follow a few of John's personal recollections of auld Ancrum.

My last time in Ancrum was in 2010, when my nephew in Edinburgh brought me to spend an afternoon. We visited the cemetery of course, and saw inside the school at the invitation of the teacher. I also knocked the door of The Longhouse, and after introducing myself was invited in. The lady, who I now know as Salama Subiotti, was very gracious.

She asked how many persons lived there in my time. I think she was surprised when I said, besides my parents, I had two brothers, but also one of the village school-teachers was a boarder and had the room to the front. Of course the house has been extended and taken over our coal and firewood storage area.

It has also taken in what was a carpenter's shop, which was at the end of the building. The carpenter, or joiner, was Jim Scott. At that time, my brothers and I slept in the attics, and thoroughly enjoyed it. We could let the cat in and out the skylight.

Audrey Kennedy was in my class at school, she also had a sister Muriel, their Father was a tailor, and lived in a house halfway up the side of the green. I also knew Geordie Paterson, he was a buddy of my Dad. I remember Drew Michie well, he was 3-4 years older than I and was the instigator/ leader of everything that the kids got up to.

Danny Barnes was one of the originals in Sunnybrae. Danny was in the Great War like my Dad, and I always remember he had the Union Jack tattooed on his chest. I remember seeing it when we were all swimming at the "cauld pale".

Ed's Note : *Over the past few months, John has been in contact with various members of the community, including Trevor Gallon, Billy Barnes and the Primary School. He has also very kindly supplied a picture of the "Class of 1928" at Ancrum School. It's been possible to identify quite a few of the faces in the picture. Can you fill any gaps?*

John would be very glad to hear from anyone interested in sharing tales of Auld Ancrum. His address is : 305-1447 Best St, White Rock, B.C. V4B 4E5, Canada, and his e-mail address is : jedmax305@telus.net



Ancrum School 1928 : Miss Lawrie's Class

Back row : left to right :

John Maxwell ; ? Coulter ; Tom Temple ; ?? ; ?? ; Bill Slight

Middle row : left to right :

Jim Temple ; ? Jackson ; Maisie Patterson ; ? Jeffrey ; Bob Aitken

Front row : left to right :

?? ; ?? ; Audrey Kennedy ; ?? ; Dora Elliot ; Gladys Eddington ; Rita
Barnes ; ??

Forgotten Bravery : by Roger Owen

In the third week of March 1915 an Ancrum widow, Agnes Maxwell, received at her cottage at Townhead first a letter and then a card. The letter was from Private McElwee of the 3rd Battalion of the Scottish Rifles (the Cameronians) who was being treated in a Kent hospital for wounds received at Neuve Chapelle in France on March 10th. This had been the first day of the first large-scale organised attack undertaken by the British army in the First World War. He told her that her younger son, Archibald, who was in the same battalion, had also been wounded.

"We were side by side," he wrote. "Your son was wounded. I stopped to dress his wounds but he would not let me do it, and flung his ammunition to me, told me to go on charging and wished me good luck. No sooner had I moved than I was hit twice in the arm. I looked around for Archie but could not find him, there were so many dead and wounded lying on the field. He was a good chum to me, and I want to know if he is dead or still living."

The card Mrs. Maxwell received came from her 18-year-old younger son who was in Rouen in France. He told her he was lying wounded in hospital but doing well.

"I was going up over the front of the first trench when I felt something hit me just like a fore-hammer [type of sledge hammer] on the left thigh, and I knew I had got a souvenir! The Germans fairly picked off our officers – and yet they say the Germans can't shoot! It was an awful row. There was a gun for every 12 yards, and all going like mad."

One chap here tells me he fired 250 shells himself during the first day. I was hit about 8.30 a.m., and it was about 5 p.m. before I was lifted. The wound is healing up fine, and I expect to be sent home ere long, but there is a decent hole in my leg with the shrapnel. It will be a while before I am fit for the trenches again."

Earlier, in December 1912, Archie had been found guilty of fishing with a cleek in the River Ale, and was fined five shillings with five shillings expenses or three days' imprisonment. Two months later at Ancrum's annual Ba' Day it was reported that there was "some pretty rough play ... some damage to fences ... a window entirely smashed"

Prominent amongst the Ancrum players were Archie and his older brother David! Yet in April 1913 Archie, an apprentice blacksmith, exhibited a specimen of smith work (a horse shoe) at the four-day Scoutcraft Exhibition in Edinburgh and was awarded a diploma of merit.

Archie seems to have been a typical adolescent lad: youthful misdemeanours and over-exuberance but also evidence of serious application and skills. And when it came to the crunch he was a good friend and a courageous young man.

Each November villagers gather round the war memorial on the green to remember by name Ancrum men who were killed in the First World War. However, those who survived, but were injured and scarred physically and emotionally tend to be forgotten. Yet those, like teenager Private Archibald Maxwell, deserve our respect and appreciation too.

[Roger Owen has been delving through the archives of the Edinburgh Evening News and the Southern Reporter]

Easter Egg-stras?

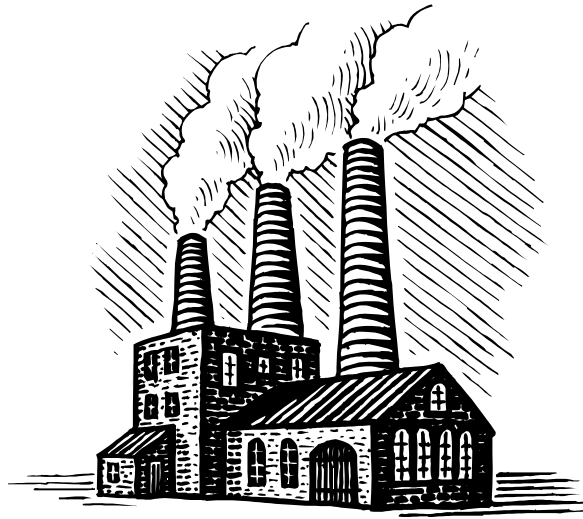
Although we have our own Easter programme, as set out on the back page, at **Ale & Teviot**, you may be interested in additional events organised by other local churches.

The **Cheviot Churches** have a craft session and service at Hownam on Palm Sunday from 3.pm, and a vigil at Hoselaw on Good Friday from 2.pm - 5.pm. They will also be making pilgrimage along the **Border Abbey Ways** on Fridays from 10th April to 10th May.

The linked churches of **Hobkirk & Southdean** with **Ruberslaw** have a “sunrise service” on the summit of Ruberslaw at 7.am. A hot breakfast will be served afterwards at Denholm Church ... richly deserved!!

During Holy Week, there is a Time of Reflection at 10.am every morning [Monday to Friday] in **Jedburgh Old & Trinity**. On Good Friday, a **Walk of Witness**, organised by Jedburgh Churches Together, leaves Old & Trinity at 10.45.am, ending at St John’s Centre for hot cross buns.

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It's What You Scatter : A story sent by Ken Fotheringham

I was at the corner grocery store buying some early potatoes. I noticed a small boy, delicate of bone and feature, ragged but clean, hungrily appraising a basket of freshly picked green peas.

I paid for my potatoes but was also drawn to the display of fresh green peas. I am a pushover for creamed peas and new potatoes. Pondering the peas, I couldn't help overhearing the conversation between the store owner, Mr. Miller, and the ragged boy next to me.

'Hello Barry, how are you today?'

'Hi Mr Miller. Fine, thanks. Jus' admirin' 'em peas. They sure look good'
'They are good, Barry. How's your Ma?'

'Fine. Gittin' stronger alla' time.'

'Good. Anything I can help you with?'

'No, Sir. Jus' admirin' them peas.'

'Would you like to take some home?' asked Mr. Miller.

'No, Sir. Got nuthin' to pay for 'em with.'

'Well, what have you to trade me for some of those peas?'

'All I got's my prize marble here.'

'Is that right? Let me see it', said Miller.

'Here 'tis. She's a dandy.'

'I can see that. Hmm, only thing is this one is blue and I sort of go for red. Do you have a red one like this at home?' the store owner asked.

'Not zackley but almost.'

'Tell you what. Take this sack of peas home with you and, next trip this way, let me look at that red marble'. Mr. Miller told the boy.

'Sure will. Thanks Mr. Miller.'

Mrs. Miller, who had been standing nearby, came over to help me.

With a smile she said, *'There are two other boys like him in our community, all three are in very poor circumstances. Jim just loves to bargain with them for peas, apples, tomatoes, or whatever.'*

When they come back with their red marbles, and they always do, he decides he doesn't like red after all and he sends them home with a bag of produce for a green marble or an orange one, when they come on their next trip to the store.'

I left the store, smiling to myself, impressed with this man. A short time later I moved to Colorado, but I never forgot the story of this man, the boys, and their bartering for marbles.

Several years went by, each more rapid than the previous one. Just recently I had occasion to visit some old friends in that Idaho community and while I was there learned that Mr. Miller had died.

They were having his visitation that evening and knowing my friends wanted to go, I agreed to accompany them. Upon arrival at the mortuary we fell into line to meet the relatives of the deceased and to offer whatever words of comfort we could.

Ahead of us in line were three young men. One was in an army uniform and the other two wore nice haircuts, dark suits and white shirts...all very professional looking. They approached Mrs. Miller, standing composed and smiling by her husband's casket.

Each of the young men hugged her, kissed her on the cheek, spoke briefly with her and moved on to the casket. Her misty light blue eyes followed them as, one by one; each young man stopped briefly and placed his own warm hand over the cold pale hand in the casket. Each left the mortuary awkwardly, wiping his eyes.

Our turn came to meet Mrs. Miller. I told her who I was and reminded her of the story from those many years ago and what she had told me about her husband's bartering for marbles. With her eyes glistening, she took my hand and led me to the casket.

'Those three young men who just left were the boys I told you about. They just told me how they appreciated the things Jim 'traded' them. Now, at last, when Jim could not change his mind about colour or size....they came to pay their debt.'

'We've never had a great deal of the wealth of this world,' she confided, 'but right now, Jim would consider himself the richest man in Idaho'
With loving gentleness she lifted the lifeless fingers of her late husband
Resting underneath were three exquisitely shined red marbles.

Remember : we will not be remembered by our words, but by our kind deeds. Life is not measured by the breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath. It's not what you gather, but what you scatter, that tells what kind of life you have lived!

Riddell Fiddles

We hope to have a “Songs of Praise” led by the ever-popular and very talented **Riddell Fiddles** at Ancrum Kirk on Sunday 21 June at 6.30.pm

Ale & Teviot United Church – here to help you

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 ... as you can with **Sunday sermons**. Go to the “news” page of our website and browse “sermons”. **CD recordings** of our morning services can be supplied on request. Please contact Frank or any member of the Kirk Session.

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

Lifts to Church

Transport Co-ordinators have been appointed for each of the three places of worship, and so, if you need a lift to church, contact your local Co-ordinator, ideally giving a day or two's notice if possible :

Ancrum – Margaret Smith, 864378 ; Crailing – Joe Hannaford, 850779 ;
Lilliesleaf – Mary Jones, 870306.

If, in addition, you are in a position to offer lifts to church, the Transport Co-ordinators would love to hear from you! These offers are welcome any Sunday, but are especially valuable for united services.

Healing Ministry

Lexy and Frank will gladly make ourselves available to offer healing ministry in Jesus' Name – please e-mail or phone. The gift of healing and health is part of the inheritance of the children of God, bought and paid for by the [passion of Christ [1 Peter 2.24 and elsewhere].

Let's not neglect this precious and dearly-purchased aspect of God's grace. The Bible makes it abundantly clear that God wants you WELL, so that you can serve Him all the better.

There will be a specific opportunity for healing ministry during evening communion at Ancrum Kirk on Sunday 10 May at 6.30.pm. Whether or not you belong to the church, if you have a need for healing, spirit, soul or body, our gracious loving God will be happy to meet that need.

Midweek Meetings

There are midweek evening meetings in the Manse almost every week from September to May.

The **Prayer & Bible Study** is on alternate Mondays at 7.pm, led by John Marshall. We have an average of six people who have contributed to our studies in 2 Corinthians, which we will be finishing soon. It is a good time of fellowship around God's word and in prayer.

On alternate Tuesdays at 7.pm, the **Tuesday Girls**, led by Lexy, are studying *Spirit, Soul and Body*, based on 1 Thessalonians 5.23 ... and to reinforce the theme of health and wholeness in every area of life, there is an [optional!] opportunity to *Weigh & Pray!*

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Family Research – Are You Connected?

The Crailing, Eckford & Nisbet Community Council has recently been contacted by David Clifton and Diane Madden who are trying to find out more about people who have connections in this area. Please see their stories below and if you are related to them in some way, or can provide any information that would help them, please e-mail Sheila Campbell on ***sheilaeckford@hotmail.com*** who will put you in touch with each other

Pilot Officer James Alexander Jackson (Mid Upper Gunner) : On 16 February 1944, PO Jackson (Eckford Parish) was lost with the rest of the crew of RAF Stirling EF271 (aged from 20-28 years) near the village of Grun-Bordas in the Dordogne. The aircraft had left RAF Lakenheath in Suffolk the previous evening to drop supplies to resistance fighters further south, and was probably shot down by a German night fighter.

The Germans buried them in a cemetery in Marseille, believing them to be Americans. However a plaque added to the memorial to the war dead of Grun-Bordas is a testament to the high regard the local French people have for these men who gave their lives supporting them.



An annual ceremony, (see photo, taken in 2015) led by local French veterans, is held to honour these men. Wreaths and bouquets are laid, speeches are made and national anthems and the haunting resistance anthem are played. This year, when everyone gathered for the “vin d’honneur” in the village hall, a lady (aged 91) was introduced.

She and her husband (94) actually saw the crash. The crew were : RAAF 416614 PO Robinson, K A Captain (Pilot), RAF Sgt R A Williams, (Flight Engineer), RAF Sgt R Stubbings, (Navigator), RAF Sgt G Caine, (Air Bomber), RAAF 421428 Flt Sgt H E Lambourne, (Wireless Air Gunner), RAF PO Jackson, J A (Mid Upper Gunner – 3rd from left, back row), RAF Sgt A Whimpenney, (Rear Gunner).



David Clifton, who served in the RAF for 16 years as a navigator and is now retired and living in the Correze area of south-west France, laid the wreath on behalf of the RAF and the Defence Attaché in Paris. He has contacted us to see if we can provide him with any more information on the family of Pilot Officer Jackson whose name appears on the commemorative plaque, currently on display in Eckford Village Hall.

Thanks to local resident, Margaret Jeary, we know there are two Jackson graves in Eckford Kirkyard - Robert Jackson [died 1937] and his wife Margaret Hopkirk [died 1956] ; and John Jackson [died 1961] and his wife Nellie Waldie Aitken, late of Caverton Mill, [died in 1947]. Do you know of a connection between these people and PO Jackson?

William Paton, Palace Hinds House, Crailing : Diane Madden from Canada is seeking information on the Paton family with connections to Palace Hinds House, Palace Stable or East Nisbet. She is particularly keen to find out more about William Paton, born around 1801, or his wife Margaret Ross. Also William Paton, Male Servant, born around 1827 who she thinks matches the William Paton from her family who was born in Roxburghshire. Diane is planning a visit to Jedburgh in August 2015 to see where her ancestors lived, so if you can help her with her research then please get in touch.

Rev Joseph Yair, Eckford Church : Last summer, Eckford residents warmly welcomed Lena Buchanan and her family from Argentina who dropped in unexpectedly. Lena (84) made the trip, accompanied by her son and daughter and three of their children, to see where her great-great-grandfather had lived. Rev Joseph Yair was Minister of Eckford Parish Church for 63 years until his death in 1892.



Although unable to see inside the church during her visit, Lena was shown memorabilia now in the safe keeping of Eckford Village Hall and sent photos of the interior of the church. Lena has a lot of information about her great-great grandfather but would welcome more, and if anyone in the area has connections to her family she'd love to hear from them.

Preparing For Easter

The Body of Christ joining in unity as we prepare to approach the Cross

A CONCERT WITH IAN WHITE Duns Parish Church Friday 20th March 2015 : 7.00 pm

Tickets: £6.00 in advance £8.00 at door
Refreshments will be served during the interval

On-line Bookings : **www.thegoodbook.co.uk/lanatDuns**
Telephone Bookings: 0333 123 0880

The Filling Station

The Filling Station is an informal way of expressing the Christian faith. Using local mid-weekly monthly celebration meetings in unusual venues we find that the local church is strengthened and helped in many ways. The Filling Station is not a new church denomination, rather, a group of Christians who are celebrating their faith in God in an informal and authentic fashion. Do come and join us at one of our local meetings.

To find out more visit **www.thefillingstation.org.uk** ; contact UK and International Director Richard Fothergill at 01225 832806 ; or contact :

Antoinette and James Galbraith, Rawflat, Ancrum. Tel : 01835 830302 ;
e-mail : **antoinette.galbraith@virgin.net**

First meeting : Thursday 4 June 7.30.pm – Ancrum Village Hall [TBC].

Used Stamps and Old Postcards

We are still happy to receive used stamps for recycling for the work of the Kirk's World Mission Council, and old postcards to help the Mission Aviation Fellowship. Collection points for both are in the Meeting Room at Ancrum Kirk, or hand them to any churchgoer.

Art at Ancrum

This year, Ancrum Kirk has been added to the list of venues for the popular **Art at Ancrum** event over the May Day holiday weekend, from Saturday 2 to Monday 4 May. You will be able to walk round the village and enjoy exhibits from a wide range of local artists, including a display from the children of Ancrum Primary School – which will, we hope, be set in the church. For details, check : <http://www.artatancrum.org.uk/>

Trinity Belles Plus ... some local talent at Lilliesleaf

On Thursday 16 April, we are delighted to welcome to Lilliesleaf Kirk *Trinity Belles Plus*, a group of highly talented young musicians from all over the world, presently studying at Trinity College of Music, London, under Andy Sherwood. We also hope that some of the young musicians from Lilliesleaf will be able to join us and have a wee “slot” that evening. It all begins at 7.30.pm and admission will be by donation.

On her travels again!!

Once again, Lilliesleaf's Chris Tracey is on her travels with **Tear Fund**, this time to India and Nepal. This visit focuses on the harrowing issue of child trafficking. Every year, some 12,000-15,000 children are trafficked from Nepal, often from small rural communities where poverty prevents the children from receiving education and causes them to be left alone all day because their parents are away working to provide food.

Tear Fund estimate that, every 3 minutes 'someone' is trafficked, and the average age of that 'someone' is 12. The cost of protecting a child and educating them, their family and the community on trafficking prevention is £36. By contrast, the cost of rescuing a child – if rescue is even possible – is £7,000. Once a child from Nepal is trafficked over a border, life will never be the same again.

Reports from Chris on the visit will follow in a future edition

Many thanks ...

... to all who supported our **Christmas Offering**, which raised £1000 for the Stroke Unit at Borders General Hospital. Once again, the people of this parish have excelled yourselves in generosity. Many thanks.

Christian Aid Week 2015

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/>

This year, there are also quizzes to “pit your wits” against and help raise extra funds for a very good cause. Throughout **Christian Aid Week**, 10-16 May, there will be a **Christian Aid** shop and café in the Kenmore Halls, staffed on the Thursday by volunteers from Ale & Teviot. A recent **Christian Aid** Coffee Morning in Jedburgh raised £734.

For every £1 raised, **Christian Aid** put 86p directly into fighting poverty. Another 13p goes back into fundraising, so they can raise the next £1. The last penny pays for governance costs, associated with the general running of the charity, ensuring **Christian Aid** can keep going to help more people out of poverty for good. Can you help?



Be an instrument of God's peace.

**Give, act and pray this
Christian Aid Week**

See more : www.caweek.org

Photography for every occasion

Chris Morrison

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Melrose TD6 0RH**

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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

Friday Club

The Friday Club, for children of primary school age, meets in Ancrum Kirk each Friday evening from 6.30 – 7.30.pm, and the enthusiasm of the young people – usually about 10 each week – for the Bible-based and interactive programme is a joy to behold.

The Nativity, “*A Star in the East*”, was a great success, hugely enjoyed by those taking part and by the large congregation on the day. We were also very grateful to Friday Club members and helpers who took part in the all-age services on Christmas Eve ... and to those who have been so willing to volunteer for our Easter Sunday family services too!

A huge thank-you to all the parents who have helped on a Friday night, and to the four teenagers, Claire, Nikki, Mhairi and Abigail, without whom we could not cope.

Ed's note : ... and a massive thank-you from us all to John and Elaine!

Guild

At its AGM on Monday 2 March, the Guild elected the following office-bearers : Convener – Margaret Dorricott ; Vice-Convener and Project Convener – Janet Harrison ; Secretary – Jean Frizzell ; Treasurer – Margaret Smith.

As you all are aware, we lost our faithful and devoted Mrs Carmen A Martin, to whom we owe a deep debt of Gratitude for all the work she has undertaken over the years on behalf of the Guild. THANK YOU CARMEN.



We had a successful afternoon meeting on 2 February with Effie Munro in the chair and the speaker for RIDING FOR THE DISABLED, Susan Elliot M.B.E., gave a very interesting talk. We all came away from that meeting a lot better informed of the work they do, and what it entails.

We still have our meal out to look forward to, hopefully on Monday 20 April for lunch at Pirn House, Charlesfield. We are currently working on menus etc. By the time of the next GOOD NEWS magazine, we will be looking forward to the programme for 2015-2016!

Margaret Dorricott, Guild Convener.

Ancrum After-church Refreshments



The serving of coffee and tea after church continues to be very popular, and gives people time to chat and catch up with everyone instead of rushing off home. Any offers to help on the rota will be most welcome, please speak to Heather Miller. Thank you!

Your support also helps others in need ... we were able to send £200 to the Medecins Sans Frontieres Ebola Appeal, and a further £50 to the Friday Club, out of donations received on Sunday mornings.

Communion

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated as follows :

Maundy Thursday, 2 April, Lilliesleaf, 7.pm – informal celebration

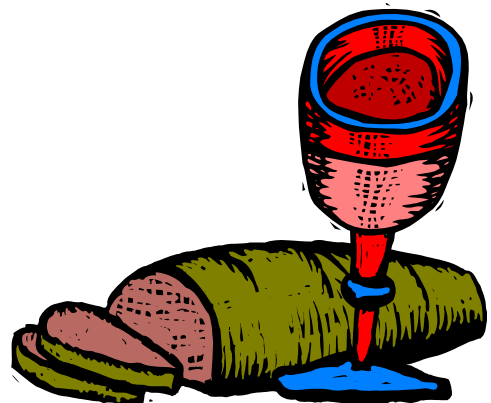
Sunday 10 May, Ancrum, 10.am

Sunday 10 May, Ancrum, 6.30.pm
– with Ministry of Healing

Sunday 17 May, Lilliesleaf, 11.30.am

Sunday 24 May, Crailing, 10.30.am

Sunday 7 June, Ancrum, 10.am
– informal united all-age service with Junior Church Prizegiving.



All are welcome, irrespective of age, denomination or background, at the table of the Lord Jesus, to receive forgiveness and reconciliation in His shed blood, and healing and wholeness in His broken body.

Have you looked at our church website lately?

Keep in touch with what's going on :

www.aleandteviot.org.uk

AND ... you can follow us on Twitter : @AleTeviotChurch

Don't just settle for second-best!

From a sermon preached on 1 February, based on Hebrews 11.



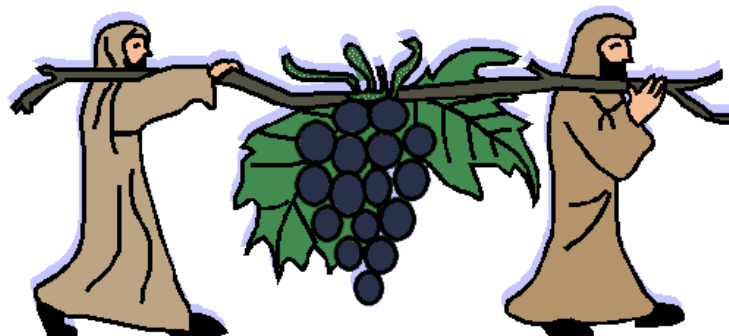
One of my favourite school assembly songs is : *Father Abraham had many sons, many sons had Father Abraham. I am one of them, and so are you, so let's all praise the Lord.* With actions, of course – everyone swinging both arms, both legs, nodding their heads and, in the end, with great relief, turning around and sitting down!

But the message, of our oneness with each other and with Abraham, and by implication with everyone else on this “Wall of Faith” in Hebrews 11, is well worth treasuring. How ferociously Abraham and Sarah were tested in faith and patience, as they waited for the son whom God has promised them. And that was a picture of their whole lives, constantly stepping into the unknown, armed with no more than a word from God.



We first come across him – then called Abram, spelled and pronounced slightly differently – appearing as part of a bit of unfinished business. Genesis 11.31 : *Terah took his son Abram, his grandson Lot son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, the wife of his son Abram, and together they set out from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to Canaan. But when they came to Haran, they settled there.*

Now here's a little mini-tale of woe that I think many of us can identify with. Canaan was what later came to be called the Promised Land, the land flowing with milk and honey, with grapes the size of footballs, according to the report in Numbers 13 of the advance party sent out by Moses to spy out the land God was giving to His people.



In the Bible, the land of Canaan corresponds pretty much to the present Israel and the so-called West Bank. It is fertile territory, containing probably the most productive agricultural land in the Middle East, for God's kids to enjoy. I wonder, then, who originally put in the mind of Abram's dad Terah the dream of going there?



Instead of which, we learn, he settled in Harran, in the south-east of modern-day Turkey, near the Syrian border – an area which, to the present day, is fairly poor, with a much less benign desert-like climate than the land of God's promise. Why did Terah settle in Harran? The Bible doesn't tell us. Was the journey from there to Canaan too long and too much trouble?

Whatever the reason, it was not God's best for the family. How often have we had a dream, a vision, that God has planted in our heart, but instead of going for it and fulfilling it, we've settled for something less, something comfortable but dull, something falling short of God's best for our lives? I mentioned earlier on the story in Numbers 13 when God's people, having been miraculously delivered from the misery of slavery in Egypt, stood on the edge of the Promised Land and saw its beauty.

The advance party came back, unanimous about the fertility of the land but divided about their capacity to take it. The majority, 10 out of 12, whinged about the difficulties, rabbited on about the ferocious residents who would eat them up and spit out the bones. They looked at the situation based only on their own human abilities.

Only 2, Joshua and Caleb, saw the situation through the eyes of God. Only 2 looked past the problems to the promise of God that He would overcome those problems for them, just as He had overcome Pharaoh's army. In the end, only Joshua and Caleb, the ones who took God at His Word, ever set foot in the Promised Land.



The rest literally fell by the wayside during the next 40 years of mediocrity, lack and frustration out in the wilderness. And, oh boy, is there a practical lesson here for us today. Too many of us have taken that mistaken majority path, paid more attention to the human problem than to the divine promise.



Instead of letting God lead us past all the obstacles on our way to the promise, we've taken the easy option, settled for mediocrity, and deep down, we regret the missed opportunity. Friends, as followers of Christ, we should be like Edith Piaf : *Je ne regrette rien*. Life is too short and too precious to miss God's best through lack of trust in His ability or His willingness to deliver on what He has promised, what He's called us to be and to do.

Let me just slap a health warning on here. I'm not advocating relentless pursuit of every crazy idea that comes into our head. That's dangerous. The devil, the author of all lies and confusion, doesn't mind what ditch you fall into as long as you don't go God's way – be it settling for and sticking in the mud of mediocrity, or be it human ambition, ruthlessly driven for more of what the godless world esteems and values.

A lust for power or wealth, popularity or influence, for its own sake, using people to gain things, is a demonic counterfeit of the true call from God, which is to be blessed to be a blessing, to be salt and light, to use things to gain people for the Kingdom. How do we know if our dreams, our ambitions, are godly or not?



Well, first of all, are they motivated by love for God and for others? If you want to be wealthy, is it primarily so you can lounge about on a yacht in the Caribbean, or so you can build water wells in African villages?

If you want fame and power is it to build up your own low self-image, or to bear witness to God who gave you the ability and the opportunity to get into that position?



Ultimately it boils down to whether or not we're believing in a promise of God's Word and following the wise guidance of Paul in Romans 12.1-2 : *I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

I want nothing more, and nothing less, than to know God's good, pleasing and perfect will for my life, and to trust Him to bring it to pass in my life. And, for most of us, this whole business of settling for less than God's best isn't even about career choices and such like. It's about our readiness to compromise in the way we go about everyday life and relationships, how we speak to people, think about people, treat people.



We know God's Word *commands* us, to let go of grudges, bitterness and resentment that are eating us up, and put on royal robes of freedom, yet we settle for the familiar flea-ridden moth-eaten auld claes of unforgiveness. Maybe we think it's too hard to forgive, forget and move on, and maybe risk losing face, but it's actually a whole lot harder not doing so.

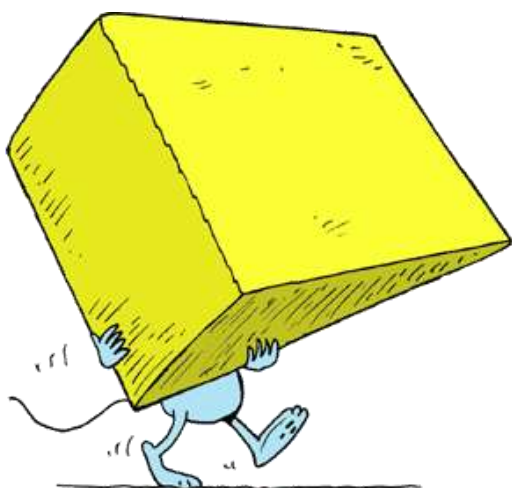
According to Christian South African neuro-scientist, Dr Caroline Leaf, science has proved that toxic thoughts, about other people, ourselves, our situation, actually cause brain damage and increase the risk of disease. If we don't renew our minds but *settle* for negative thoughts, we are slowly but surely destroying our own health. If, by contrast, we push on in faith toward God's spiritual *Promised Land* of living in grace and love toward others, we will actually, by renewing our minds, also refresh and restore our physical and mental health.

Why settle for bad habits and bad attitudes when the same grace of God in Christ that pulled off the ultimate miracle of saving us for eternity is perfectly capable of performing the relatively minor miracle of changing our minds? Isn't the One who made the universe just a little bit bigger than that short temper, that tendency to criticise or complain, that addiction to fattening foods?



Why settle for meekly accepting ill-health when, by renewing our mind by the promises of God's Word, we can start to reverse the processes that caused the ill-health? Why talk about *my* asthma, *my* sore back? Do you really want to own that stuff? God didn't give it to you, so why stake claim to it? Renew your thinking, show it the door, and while you're at it, kick out that man that's shacking up with you – *Arthur*-itis!

And watch for the funnies that aren't really funny – like, they say there's three things that go as you grow old. The first one's the memory ... and I can't remember the other two. Let's not, even in jest, rent space in our thinking to anything other than the blessing of the Lord. I used to joke about my footballer's knee, my grandfather's back and my pensioner's prostate, till I learned God wasn't laughing. Not one bit. Not when His Son was battered to pulp so that by His wounds I could be healed.



God loads us with blessings

God wants us to live each day in the fullness of His promise, abundantly and outrageously blessed in every area of life so we can be abundantly and outrageously generous to others – not to settle for just so-so, just run-of-the-mill. In God's eyes, you are His precious, dearly-loved, blood-bought, born-again, Spirit-filled, tongue-talking, miracle-working, freely-receiving, freely-giving, radiantly fit and healthy, specially-favoured son or daughter, heir to His Kingdom, unique and wonderful masterpiece of His creation.

That's how God sees you. Don't *settle* for anything less. Don't *settle* for formal, arms-length, 1-hour-a-week religion, when you can enjoy intimate relationship with Jesus every moment of every day, when you can know His presence every step of the way, when you can chat to Him as if He was right beside you in the garden shed or the kitchen, as by His Holy Spirit He is?



Don't *settle* for the mediocre, the average, the bog-standard, when as God's precious kid and apple of His eye, you can enjoy God's very best.

(More than) A Few Words from the Treasurer

Well, here we are, well into 2015 and I have survived my first year as Treasurer. At the time of writing, I have just completed the annual accounts and managed to get everything to balance! (You should see my dining table – covered in the confetti of sheets of scrap paper filled up with countless calculations.) I am confident that the Ale and Teviot finances are in a healthier state now than they were this time last year.

This is due in no small part to the generosity of you – our members. There has definitely been an increase in giving and the various fund-raising ideas are bearing fruit. So please keep on eating the Smarties and filling the tubes with 20p coins (pound coins also fit, by the way!) and keep on using the weekly offering envelopes for spare loose change that you don't need. Every little helps!



Thank you to everyone who has given me their support and advice over the past year, with a particular thank-you to John Galbraith, David Harris-Burland and, posthumously, to Carmen Martin for faithfully recording the offering figures Sunday by Sunday and sending me the monthly returns. They have had to put up with an increased burden of recording so that we can claim on cash offerings under the new Gift Aid Small Donation Scheme from HMRC.

This lets us claim a maximum of £5,000 worth of Gift Aid per church building per year from non-Gift Aided offerings uplifted in the services. It has been worth it, as I have been able to claim just under £2,900 for the tax year 2013-14. Talking about Gift Aid, if there is anyone reading this magazine who would like to give a donation to Ale & Teviot and you pay income tax and or capital gains tax, please fill in a Gift Aid Declaration Form and return it to me.

This costs you nothing (other than a stamp possibly) and allows the church to claim 25% extra on your donation from HMRC. For those who are unsure how this works, let me give you a simple Maths lesson. If you are a standard rate tax-payer and you give £100 to the church, this is after paying 20% tax. So, that £100 represents 80% of the actual amount on which you were originally taxed.

This means that you were taxed on $\pounds 100 \div 80 \times 100$ which totals $\pounds 125$. The church can claim from HMRC the $\pounds 25$ of tax that you have paid. $\pounds 25$ is, obviously, 25% of the $\pounds 100$ gift. Now, you are not allowed to have Gift Aid claimed in a year that exceeds the amount of tax that you pay annually. (If it does, HMRC will send you a bill for the difference!)

The easiest way to check this is to remember that every Gift Aided $\pounds 1$ given, represents 25 pence of tax paid. So, for example, if you Gift Aid $\pounds 10$ per month for a year, you must have paid at least $\pounds 30$ of income tax in that year ($25p \times 10 \times 12 = \pounds 30$). Another way of checking is to look at your taxable income (from your Tax Code Notice). As long as your total Gift Aided giving to all charities does not exceed that figure, you will not get a bill from HMRC.



If you pay tax at 40% or more, you can claim the difference between the higher and basic rate on your donation through your annual Self-assessment Tax Return. For example, for a 40% taxpayer, if you donate $\pounds 100$, we claim Gift Aid to make your donation $\pounds 125$. You pay 40% tax so you can personally claim back $\pounds 25$ ($\pounds 125 \times 20\%$).

I hope that 2015 will prove to be a good year financially (as well as spiritually!) for Ale & Teviot United Church.

PS : Another Fundraising Idea

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online - from your weekly shop to your annual holiday - you could be raising a free donation for Ale & Teviot United Church? There are nearly 3,000 retailers including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, thetrainline, Tesco and Sainsbury's, who will donate a percentage of the amount you spend to Ale and Teviot United Church to say thank you for shopping with them.

It's really simple, and doesn't cost you anything. All you do is go to : <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/aleandteviotunitedchurch> ; sign up at no cost to you (or anyone) ... and get shopping! Your donations will be collected by **easyfundraising** and automatically sent to Ale and Teviot United Church. It couldn't be easier! There are no catches or hidden charges, and Ale and Teviot United Church will be really grateful for your donations. Thank you for your support.

Ale & Teviot United Church : Summary of Accounts 2014

		2014	2013
Income	Offerings and donations	40059	36217
	Tax recovered on gift aid	18558	4000
	Other income	1987	3877
	TOTAL	60604	44094

Expenditure	Ministries & Mission	26759	36526
	Presbytery dues	1041	0
	Ministry expenses	3614	2508
	Pulpit supply & other wage costs	7521	9170
	Office expenses	3887	2778
	Building improvements & repairs	2439	10050
	Other building costs	11094	7972
	Professional fees etc	1800	1800
	Other expenses	2993	2295
	TOTAL	61148	73099

Operating <DEFICIT> for year	<544>	<29005>
Refund of fabric expenses from "121"	10686	19880
Overall surplus / <DEFICIT> for year	10142	<9125>
Balance of funds at year end	63715	53573

You can get the full Trustees Report & Accounts in church or online : www.aleandteviot.org.uk.

Our **Annual Congregational Meeting** is in **Lilliesleaf Kirk, on Sunday 19 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.

Above all, if there is any additional help YOU can offer, to take forward the ministry of the Church as the "body of Christ" in our communities, we would very much like to hear from you.



Around the local schools ... Ancrum

Dynamic Earth : The children raised £750 at last term's Christmas Fair. We are very grateful to all of the children, staff, parents and local businesses for their support, which has helped to fund an all-day visit to Dynamic Earth on Tuesday 24 February. P.3/4/5 took part in workshops on Glaciation and the Rainforest, whilst P.1/2/3 learned about weather in their workshop and took part in story time.

Easter Egg-stravaganza : On the morning of Thursday 2 April we plan to take the children to Bewlie Steading for an Easter Egg Extravaganza! The end-of-term service will be on the same day at 2.pm in the church.

Facebook : We are delighted to announce that Ancrum Primary School now has a Facebook page. Please search for us on Facebook and 'like' our page. We will be posting information, advertising events and meetings and celebrating achievements. Although this will not replace our usual methods of communication we hope to enhance communication with those parents who use social media.

Around the local schools ... Lilliesleaf

March, with its longer, brighter and hopefully warmer days, sees various outdoor activities, notably the **football** and the **Running Club**, restart. During this busy period, there is also a talk on **Road Safety** from the police for the P.5-7, whilst a number of the students will be taking part in the **Burns Competition** in Hawick on 18 March.

On Saturday 28 March, the Home-School Partnership have a "**pop-up**" **shop** in Selkirk. During the last week of term, P.6-7 are off to **Kingswood** for a residential activities programme, always an exciting time for all who take part. Arrangements for the **end-of-term** service are still to be confirmed at the time of going to print, but it's likely to be on the morning of the last day of term, Thursday 2 April, in the church.

Lilliesleaf's Got Talent is scheduled for Tuesday 28 April, when the many and varied gifts and abilities of students throughout the school will be on display for us all to enjoy. It may be that an evening performance is arranged, to be staged in the church later in the term.

Mrs Carmen Martin, 1935-2015



Carmen Johnson was born in 1935 at Ynysybwl, a mining village in South Wales, but family circumstances dictated that she left the valleys at an early age to be brought up by her gran in Sussex. A keen tennis player, Carmen found herself paired up with a young seed merchant originally from Selkirk, by name of Graeme Martin, who had travelled to Sussex to find work. It proved to be a “love game” so when Graeme went to Leeds University to study textiles, Carmen followed him north, lodging with her mum and stepdad, working with Eagle Star Insurance.

During this time, Graeme was entertainments convener at the Uni and so Carmen, who loved dancing, was thrilled to meet Joe Loss and other big band leaders, and go out in all her finery. Carmen and Graeme were married in Selkirk, before moving back to Yorkshire until the death of Graeme’s dad meant that he would take over the family business back in Selkirk. This was a very busy period, with a lot of work both for Graeme in the business and for Carmen with a young family.

Yet, though these commitments precluded the high social life of student days in Leeds, they were a close and harmonious partnership, who still enjoyed evenings tripping the light fantastic around the living-room to their extensive record collection. Her musical tastes were eclectic and ever-changing, and as the four children, Euan, Dave, Jane and Phil, reached teenage years, Carmen would faithfully note down the latest Radio 1 Top 40 chart placings for them coming home from school.

If by any chance Carmen did get a minute to herself, she liked little better than to sit in a cloud of cigarette smoke catching up with the headlines in *The Scotsman*! There was, though, one area of unresolved conflict in Carmen & Graeme's married life, the annual encounter on the rugby field between Scotland and Wales. However long she lived in Scotland, Carmen's loyalties lay immovably with the red jerseys!

There followed a move from Selkirk to Ancrum, but Graeme's illness meant their happiness together in the village was short-lived. Graeme's 7-year battle with ill-health, with lengthy spells in hospital in Edinburgh, revealed Carmen's astonishing strength and resilience, as she juggled commitments to the business and the children, and managing their personal finances, with daily 100-mile round trips to hospital.

When Graeme died, still not 50 years old, in 1986, Carmen found the deep inner strength and determination to rise up and reinvent herself, encouraged immensely by the arrival of grandchildren, who gave her a purpose to go on. The family call this phenomenon "Nan-power"!

Carmen started to help Alan Hendry in the village shop, and looking after his children, thus getting back into the swing of things again, and very soon she was a hub of all information and a fount of all wisdom about life in Ancrum – not only knowing if someone was in need of a helping hand, but being first to go in there and give it.

We in the Kirk have particular cause to be immensely grateful for Carmen's contribution. She was an ever-present, Sunday by Sunday ; a stalwart of the Guild and the Bible Study & Prayer Group ; a capable treasurer ; a caring and compassionate district elder ; a prodigious deliverer of church magazines and Christian Aid envelopes ; a diligent and cheerful church officer who spent many an hour doing the many unseen tasks required to keep Christian worship and fellowship going in Ancrum, and we're only now finding out just how many.

Whenever there was an event in the church, be it a funeral, a meeting of a Presbytery committee, or a rehearsal for a school concert, it was just : *tell Carmen*. The heating would be on, the chairs set out, the doors opened, the rubbish taken away at the end. Whenever there was an evening service or a united service at one of our other places of worship, Carmen was there, with a carload of the Ancrum traveling support. She was ready and willing to take part in worship, sometimes at short notice, and did so on the last Sunday before being taken ill.

Carmen was for our representative elder on the Presbytery of Jedburgh, rarely missing a meeting. She became Convener of the Church & Nations Committee and threw herself wholeheartedly into the various aspects of that demanding and wide-ranging portfolio. Picture her at a fund-raiser in the Village Hall for Al-Shurooq School, led by Tommy Hunter's rock band Stick Finlays, with Carmen and her cronies in their element in the midst of the young folks and the high volume of sound!

In this post, she was also a formidable campaigner for the crematorium at Melrose, and against health service cuts, especially the closure of Jedburgh Cottage Hospital, boldly declaring she would chain herself to the railings to prevent the dastardly deed from being done, and she meant it! I can't remember yet how she was dissuaded!

But if anything was still more precious than the Kirk as an expression of her faith in Jesus and her commitment to serve Him in the world, it was her love and passion for the young people of the village. An entire generation of Ancrum children fondly remember the time and attention "Nan" gave them, the seed she sowed into their young lives.

Head teacher George Gilchrist wrote : *Thank you Nan. We know you were really Carmen, but to us you will always be Nan. A school is not a building, or group of buildings, but it is the people who bring it alive. You were one of those people for Ancrum Primary school. You were never on the staff, but it often felt you were. From my first day at Ancrum, I got used to seeing you around, helping individual children, and groups of children to develop their reading and grow their confidence.*

You worked with lots of different staff and head-teachers. I never saw you anything but patient, smiling and diligent in all you did with us. I'm sure you never really saw it as work. We could see the joy you felt as you saw the children develop their learning under your loving care.

It was not just in school and supporting the pupils in class, but we saw you at any school event greeting and encouraging the children, and helping the sometimes frazzled staff wherever you could. Summer fairs, Christmas fairs, enterprise days, coffee evenings, whatever, we could always count on your support. We were always pleased to see you, but the children even more so. Their faces lit up whenever they met you, as did yours as you were surrounded by eager young faces wanting to say hello. I think being around the youngsters kept you young at heart, energised and determined to make a difference.

I never ceased to be amazed by your energy levels and your optimism, and I feel you were a lesson to us all in that respect. Someone once said 'You don't stop doing things because you get old, you get old because you stop doing things!' I think this is very true, and you were a perfect example of how to stay young at heart, whatever your age.

The last time we saw you was in church at Christmas. You were here for every service and every event, helping in any way you could. I apologise for all the straw we left from our performance, 'Prickly Hay', but typically you assured us it wasn't a problem and you would soon sort it out. Your generosity of spirit, and your generosity with your time, will not be forgotten, and a part of Ancrum school will be forever Nan.

We should measure a person's life, not by their accumulation of wealth or possessions, but by the difference they make to other people and their community, whilst they are here. On that count, Nan, Ancrum has lost one of its richest residents, who has affected so many lives and helped make the school and the community what it is. I suspect you would not want us all to be overly sad and sentimental today, but to smile and remember the times we shared and laughed together. That's what we will all be doing Nan, so thank you Nan, and God bless.

Over the past few months, all of us neighbours, friends and family alike, became aware that Carmen was not the force she once was – but none of us dared even suggest that Carmen might want to ease up a bit. She may have been small in stature, but she was still not a lady to trifle with! Woe betide anyone who suggested she might have been getting past it!

Nor must we forget Carmen's passion for football. She was a great fan of two big clubs whose recent descent into hard times caused her considerable angst – Rangers and Leeds United.

Had Carmen been pulling the purse-strings at Ibrox or Elland Road, you may be sure no-one would have dared run them into the crises of recent years. Not that she was content to be an armchair supporter. As Carmen watched her own children play sport, she was rather vocal in her encouragement, and even in recent times she was quite a fixture watching grandson Andy play for Vale of Leithen.

Carmen was a fascinating mixture of the thoroughly modern and the devout Luddite, ever able to relate easily to the youngest members of the community but stout in her resistance to computers and digital TV, and a very reluctant possessor of a mobile phone – though on the Friday after she was taken to hospital she used that device to phone the manse to ensure the kirk heating was put on for the Friday Club!

What a great friend she was to older members of the community too, especially Lizzie Smart, to whom she became very close. A lady of many parts, she was also a lady of many names. She was reluctant to disclose her Christian name, not out of any pomposity but just because she actually didn't like the name Carmen very much!

She variously got Mrs M, "M", in her younger years Judy – way before any tennis or dancing connection – and even Candice Marie. At the school, and to some of the family she was Nan, to other members of the family she was Nana, but to every one of us, a precious friend. And who can forget the sparkle in her eyes when she spoke of her grandchildren and, recently, the arrival of her first great-grandchild Jessica.

Though Carmen will be much missed by us all, our special prayers go to her family, the undoubted stars of her show : Ewan & Angela ; Dave & Vivienne ; Jane & Sean ; Phil & Anne-Marie ; Nicky, Andy & Scott ; David & Samantha ; Jamie & Becca ; and Jessica.

Carmen, thank you for everything. We know you had no fear of death, and that your Lord and Master has welcomed you into His presence for eternity with the greeting : *Well done, my good and faithful daughter!*



Parish Registers

Up to and including 5 March 2015

Funerals

29 December	Mr Robert Purdie, Jedburgh
7 January	Mr Stuart Aitken, Selkirk, <i>formerly</i> Jedburgh
9 January	Mrs Jean Purdie, Jedburgh
16 January	Mr Derek Foran, Hawick
9 February	Mrs Molly Kerr, Ancrum
10 February	Mr Jeff Wharton, Jedburgh
10 February	Mrs Carmen Martin, Ancrum
26 February	Mr Len Bolton, Crailing
5 March	Mr Thomas Hamilton, Eckford, <i>formerly</i> Lilliesleaf

Ale & Teviot United Church **COFFEE MORNING**



Royal British Legion, Jedburgh
Easter Saturday, 4 April 2015, 10.am

Home Baking : Raffle : Tombola

TICKET £1 : ALL WELCOME!

Special Events : Easter 2015

Maundy Thursday, 2 April

Lilliesleaf School End-of-term Service : Lilliesleaf Kirk, 11.am **[tbc]**

Ancrum School End-of-term Service : Ancrum Kirk, 2.pm

Lilliesleaf Kirk : 7.pm : United Commemoration of the Last Supper

Good Friday, 3 April

Ancrum Kirk : 7.pm : United Service, remembering the Lord's Passion

Easter Saturday, 4 April

Coffee Morning, 10.am, Royal British Legion, Jedburgh

Easter Sunday, 5 April

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

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



Acknowledgement : <http://gospelgifs.com>