

KEY NOTES

KIRKHOPE, ETRICK & YARROW PARISH MAGAZINE



May 2018

Ettrick and Yarrow Parish Worship Services 2018

<u>Date</u>	<u>Kirkhope</u>	<u>Yarrow</u>	<u>Ettrick</u>
May 27 th	10am	-----	-----
June 3 rd	-----	10am	-----
June 10 th	10am	-----	11.45am
June 17 th	-----	10am	-----
June 24 th	10am	-----	-----
July 1 st	-----	10am	-----
July 8 th	10am	-----	-----
July 15 th	-----	10am	11.45am

Letters from Elspeth Harley and Jim Wallace to Ettrick and Yarrow valleys

Dear Friends,

I've been the Church's Interim Moderator since November and have enjoyed the opportunity to get to know you, and the excuse to come up the valleys and see your wonderful countryside. I am afraid the wheels of the Church of Scotland move mighty slowly, and so it will still be some time before we know if and when we will be able to call a new minister. However I am delighted that Rev Jim Wallace will be your locum minister from 1st July. Many of you know him already, and I am sure he will be a good pastor to you all, and not just to the church folk. I will still have a role but only in the background. The elders and congregation are working hard to make sure that all the usual activities take place – and, who knows, maybe new ventures will be started! I wish you all God's richest blessings this summer – not least a bit of warm sunshine!

Best wishes,

Elspeth

Dear friends

Warmest greetings to you and yours in the Name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. My name is Jim Wallace and I'm a retired minister living now in Innerleithen having served in Peebles; St Andrews Leckie Parish for 28 years and before that in Fife for 10 years. My wife Marjorie and I have two daughters living in Peebles, a son in California and six grandchildren.

I've been invited by the Kirk Session to be locum during this time of vacancy and I'm delighted to join with the Kirk Session in their work and mission. The Interim Moderator, the Rev Elspeth Harley is in charge of guiding the congregation through the process while I will be taking on the pastoral duties and most of the preaching Sunday by Sunday. I am really looking forward to

getting to know everyone and working under Elspeth's leadership and that of the Kirk Session.

Because of previous commitments I won't be able to take up the post properly until July but I am very happy to respond to any requests for pastoral help and keen to hear of anyone who might like a visit from a minister. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me by phone (01896 831637), by email Jimwallace121@btinternet.com or through the Session Clerk or any of the Church Elders. I will be very happy to help in any way I can.

These are always challenging times in a congregation but it's good to look forward, to build on what has been done in the past and to meet the challenges of the future with confidence. Throughout the Bible, God's people have been urged to rely on His power and Love and to trust Him. That's not always easy in troubled and uncertain times but the God who loved us so much that He gave His Son to come among us, suffer the pain and humiliation of the Cross and rise triumphant over it is the One who promises to be with us always and it is the crucified, risen Lord that we commend to you and whom we worship and serve. May you know His power and His love with you today. Wishing you every blessing,
Jim Wallace

A not so ordinary day



A few years ago I was meeting my daughter in Glasgow city centre for lunch on a very cold March day. We went into St George's Tron as I'd heard they had a very successful new initiative "The Olive Tree" cafe. This cafe is a must if you're ever in Glasgow city centre. It has amazing soups, cakes, tray bakes etc BUT it's how it operates that is much

more significant. The staff are all exhomeless/refugee or vulnerable. All the food is either grown on their allotment, been generously donated and mostly Fairtrade. Their concept is along similar lines as the Social Bite concept where you can pay for a soup lunch for a less fortunate person. It is overseen by the Bethany Trust and Glasgow City Mission. It's such a good concept and well worth a visit!

By sheer coincidence some of the congregation were setting up a very very modern, artistic interpretation of the crucifixion where they led you around the modern church space stopping off to read a poem, some prose, listen to some music or look at photographs. It was so well put together. The space inside St George's is huge and we found ourselves drawn to the front space where there were a few people watching someone but we didn't know what was

going on!! Curiosity got the better of us and decided to investigate! I recognised the man everyone was watching. It was the artist I had met at the General Assembly two years ago.

At the General Assembly he took a photograph of us all walking into the Assembly on the first day and he subsequently painted a huge canvas (modern setting) with the "crowd" in grey apart from one person in red and it was titled "Road to Damascus" so so striking - I've never forgotten it! Iain Campbell is a Glasgow based portrait painter and was now Artist in Residence here at St George's Tron in Glasgow city centre! He was working on "The Last Supper" which has since made mainstream TV! He has depicted the disciples as 12 homeless men he encountered/befriended in Glasgow under the canvas he has written a bit about each of the men. It's very powerful and thought provoking!

So what was to be a quick bite turned into something much moreon many many levels!

Susan White



What is happening in the valleys

Yarrow Hall

First Wednesday of the month cup of tea, 2.30-3.30pm, Safety in Numbers singing group, Thursdays 7.30pm.

Safety in Numbers annual summer concert will be held in Yarrow Hall on Sunday 10th June at 3 pm. Afternoon tea will be served. Tickets £5 or £10 per family from Irene Douglas 07774683064. ALL WELCOME

Boston Hall

Not much happening at the hall this time of year but further into the summer we have Ettrick Sports on Saturday 4th August from 2pm and Ettrick Flower Show on Sat 25th August from 12 noon.

Kirkhope Hall (Ettrickbridge)

Coffee Mornings and Sales on Saturdays: 5th May; 2nd June; 7th July.
My 25th: Jill Jackson Concert, 7.30 for 8pm. Tickets £15 from Will Muirhead (01750 52238) or Ward Jackson (01750 62226)
May 26th Spring Fair: 2-4pm. Home baking, games, stalls.

Boston Hall Stitchers

Following successful sewing classes last year at Yarrowford a group has been established in upper Ettrick for stitchers to get together and socialise on a regular basis in the Boston Hall.

With a Community Council grant secured to purchase a sewing machine and other equipment the classes began in October and ran through to March, although a few days were lost to the blizzards that hit the area in January and February.

Meeting twice a month on Tuesday afternoons and evenings, members have participated in a wide range of crafts, learning from each other and enjoying company and cuppas. Sewn bags and cushion covers, cross stitch, tapestry, knitting, jewellery making, patchwork and lampshades have all been undertaken.

The popularity of the sessions has been very encouraging and the plan is now to continue from September through the winter of 2018/19.

Anyone is welcome to come along on the first or third Tuesday of each month. The afternoon class runs from 2 to 4pm and the evening one from 7 to 9pm.

Irene McFadzen

New Age Kurling starts at Kirkhope Hall, Ettrickbridge



Following a couple of very well attended taster sessions, a New Age Kurling group has been started at Kirkhope Hall, Ettrickbridge.

New Age Kurling is very like the real curling game - just played on a wooden floor instead of ice! The 'stones' are propelled on ball bearings and are a little bit smaller than their granite counterparts, but otherwise the game is very similar. The only difference is that there are no curling brooms and no sweeping!

The game is designed to suit all abilities and we have 'pushers' available so people do not need to bend down.

Everyone is welcome to join in the fun on the 2nd and 4th Monday afternoon of each month. It costs £2 per person and starts at 2pm. This covers the cost of hall hire and refreshments at half time.

New Age Kurling is a great way of getting some gentle exercise as well as an opportunity for socialising.

Anyone interested in joining the group should just come along and join us at Kirkhope Hall, Ettrickbridge, at 2pm on the 2nd and 4th Monday afternoon of each month.

Barbara Harrison

LITTER PICK

Many of you will have seen Blue Planet – a television series which shocked us all and hopefully helped to bring us to our senses, particularly with regard to the use of plastic and the devastating consequences of its disposal.

A new small group (KEG: Kirkhope Environment Group) is planning ...

... a LITTER PICK in the Ettrick Valley...

over the weekend of 16th/17th June



We need as many folk as possible who will join in – if you would be willing to volunteer to take responsibility for a mile or two, in pairs, along a designated stretch of the valley, PLEASE contact Kay (52324 – alkaross@aol.com), or Barbara (52260 – bckharrison@btinternet.com) and we will sort out the details.

NEWS FROM ETRICK AND YARROW COMMUNITY COUNCIL

St Mary's Loch Warden Service

The Community Council continues to do its best to represent the views of local residents and make our area an even better place to live. We have been working for some time to try and find a viable approach to tackling the issues associated with wild camping in the St Mary's Loch area. In partnership with Scottish Borders Council, Police Scotland and Wemyss and March Estate, we have engaged Chris Amy to provide a Warden Service at weekends, the aim of which is to encourage the most respectful behaviour from visitors to the area. Chris started on March 23rd with the the new service being launched at Cappercleuch Hall by MSP Michelle Ballantyne.

Defibrillators

We remain committed to maintaining as many defibrillators as possible in the valleys to try and save lives. They are very easy to use and are currently in place at Kirkhope Parish Hall, Ettrickbridge, Honey Cottage, Kirkhope Kirk, Yarrowford Hall, Yarrowfeus Hall, Cappercleuch Hall, Glen Cafe and the Waterwheel Cafe

We hope that defibrillators will be installed at Yarrow Kirk and the Boston Hall in the very near future.

Elections

Community Council elections for people to serve from June 2018 to 2022 are underway with a new Community Council expected to be in place by June 4th

2018. We hope that younger people will be better represented in the new Community Council. The closing date for nominations is 21st May 2018.

Grants Available!

We have money from Langhope Rig Wind Farm available to award in grants to community groups and individuals. Our larger fund has around £12,000 for awards for constituted groups. We also can give out micro grants of up to £250 for individuals and £500 for constituted groups. Any funding awarded has to deliver a demonstrable benefit to the community. Please contact us for application forms. In addition there is around £72,000 to be awarded to groups in the three community council areas affected by the wind farm (of which we are one). For more information on this please go to <https://wwwFOUNDATIONSScotland.org.uk/programmes/langhope-rig/>

Contact Us

Please continue to tell us about the issues that matter to you and we'll do our best to respond. Contact Barbara Harrison (Secretary) on 01750 52260 bckharrison@btinternet.com or Gordon Harrison (Chair) 01750 62304 gordy.harrison@btinternet.com

GARDEN OF COSMIC SPECULATION



If you google 'cosmic speculation' you will see that this unusual combination of but two words refers to a very special 'Garden of Cosmic Speculation'. Eight local ladies enjoyed a memorable day last week visiting this unique garden. It is a ticketed only event; the parking area caters for 1500 cars; the garden is only open to the public once a year.

The 30 acre site is of a sculpture garden created by architect Charles Jencks at his home, Portrack House, near the small village of Holywood, north of Dumfries on the A76. Like much of Jencks' work, the garden is inspired by modern cosmology.

Charles Jencks married Maggie Keswick. You may be familiar with 'Maggie's Centres' – these are a network of drop-in centres across the United Kingdom and Hong Kong, which aim to help anyone who has been affected by cancer. Maggie Keswick Jencks died of cancer in 1995. Like her husband, she believed in the ability of buildings to uplift people.

It all started with a swimming hole. In 1988, Maggie Keswick, the wife of noted architect and designer Charles Jencks, had a swamp dug up on her family's Scottish estate to create a place for their children to swim. To Jencks, the excavated earth provided an opportunity not just to shape the estate's landscape, but to invent a new grammar of landscape design.

There are forty major areas: gardens, bridges, landforms, sculpture, terraces, fences and architectural works. The garden uses nature to celebrate nature, both intellectually and through the senses, including the sense of humour. A water cascade of steps recounts the story of the universe; a terrace shows the distortion of space and time caused by a black hole; a 'Quark Walk' takes the visitor on a journey to the smallest building blocks of matter and a series of landforms and lakes recall fractal geometry. (I've only just learned that a 'fractal' is a never ending pattern.)

We strolled leisurely and were greeted at every turn by yet another architectural or artistic creation which invariably brought questions about meanings. The views in every direction were spectacular. Even distant turbines of a windfarm on the horizon seemed to belong. However we didn't spend the whole time thinking about the cosmos! We thoroughly enjoyed our picnic lunch in a bluebell wood; the magnificent weather, the journey there and back, the coffee and cake at Heathhall Garden Centre, the laughter, the chat and the company. A great day was had by all. Watch out for next year's date, (usually in May). We can all recommend the event (but remember, it must be pre-booked).

Mmmmmmm? ... Maybe a future group visit will be to Little Sparta in Dunsyre, near Carnwath. I've only just read about it!

Kay Ross

Name **Name** *Name* **Ναμε**

What's in a Name?

Although public attention has now moved on to the enormities of the bombing in Syria and blame-seeking for disastrous Whitehall malfunction, I still have a nagging concern about a circumstance that made top news for a day or two but seems now to have sunk beneath the surface: the refusal for anyone to use the name *Rohingya* – a position adopted by not only the military regime in Myanmar, but also the Head ('State Counsellor') of the government, the Nobel peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi. The matter had become a diplomatic imperative, even for the Pope through his top advisors.

Reflecting on this, I believe we in the West have lost, or nearly lost, a linguistic concept of the highest symbolic value: the extended idea of *name*. I write 'nearly lost' because we still use formulae like 'Open in the name of the Law', or 'If he does that, his name will be dirt.'

David, king of the Israelites, wanted to provide a more permanent place than a tent for the ark of the covenant once he had brought it to Jerusalem with so much devotion. He was told through the prophet Nathan that this would be done by his son – Solomon – after his death. The idea of this ‘place’ seems soon to evolve into a ‘temple’. But temples, of course, contained a statue which either *was* or depicted the god, and since the Israelites’ God was not a statue, nor could a statue be made of Him, the concept of a temple was inept. Wanting a temple could be understandable when tribes and nations round about had temples to their gods, and I have the feeling that the Israelites took a long time to come fully to realise that ‘other gods’ were a completely irrelevant idea – take for example Psalm 95, verse 3: “For the Lord is a mighty God, a king over all the gods”, which demotes Him to be simply the best among many.

Although the ark was to rest there, that was not to be the Temple’s main purpose. It was made plain that it was to be where the *Name* of the Lord God resided (2 Sa 7:13 and 1 Ki 8:15-19, 27-29).

The sacredness of this concept was emphasised again and again whenever the Israelites, regressing to the worship of other tribes’ idols with altars and obscene practices brought within the Temple courts, were harangued by prophets such as Isaiah: this was more than an insult, it was the worst form of sacrilege because the Temple was the place where the *Name* of God resided. *Name* was completely bound in to identity, far more so than it is for us now, where it has become little more than a label. But it seems that many non-Western cultures have retained this deeper meaning. My daughter Joanna, who lives among the native people of Bolivia, tells me that they are *appalled* by the thought that anyone should change their name, it is like changing your very ‘selfness’. Bolivian women do not change their surname on marriage. In the only prayer that Jesus gave to his disciples, and so to the world, He first indicates that God, with the new covenant He was about to proclaim, was for them and for us to have a new identity – He is to be *our Father*, and goes straight on to add “hallowed be Thy *Name*”. The whole of Christendom still prays this, but I feel that often we pass it over rather quickly, not quite realising its full significance. I was brought up to think that it was just a reminder to me about the Third Commandment, that I should desist from saying lightly anything like the favourite American exclamation “Oh my *Gud!*” But hallowing means so much more – it means to revere, to acknowledge as most holy, to worship, so my understanding is that we now worship our God in this beautiful, so much more explicitly *loving*, identity of our Father.

To return to Myanmar, the refusal to allow the Rohingya their very name can be seen in greater light: the age-old closeness between *name* and *identity* would seem to mean, then, that they are not to have an identity, in other words they simply do not exist. Once the mind-set succeeds in denying their very existence, it becomes possible to annihilate their villages with impunity, and by extension the people who are *not really there*.

Bob Maguire

Lambing Time

Spring 2018 has possibly been THE worst (weatherwise) we've experienced for many years. The prolonged winter and severe snow and temperatures have badly affected the condition of the pregnant ewes. Normally the fresh spring grass would be sustaining them, but there isn't any – certainly not on hill ground, and therefore time spent giving extra feeding is taking its toll on the already tired (that's being polite) shepherds and farmers.

Then there is the added burden of weakened ewes giving birth to lambs, but not having enough milk to feed them, even to the extent of abandoning them. That leaves the farmer with another problem – pet lambs – by the dozen. As I write we have about 20 – I've lost count. Some get set on to new mothers - if they are lucky. Most are fed on a milk supplement. Thank goodness for modern lamb rearing units such as the Shepherdess buckets, which allow the lambs to self feed. Far less time consuming and easier to maintain than bottle feeding. I discovered this about 4 years ago and haven't looked back.

Not only that – the survival rate is amazingly good.



Apart from lambing time which in our case starts around the 20th March and finishes around 20th May, we're also calving, which brings about its own unique problems – and yes, we've had it all. It's a messy business! My farming neighbours are in the same boat though – and it's good that we can share our woes (albeit similar) and let off some steam. No point in getting too upset either – you need to be pretty thick skinned to get through it all.

If I could sum up this lambing time in one word it would be “challenging”. There are lots of other descriptions I could use but they're not printable. So - when you're tucking in to your succulent leg of lamb, or minted lamb steak– just remember the blood, sweat and tears (not to mention a few choice words) that went into getting it on your plate.

Alison Blackadder (Ettrickshaws Farm)

LOOKING FOR AN OWNER ...

... of a plain turquoise/blue woollen Laura Ashley scarf which was left at my house after a visit earlier in the year. Please contact me to arrange reunion.

Kay Ross

Birds in our gardens – the Great Tit



As befits its name, the Great Tit is the largest UK tit - green and yellow with a striking glossy black head and white cheeks. They eat insects, seeds and nuts and are easy to attract to bird tables where their athletic ability to cling to wire mesh feeders while pecking at peanuts has endeared them to garden bird watchers. The species

is not one of conservation concern, with an estimated 2.5 million territories in Britain. They are largely resident birds, not migrating, although in winter we get an influx of birds from farther north coming here for warmer weather, would you believe!

The Great Tit is very adaptable and has a huge range throughout the world - as far south as India and Java, as far east as Russia's Kamchatka peninsula and as far west as the Atlantic coast of Morocco. Interestingly, in the UK it is largely absent from the Outer Hebrides and Orkney/Shetland. It is also an ancient species, with fossil evidence for the bird from the Middle Pleistocene, around 500,000 years ago.

As a song bird, it is very annoying for those trying to identify it from the sounds it makes. The most common Great Tit call is a repeated clear double note, like a squeaky bike wheel and often written as “*teach-er*”. Simple eh? However a single Great Tit population will use around 40 different song types, each male using four songs delivered at any of three different speeds. A rule of thumb for the confused bird spotter is – if you are in a wood and hear an unfamiliar call it is likely to be a Great Tit. It may be that if a single bird can sound like four or five birds, it suggests to rivals that the territory is full of birds so there is no room for newcomers!

An obvious feature of the Great Tit is the prominent black stripe which runs down the chest. In females it is quite narrow but is wider on males. More dominant males have wider black stripes and females are much attracted by this. They lay 7-9 eggs in a clutch, usually once per year and the birds live an average of 3 years. However, there is a record from bird ringing of one individual that lived at least 13 years so if they can avoid sparrowhawks and bad winters they can be quite long lived.

The bird's name has given rise to more bad jokes than almost any other British bird but I feel that such a lively colourful visitor to our gardens deserves more respect!

Nora Hunter (with help from Birds Britannica, BTO and RSPB)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

*Martin Scott is eighty, that can't be true you say
But yes it is, his birthday was the second day of May
A vintage year was thirty-eight for good men, strong and proud
And Martin is an Ettrick man who stands out from the crowd*

*Throughout his youth he was a lad for partying all night
But changes came, he met his match, the lovely Frances White
He settled down and they were blessed with bonnie bairnies
three
Raised to respect their heritage and Ettrick pedigree*

*A farmer all his working life on Ettrick's rolling hills
For many years at Gilmanscleuch passing on his skills
A pioneer, his passion was developing Meatlincs
But weekends were for leisure and occasional high jinks*

*Retirement and a new abode, a time for contemplation
But four score years for anyone is worth a celebration
So Martin as you reminisce and look back down the years
We'll raise a glass and toast your health, a rousing hearty
CHEERS!*

Irene McFadzen

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