

# KEY NOTES

KIRKHOPE, ETRICK & YARROW PARISH MAGAZINE



*September 2018*

## Ettrick and Yarrow Parish Worship Services 2018

Date	Kirkhope	Yarrow	Ettrick
September 16	-----	10am	11.45am
Sept 23	10am	-----	-----
Sept 30	-----	-----	11.00am
October 7	-----	10am*	-----
Oct 14	10am	-----	-----
Oct 21	-----	10am	-----
Oct 28	-----	-----	10.am**
November 4	-----	10am	-----
Nov 11	9.30am	10.50am	Warrior's Rest 11.45am Ettrick War Memorial

\* Gift day and Harvest Thanksgiving

\*\* Ettrick service time changed for visiting preacher (see later!)

### From Elspeth Harley, Interim Moderator, Ettrick and Yarrow Parish

Dear Friends, With autumn comes Harvest Thanksgiving, when we pause and appreciate the harvest being gathered in by our farmers. At the end of spring we gave thanks for the 'crop' of lambs after a very difficult and long winter when deep snow and shortage of feed sadly made for a poor lambing for many farms. All the more reason to give thanks for those lambs that were safely born, as we did at our services of Thanksgiving for the Lambs at Yarrow and Ettrick Churches in May.



There was some concern at the idea of lambs in the church but the toy lambs on the communion table reminded us why we were there and we gave thanks for the lambs and for the hard work of the shepherds and farmers.

When winter finally ended, the gardens suddenly burst into life and the colours this year have been stunning. Gardeners had a mad dash to plant and in June their harvest began – Thank God for delicious strawberries! Then peas and beans, courgettes, tomatoes and so on - a cornucopia of tasty fruit and veg. Perhaps Harvest Thanksgiving should be every day of the year, for we are much blessed by the abundance of good food that grows in our part of the world. This year our Harvest Thanksgiving Service is in Yarrow at 10am on 7<sup>th</sup> Oct. We do hope you'll come along, even if you don't normally come to church services. You will be made very welcome– it's a chance to say thank you for all God's goodness to you.

'God's blessing be yours and well may it befall you' (A Gaelic blessing)

### **Good wishes from Ettrick and Yarrow locum minister Jim Wallace**

I do hope that you have had a good summer with all that sunshine which now seems to have disappeared as we revert to normal levels! It has been exciting for me to get to know the area and its people in the church and to share something of the community life. The highlights would have to be the Ettrick Sports and the Bridgend Sports days, great community events which do so much to bring people together and it was good to see residents and visitors alike enjoying the company and the fun.

At the Bridgend Sports I was asked to say a few words just to kick things off and I was intrigued by the title linked as it was to the Ettrick-bridge-end. I



reflected on how important bridges are in linking communities and people that might otherwise be isolated or cut off. On the way to the Ettrick Sports from my home in Innerleithen I counted no less than 10 bridges and going by Yarrow up to Ettrickbridge I counted 9. Imagine for a moment if any one of these was out of action the disruption it could cause. Far

worse, we can't begin to imagine the horror of all those affected by the dreadful loss of life in Genoa where the motorway bridge collapsed leaving many missing and bereaved. Our hearts go out to them.

Our local social events are there to build bridges between people, something close to our hearts in the church where we have discovered that God has built a bridge to us in the person of His Son so that we can know our sins forgiven and our hearts made new, no longer to be cut off or isolated from Him, How important it is for us in turn to reach out to others and build bridges to those who feel isolated, alone or forgotten in our communities and beyond and how wonderful to have that opportunity in these summer events. I pray that you will know the nearness of God's love in these coming days.

### **London to Paris - fundraising cycle ride....whose idea was this anyway!**

Having decided to sign up for a London to Paris charity cycle ride earlier this year, little did we know that this would turn into one of the hardest challenges either of us had undertaken!

We start at Hampton Court station in London and cycle approximately 75 miles to Portsmouth before boarding an overnight ferry. For the next two days we cycle 80 miles a day until we reach the Eiffel Tower in Paris.



We have found the training demanding, both physically and mentally, especially as neither of us are in the first flush of youth.....and it takes hours to cycle long distances. We have learned a lot about nutrition and hydration for long distance cycle rides.

We wanted to do this because like most people our lives have been touched by cancer directly and through friends and family, and the three charities we are supporting are: Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust, Breast Cancer Care and Ovarian Cancer Action. We will be part of a group of 150 women undertaking this challenge and so far we have personally raised several thousands of pounds for the three charities and collectively the whole group has raised over half a million pounds!

The event happens from 6th to 8th September, 2018. So as we write this we are in the final weeks of training and looking forward to a glass of champagne at around 5pm on Sat 8th September in Paris!

Thank you to everyone who reads this and who has already donated, and if you would like to support us (no donation too small), our donation page can be found at the following <https://www.justgiving/fundraising/lindaandbarbara>

*Linda Jackson and Barbara Harrison*

### **Blanket Preaching**

The Blanket Preaching takes place every July in Yarrow at the ruins of St. Mary's Chapel. On his arrival as minister to Ettrick Parish, the Rev. William Addison regretted that no outdoor service took place in Ettrick Valley, and held a service in the ruins of Buccleuch Kirk on the Rankleburn, only once. These services have followed a long tradition of outdoor sermons and communions, a heritage from the Cameroonians, who, in troubled covenanting times of the mid 17th century, were persecuted for their rigid and narrow adherence to the Calvinist Faith, so would take to the hills to worship in secret.



Later Cameroonians, whose religious persuasion and practices derived from those of the Covenanters, retained the custom of an outdoor communion when well known preachers, the more thunderous the better, would gather for a day, usually in the summer. A favourite gathering place was Crosscleuch, by the Loch o' the Lowes, then in Ettrick Parish.

This year the service was led by our Interim Moderator Rev. Elspeth Harley. The first time that we know of that a woman has had this honour! About 100 folks climbed up the hill to St. Mary's, and the service was filmed by John

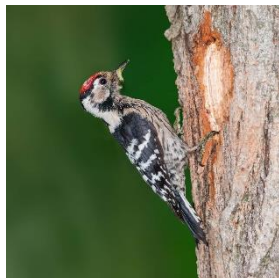


Small as part of a DVD of a year in the valleys which will come out next year. Afterwards, we all enjoyed a delicious afternoon tea at Cappercleuch provided by ladies from the church. It was a lovely day and much enjoyed by all.

*Lucile MacLeod*

### **Birds in our gardens – Great Spotted Woodpecker**

The Great (not Greater!) Spotted Woodpecker is another bird which will come regularly to garden feeders. Great Spots, for short, are about the size of a Starling. The Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, very much smaller, does not occur in Scotland. Mostly black and white, adult Great Spots have a splash of red feathers under the tail. Juvenile birds have red foreheads, adult males have a red patch on the back of the neck but females have no red on their heads at all.



Great Spots are famous for hammering their beaks into trees to find food. Both males and females do this and the drumming sound also serves to advertise their presence to rivals and potential mates. They avoid concussion with sophisticated shock absorbing adaptations which were once investigated to help design better motorbike helmets! The loud drumming is partly achieved by the bird getting the correct frequency of strikes (5-20 per second) to set up resonance in the timber. They like to take advantage of man-made structures to increase the loudness – metal poles, weather vanes, ceramic insulators and in one case the speaker horn of a racecourse public address system which resulted in drumming so loud it silenced rivals for miles around!

Woodpeckers have another anatomical adaptation to help them feed – very long tongues which coil round inside the back of their skulls and can be extended a prodigious distance to harpoon insect larvae in tunnels in tree bark. You can also sometimes see the extended tongue as they peck at peanuts in mesh feeders. Although their diet consists mostly of insects hidden under bark or in dead wood they also take peanuts from feeders, tree seeds and birds' eggs. Great Spots, unlike many of our birds, are increasing in number and spreading within UK and Ireland although they are absent from the Hebrides, Orkney and Shetland. Garden feeders clearly help survival but it is also thought that a decrease in numbers of starlings has reduced competition for food and helped the Great Spots to flourish.

There are many myths and legends about Woodpeckers in Native American culture. One tells how the red head patch came about when a Woodpecker helped slay a cruel magician and was anointed with his blood. Others say that Woodpeckers are the spirits of people searching for lost children by knocking on trees. There is more to this bird than meets the eye!

*Nora Hunter with help from Birds Britannica and BTO*

### **Who were the covenanters ?**

The Covenanters were those people in Scotland who signed the National Covenant in 1638 to confirm their opposition to interference by the Stuart kings in the affairs of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland.

The Stuart kings believed in the Divine Right of the Monarch. They also believed they were the spiritual heads of the Church of Scotland, which was unacceptable to the Scots. No man, not even a king, could be spiritual head of their church. Only Jesus Christ could be spiritual head of a Christian Church. This was the nub of the entire Covenanting struggle. From 1638, when the Covenant was signed until 1688, when William of Orange made a bloodless invasion of Britain, there was a great deal of suffering, torture, imprisonment, transportation and executions.



Ministers with covenanting sympathies were expelled from their churches. Many continued to preach at “conventicles” in the open air or in barns and houses- an offence punishable by death. Citizens who did not attend their local churches, now in the charge of Episcopalian curates, would be heavily fined and questioned under torture. They were forced to take oaths declaring loyalty to the king and accepting him as head of the church. Failure to take such oaths could result in execution.

In 1678 the government raised an army of 6,000 Highlanders, who had no love for Presbyterian lowlanders. This army swept through the west and south of Scotland, looting and plundering. They remained for many years, quartering themselves on the already impoverished Covenanters.

These people paid a high price for the religious freedom which we now enjoy, and the Blanket Preaching is a commemoration of this.

*Lucile MacLeod*

### **Etrick and Yarrow Community Council**

Our new Community Council was formed in June and the new Community Councillors are: Gordon Harrison (Chair), John Davidson (Vice-Chair), Miranda Alcock (Treasurer), Barbara Harrison (Secretary), Isobel Brown, Margaret Crausaz, Philip Grant, Alistair Moody, Jan Watson, Clive Whittingham.

Huge thanks to Brian Roberts, Daphne Jackson, Jim Bradshaw and Viv Young for the many years of collective service that they have given the Community Council.

Grant money available: EYCC has money available from the community benefit fund from Langhope Rig Wind farm (owned by Greencoat UK Wind Plc). We can award grants of £500 or more to support the charitable activities of constituted, not-for-profit groups working to benefit residents of the Etrick and Yarrow valleys and have a total of £12,000 to award this year.

'Charitable activity' includes (but is not restricted to) the following broad range of community activity and development that is for public benefit not private profit:

- The promotion of sustainable development
- The advancement of environmental protection or improvement.
- The advancement of citizenship or community development
- The advancement of culture or science.
- The advancement of education.
- The advancement of public participation in sport and general physical activity.

You can apply for a grant at any time and it will be considered at the next Community Council meeting. We also have a process for dealing with urgent requests that cannot wait.

If you or your group have an idea and you are not sure whether it could qualify for an award from either fund, please contact Barbara Harrison for an initial discussion. (contact details below) She also has application forms and guidance notes.

Cacrabank Forestation Proposal: We want to know what local people think of the proposed planting of Cacrabank Hill so that we can feed into the Forestry Commission's consultation process. EYCC will therefore be sending a short questionnaire to all those directly affected – essentially all households in the upper Etrick Valley from Gilmanscleuch onwards. If other valleys residents want to add their views to the debate, please send your comments to Barbara Harrison by **Friday September 21st**.

Scottish Borders Household Survey: SBC want to hear your views about issues such as quality of life in the Borders, your neighbourhood, council services and your involvement in public decision making. You can complete the questionnaire on-line by going to <https://scotborders.citizenspace.com/customer-communities/scottish-borders-household-survey/>

Or contact the Communities and Partnerships Team at SBC (01835 824000) for a paper copy. The deadline for completing the survey is 25<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

Defibrillators: We now have defibrillators at the following locations in the valleys: Yarrowford Hall, Waterwheel Café, Yarrow Kirk, Kirkhope (Ettrickbridge) Kirk, Yarrowfeus Hall, Kirkhope Parish Hall, Cappercleuch Hall, Honey Cottage, The Glen Café, Boston Hall.

All these defibrillators are accessible to the public, portable and straightforward to use. If you would like training on how to use them, please contact Gordon Harrison.

Contact details:

Gordon Harrison 01750 62304 or [gordy.harrison@btinternet.com](mailto:gordy.harrison@btinternet.com)  
Barbara Harrison 01750 52260 or [bckharrison@btinternet.com](mailto:bckharrison@btinternet.com) or  
Sunnybrae, Ettrickbridge, Selkirk TD7 5JN

**David Gallagher**

A treat is in store for us with the arrival of an American, the Rev David Gallagher, to take 10am Sunday services on 14th (Kirkhope), 21st (Yarrow) and 28th October (Ettrick) and give an illustrated talk at Kirkhope Hall on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup>. David is co-founder with his wife

Rachel (who will not be with him as she is looking after their two young adopted daughters) of the remarkable Open Arms International organisation. <http://www.openarmsinternational.org/founders/>

Rachel had been working with Mother Teresa in Calcutta and David with the Luis Palau evangelical association when they came to the view that "visits" to the less fortunate in Africa were inadequate. In 2002 they bought land and set up a new orphanage village near Eldoret in the north of Kenya. It now has over 150 children in seven houses each with Kenyan parents. The children are mainly AIDS orphans. Their school and new health centre caters for the area community, and the village attempts to be self-supporting with chickens, cows, vegetable crops and a bakery. It is an astonishing achievement which I have visited over the years and marvel at their dedication and success. David gave up being an associate minister at a church in his native Portland, Oregon USA, and when he heard we had a vacancy in our parish he offered to take a sabbatical and come to look after us for three weeks. Open Arms International is supported by two committees, one in Manchester and the other in Oregon who raise funds and provide volunteer helpers. On the Open Arms International website David can be seen delivering regular homilies and he has a huge following.



*David Steel*







## **What is happening in the valleys**

### **Yarrowford Village Hall**

28th September: World's Biggest Coffee Morning for MacMillan Cancer Care 10am-4pm. Soup, home baking, tea & coffee, sales table, tombola. For more details phone Linda 76204 Jane 76286 Viv 76212

30th November: Quiz night, maximum 4 to a table, £2.50 per person. Raffle licenced bar 7.30 start. For more details phone Viv 76212.

SWI meetings: start 18th September (7.30) with Isabel Gordon-History of tea; 9th October- AGM; 13th November-Duns Kilt School. phone Annie 76220

Table Tennis: every Wednesday night 6-7.30pm, phone Gail 76243

Mens Club: every Thursday 2-4pm re starts 18th October. Men of all ages come along for a game of darts card dominoes a cuppa and a chat.

New Age Kurling: 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month 2-4pm starting 16th October £2 per person

To find out more about Mens Club or New Age Kurling phone Jim 76204

### **Yarrow hall**

First Wednesday of the month cup of tea, 2.30-3.30pm,

Safety in Numbers singing group: Thursdays, 7.30

### **Kirkhope**

Coffee mornings: 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month 10am -12noon. October 6<sup>th</sup>, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. December, with special visitor, 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday (8<sup>th</sup> December).

SWI: meets Wednesday evenings (7.30). Starts 12<sup>th</sup> September, Open Night. Liberty Star Fashion Show. 10<sup>th</sup> October AGM, 14<sup>th</sup> November Floral Art with Roxy Stephen

Craft/Art Groups: Crafts on 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month, Art on 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays both 10-12. Resumes September. Very relaxed and friendly, newcomers welcome.

Interest evenings, Thursdays 7.30pm: 25<sup>th</sup> October: David Gallagher (Open Arms Village, Kenya); 29<sup>th</sup> November: Sukie Barber and Jess Talbot on their visit to YWAM Mission in Zambia, where they support a child feeding programme. They send about £600 a month from Sukie's Scones, a monthly pop-up shop in Selkirk.

### **Boston Hall**

Ettrick WI 11<sup>th</sup> September, 7.30 AGM. Consumer testing and fun quiz; 9th October - Floral Art; 13th November - Dementia Care; 11th December - Christmas Craft.

Boston Hall Stitchers: resume on Tuesday 18th September from 2-4pm and 7-9pm and will continue on first and third Tuesdays till Christmas.

Boston Hall AGM: Thursday 20th September at 7.30pm. We need ideas for hall events and entertainment so hope for a good turn-out of local residents.

Monthly Whists: begin on Monday 1st October and the first Monday each month through to March 2019. Beginners/novices/experienced players all welcome.

Ettrick Carpet Bowling: starts late October/early November every Thursday at 7.30pm.

Boston Hall enquiries: Irene McFadzen on 62219

### **Cappercleuch Hall**

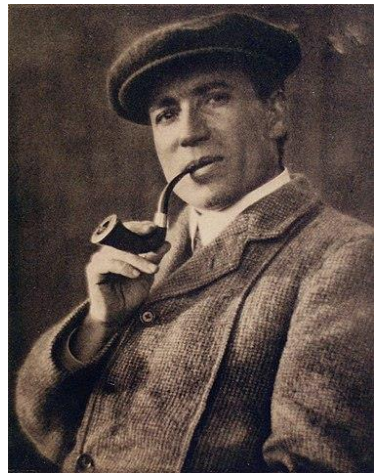
Coffee Morning: Friday 28th September 11- 1 in aid of McMillan Cancer

Craft Club: Tuesday 9th of October we recommence our fortnightly craft club 2-4 Admission £1. Tea/ coffee provided free of charge.

Quiz: Saturday 3rd November, 7.30. Quiz. Bar. Entry £2.50 per person max 5 per team.

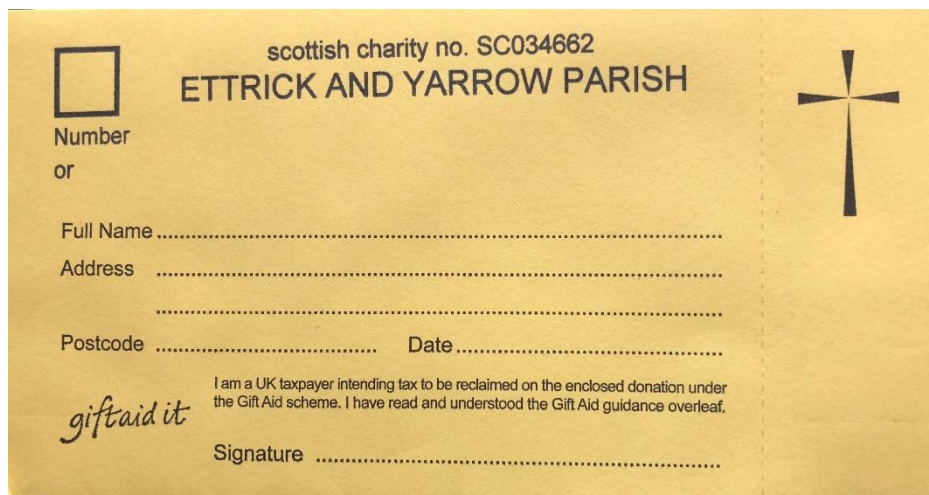
### **Poet's Corner**

What is this life if, full of care,  
We have no time to stand and stare.  
No time to stand beneath the boughs  
And stare as long as sheep or cows.  
No time to see, when woods we pass,  
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.  
No time to see, in broad daylight,  
Streams full of stars, like skies at night.  
No time to turn at Beauty's glance,  
And watch her feet, how they can dance.  
No time to wait till her mouth can  
Enrich that smile her eyes began.  
A poor life this if, full of care,  
We have no time to stand and stare.



W.H. Davies.

**Yellow envelope – what is this for??**



scottish charity no. SC034662  
**ETTRICK AND YARROW PARISH**

Number  
or

Full Name .....

Address .....

Postcode ..... Date .....

*giftaid it*

I am a UK taxpayer intending tax to be reclaimed on the enclosed donation under the Gift Aid scheme. I have read and understood the Gift Aid guidance overleaf.

Signature .....

**Our annual Gift Day takes place on October 7<sup>th</sup>. This is a chance for you to give a little more to help support the Churches in the Valleys. Maintenance of church buildings is a constant and expensive job.**

**We have 3 churches to keep going and need your help if you agree it is important to keep the churches standing, watertight and warm.**

**If you come to church regularly, if you come along at Christmas, or simply want to have a church available in the Valleys for family weddings and funerals please consider giving a little money to help.**

**Envelopes are being delivered in each issue of this Keynotes and can be brought to church on, before or after October 7<sup>th</sup> or given to any church-goer. One anonymous donor puts a full envelope through my letter box every year, so thanks so much to that person, whoever you are!**

*Nora Hunter*

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**Keynotes seeks to serve as a platform for sharing information and views of individuals, groups and communities so please use it and write to us.**

**Email: [keynotes\\_editorial@btinternet.com](mailto:keynotes_editorial@btinternet.com)**

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**It should be noted that the opinions expressed in contributed material within KEY NOTES do not necessarily reflect the views of the Interim Moderator, Locum Minister and Kirk Session of Ettrick and Yarrow Parish Church.**