

KEY NOTES

KIRKHOPE, ETRICK & YARROW PARISH MAGAZINE



November 2018

Ettrick and Yarrow Parish Worship Services 2018

<u>Date</u>	<u>Kirkhope</u>	<u>Yarrow</u>	<u>Ettrick</u>
Nov 11	9.30am	10.50am Warrior's Rest 11.45am Ettrick War Memorial	
Nov 18	-----	10.00am	-----
Nov 25	10.00am	-----	-----
Dec 2	-----	10.00am	-----
Dec 9	10.00am	-----	-----
Dec 16	-----	10.00am	-----
Dec 23	10.00am	-----	-----
Dec 24	6.00pm	CHRISTINGLE!! at Kirkhope	
Dec 30	-----	10.00am	-----

Special service: December 13th, 2pm. Kirkhope Church. Memorial Service for those who have been ever been bereaved, to remember and celebrate the lives of those we have loved and lost.
To be led by Rev Elspeth Harley.

Good wishes from Ettrick and Yarrow locum minister Jim Wallace

"A child is born to us! A son is given to us! And he will be our ruler. He will be called, "Wonderful Counsellor", "Mighty God", "Eternal Father", "Prince of Peace."
So Isaiah, in an age of deep uncertainty and trouble in the land, brings to his people a promise from God to gladden their hearts, reassure them and point them to the Eternal Love of the One who holds them in his hands. It is a message that has inspired generations in similar circumstances and offered hope during the darkest times of history and, of course, it is one that came true when God sent His only Son, Jesus to be born in Bethlehem.

At the beginning of this Advent Season, with all the uncertainty and trouble around us today, that message is as fresh and vital as ever. In our national life, on our local issues and in our family crises we often don't know to whom we can turn for help. Isaiah knew and called his beleaguered countrymen to hear God's perfect invitation so that they might find in Him their peace.

We also can look to the Baby of Bethlehem who loved us so much that he gave Himself up on the Cross to take away our sin and bring new, glorious and eternal life. He issued an invitation to anyone who was weary or burdened to come to him that He might give them perfect rest.

In the churches we will be celebrating this wonderful time of the year and I hope you can join us to hear the great Good News of Jesus. Here are some quotations that I found on the web that might also inspire you:

"For it is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas, when its mighty Founder was a child Himself". Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol

"The approach of the glad Christmas tide always fills the heart with joy and hope, and quickens into sweet activity a thousand loving thoughts for others." Helen Keller

And here is my wish for you from another quotation: Two thousand years ago, "Joy to the World, the Lord is come!" was said. May those words give you meaning and joy this Christmas season.

Jim Wallace

Cross Channel Cycling Challenge Completed!!



Following our article in the last Keynotes, I can happily report that Barbara and I successfully finished our London to Paris charity cycle ride in early September, raising a total of £5,500 in the process!

We began in London at Hampton Court Station in south west London, and cycled 75 miles to Portsmouth on the first day, via winding country lanes against a reasonable headwind which is always a challenge. Arriving at Portsmouth we had a delay getting on the ferry, so that meant by the time we docked next morning in France at Caen we'd had 4 and a half hours sleep!

Leaving Caen we pedalled through lovely countryside with light breezes and sunshine for a further two days. 150 women cycling for 3 cancer charities - Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust, Breast Cancer Care and Ovarian Cancer Action. There were some quite difficult times physically but all the training we did on the hills around Ettrickbridge stood us in good stead and the legs were grand, even if some other bits of our anatomy were not!

On the last day, having been at the 'tail end of the coo' for most of the time, by happy circumstance we came into Paris on a glorious summer evening with the sun glowing on the front of the Eiffel Tower, and crossed the finish line first! Not that it was a race but it felt good to come over the line at the front.

We were totally tired after three days in the saddle but completely over the moon to have completed 240 miles for three such worthwhile charities. It was both a physical and mental challenge and one of the greatest achievements of our lives.

Many thanks to all those of you in the valleys who supported us. We really appreciated your generosity and could not have achieved such a fantastic fundraising total without you.

Linda Jackson and Barbara Harrison

Autumn Farming

By September this year we had finished all our harvest! It's not often we can say that. September to me means Kelso Tup Sale. It is the world's largest tup (or ram) sale; even if you aren't a sheep farmer it is a great way of seeing some of the best tups around as well as some of the lesser known breeds in the sheep world. Andy views it as a good way of networking as well as replenishing our stock. I find it both stressful and exciting at the same time! Stressful because you go with a certain amount to spend and you never quite know what the prices are going to be like but you do need to make that purchase! I'm always glad when you look at your tups a few weeks later and you're still happy (or as happy as a farmer gets.....)



October has been another "sheep" month as we have been preparing the ewes and tups for the "tupping" season. This generally means bringing in all field and hill ewes to have their feet checked with any imperfections dealt with (clipped, sprayed then the footbath) then dosed with wormer and vitamins/trace elements to keep them in good condition pre-pregnancy. The tups come in for a general MOT to ensure a successful lambing season (hopefully!) We use a ratio of 1 tup to 50 ewes in a season. We check that they are not overly fat and not lame, which isn't great at all at this crucial period.

We generally turn out the tups singly, sometimes a pair in the same flock of sheep, any more and they would fight which distracts them from their main purpose and can result in injured tups! We attach a crayon in a tup harness to help identify whether they are "working" and the ewes are cycling. We have to check regularly for chaffing, lameness and broken/lost crayons! We change the colour of the crayons after 10 days then after another 7 which means we can keep tabs on how many ewes there are in each cycle which in turn means

you can work out how long you will be lambing for next spring (well that's the theory anyway.....)

As well as lots of sheep work on the farm we have had cows calving; these are still outside at the moment but will be coming in soon. The cows, with calves at foot (still suckling) that are approximately 7 months old, were "spained" last week with the mothers going back up the hill today with a very joyful spring in their step - they must like crisp autumnal sunshine and the calves being moved along the road to be fed.

Susan White

Who was Thomas Boston?

Thomas Boston was the minister in Ettrick Kirk from May 1707 until his death in May 1732. Born in Duns in 1676 he was the son of a fiercely Covenanting father who suffered imprisonment for his beliefs. It seems Boston had doubts about the challenges of his new parish, that life might have been easier in the Eastern Borders at Simprin. The people in Ettrick were a contentious lot, many openly hostile to the complicated politics of church and state. Difficult and troubled years followed when Boston stuck to his principles against personal attack and non attendance.



He decided to write his sermons, published in 1721 as *The Fourfold State* to great acclaim. It is said that nearly every cottage in Scotland had a copy of this book along with the Bible. Boston's stance on spiritual and political thinking was very strong. The local population got wind of his wide acclaim and they eventually realised the value of the man they had long tried to get rid of.

He has been immortalised in the valley thereafter for his indomitable spirit. Too feeble to stand, he would preach sitting down. Unable to walk to the Kirk, he would preach from his bedroom window to the congregation standing outside. Before he died, one summer communion filled him with great joy as 800 people flocked from far and wide to hear him preach.

He was succeeded, even before his death, by his son, also Thomas. To quote Craig Brown's history: "All pervading piety was his great characteristic, constancy in his faith and belief in the Almighty as a close incessant supervisor in every act and fact of life".

Today Boston is commemorated by his gravestone in Ettrick Kirkyard, and by the Boston Memorial Hall. Over recent years almost 100 people from Holland have made the pilgrimage to Ettrick Kirk to pay their respects to a man who is

still revered in their country. He is venerated by and still read in the Dutch Reformed Church. There are also many visitors from the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. They all appreciate that the church remains open and in use and is obviously cared for. It is important that we do not lose sight of our heritage.

Lucile Macleod



Christingle – 6pm Christmas Eve, Kirkhope Church, Ettrickbridge

The traditional Family Christingle Service of Carols takes place at Kirkhope. This will be the third such Christingle service we've had in the valleys and it is a wonderful evening with the interior of the beautiful Kirkhope Church bathed in coloured flood lighting and flickering candle light.

The Christingle has its origins in a Moravian children's service held in a castle in Germany on Christmas Eve in 1747. The Bishop conducting the informal service gave each child a lighted candle, tied with a red ribbon in memory of the Saviour's coming, which he said has kindled a flame in each heart that keeps burning 'to His joy, and our happiness'.

It was popularised in the United Kingdom by John Pensom in 1968, he was raising funds for the charity The Children's Society. The custom has continued to grow in popularity and has spread through to all kinds of churches with over 5,000 Christingle services being held across the UK each year. It has become one of the most common and popular Christmas services, especially among children.

The word Christingle could have come from several sources. It might be an 'English' version of 'Christkindl' (meaning little Christ child), the present bringer in some parts of Germany and other European countries, who represents the baby Jesus. It could be the putting together of the words 'Christmas' and 'ingle'. Ingle is an old Scots word for fire and so that would make it mean the 'Christ Light'. As Christingles originally came from Germany, the first theory is more likely.

Over the years the symbolism of the Christingle grew into what's known as a Christingle today. During the service the congregation assemble their own Christingle so here's what the different parts of the Christingle represent:

- The orange is round like the world.
- The candle stands tall and straight and gives light in the dark like the love of God.

- The red ribbon goes all around the 'world' and is a symbol of the blood Jesus shed when he died for us.
- The four sticks point in all directions and symbolise North, South, East and West - they also represent the four seasons.
- The fruit and nuts (we use sweets!) represent the fruits of the earth, nurtured by the sunshine and the rain.



The Christingle Family Service is a wonderful evening full of favourite Christmas Carols, so we look forward to welcoming you this Christmas Eve. Mulled Wine and shortbread are served after the service.

Andy Wright

Dolphin Recycling?



Driving home from Ettrickbridge one day in early summer, I spotted a dolphin at the side of the road. Bright pink, an abandoned, or lost, novelty balloon. Huh! I thought, more plastic rubbish spoiling the environment.

Later I walked back and picked it up, intending to dispose of it properly. As I returned home clutching the string, the still partly inflated metre-long dolphin

floated cheerfully beside me – goodness knows what passing motorists thought of me.

Back in my garden, on the way to the bins, I gazed at the forlorn dolphin and felt sorry for it. I re-inflated it and tied it to one of my trees where it whirled and bounced its way harmlessly and happily through the summer. Eventually it got so battered that it would no longer hold air so sadly I had to take it down. However, the few months of daft joy it brought to me and to visitors will not be forgotten.

First impressions so often can be mistaken. What I initially regarded as an invader of our lovely countryside turned out to be a friendly addition to my household for as long as it stayed airtight. Worth remembering perhaps!

Nora Hunter

Recipe: Christmas Shortbread.

7oz plain flour
2 oz ground almonds
4oz caster sugar
5oz butter

Mix dry ingredients and rub in butter

Press half into the base of an 8" loose base tin,lightly greased.

Filling

3oz walnuts
2oz stoned dates
1tbs brandy or orange juice
Process together into a paste

Spread filling onto base
Put other half of shortbread mixture on top

Cook 190C for 40 mins. Sprinkle with sugar when taken out of oven.

Caryl Thompson

Ettrick and Yarrow Churches Christmas Hamper

Again this year we are holding our popular
Christmas Hamper Draw.

The numbers will be available from any of the
elders.

The draw will take place after the 10am worship
service in Yarrow on Sunday 16th December.

Advent Appeal

Our advent appeal for two charities will also take place. Look out for further
details of the charties (one local, one international) in the weekly newsletter. If
you would like to receive this, please email ettrickandyarrow@gmail.com



Be informed about local issues - join the Community Council E-mail List!

To join the mailing list contact - bckharrison@btinternet.com



What is happening in the valleys

Yarrowford Village Hall

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.

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

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

Yarrow hall

December 7th: Safety in Numbers carol concert, 7.30pm. Tickets from singers or Irene Douglas 07774 683064

December 9th: Yarrow Primary School Christmas Fayre, 2.00-5.00pm

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

Safety in Numbers singing group practice: Thursdays, 7.30.

Kirkhope Hall

Coffee mornings: **SATURDAY DECEMBER 8**: Annual Christmas Coffee

Morning, 10.00 – 12.30. Sales table spaces all now booked. Santa expected at 11.00. Children's programme. Hamper. Tombola.

December 10th: Silver Band Carol Concert 7.30 Tickets from Linda on 01750 52257: adults £4, youngsters £2, family of four £10. Includes Christmas pies and punch.

December 29th: Traditional Festive Bash! 7pm. Look out for more details nearer the time.

SWI: meets Wednesday evenings (7.30) 14th November Floral Art with Roxy Stephen

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

Interest evenings, Thursdays 7.30pm: 29th November: Sukie Barber and Jess Talbot; 24th January: Kay Ross.

Boston Hall

Ettrick SWI Tuesday 11th Dec at 7.30 pm - Christmas crafts

Jan 8th 2019 Revisiting the 1940's ; Feb12th 2019 Fire Safety Scottish Fire Service

Boston Hall Stitchers: resume on Tuesday 18th September from 2-4pm and 7-9pm and will continue on first and third Tuesdays till Christmas. Further details from Irene on 62219.

Monthly Whists: Monthly Whists Monday 3rd December, Monday 7th January at 7.30 pm.

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

Hall Whist Wednesday 28th November at 7.30 pm.

Hogmanay Dance with Jimmy Gold Monday 31st December from 8.30 pm.

Bring your own food and drink. Entry £6

Saturday 23rd February: Concert with Bob Ferguson, Scottish, Irish and popular music.

Cappercleuch Hall

Saturday 24th November coffee morning 10-2pm.

Indoor bowling has recommenced each Monday, 7.30pm. New members welcome. Just turn up or contact Tommy Hepburn 01750 42218 for more info.

Will H. Ogilvie

William Henry Ogilvie was born at Holefield near Kelso on 21ST August 1869. He was educated at Kelso High School and Fettes College after which he spent 12 years in Australia working as a “jackaroo” on a sheep station. It was while he was in Australia that he began writing of his experiences in verse, and in 1898 his first book “Fair Girls and Gray Horses” was published

On returning home he began a freelance journalistic career and wrote prolifically producing twenty books of verse and prose. Many of his poems celebrate the Borderland that he loved. He died on 30th January 1963, aged 93, at his home “Kirklea”, near Ashkirk. His ashes were scattered on “the hill road to Roberton” where in August 1993 a memorial cairn was erected.

Sadly, in 2016, the bronze on the cairn was stolen. The Will Ogilvie Trust intends to unveil a replacement cairn in August as part of the year’s celebration of the poet’s 150th anniversary. As part of this, on Saturday 2nd March, a dinner will be held Kirkhope Hall in his memory, with singers and reciters providing reflections of the poet and his poetry.



Poets’ Corner

‘The Road to Roberton’ by W H Ogilvie

The hill road to Roberton: Ale Water at our feet,
And grey hills and blue hills that melt away and meet,
With cotton-flowers that wave to us and lone whaups that call,
And over all the Border mist – the soft mist over all.

When Scotland married England long, long ago,
The winds spun a wedding-veil of moonlight and snow,
A veil of filmy silver that sun and rain had kissed,
And she left it to the Border in a soft grey mist.

And now the dreary distance doth wear it like a bride,
Out beyond the Langhope Burn and over Essenside,
By Borthwick Wa’s and Redfordgreen and on to wild Buccleuch
And up the Ettrick Water, till it fades into the blue.

The winding road to Roberton is little marked of wheels,
And lonely past Blawearie runs the track to Borthwickshiels,
Whitslade is slumbering undisturbed and down in Harden Glen
The tall trees murmur in their dreams of Wat's mosstrooping men.

A distant glint of silver, that is Ale's last goodbye,
Then Greatmoor and Windburgh against a purple sky,
The long line of the Carter, Teviotdale flung wide,
And a slight stir in the heather – a wind from the English side.

The hill road to Roberton's a steep road to climb,
But where your foot has crushed it you can smell the scented thyme,
And if your heart's a Border heart, look down to Harden Glen,
And hear the blue hills ringing with the restless hoofs again.

New National Hat Festival – Border Bunnets

Hotel pillars, town steps, electric light poles, railings, a bridge, trees, a telephone box - just some of the 42 different sites hit by the Souter Stormers in Selkirk and the Valleys four years ago.

In 2015, as part of the YES (Yarrow Etrick and Selkirk) Arts Festival, we yarnstormed Selkirk. We didn't so much paint the town red as provide an explosion of colour which stopped traffic and drew onlookers from far and wide, for a month, not only to Selkirk but to the two adjacent Yarrow and Etrick valleys. We believe that one of our number, aged 102, was the world's oldest 'graffiti artist'!



Thus began a journey, with, in 2017, Souter Stormers, which includes a smaller number of Yarrow Yarners and Brigend Bombers renting a pop-up shop for a month and installing 'FULLY WOOLLY' a completely knitted and crocheted living room, with its shop window front attracting crowds again; on this occasion visitors donated over £3000 to two registered charities.

In both 2015 and 2017, we enjoyed the participation of local schools mainly through quizzes based on knitted and crocheted 'fun' items in every shop window of the town. The Fully Woolly project also involved the participation of the members of the Galashiels branch of the Men's Shed organisation; they responded happily to our invitation to join us and constructed full sized

plywood versions of a Welsh dresser, bookcase and fireplace which we covered in knitting and crochet.

These four short paragraphs tell only part of the story of the fun we have had, the pleasure we have given, the acclamation we have received, and the sense of fulfilment that members have all received from their participation.

However, the story hasn't ended! ...2019 will see our new and entirely different installation - BORDER BUNNETS.

This will actually be a national knitted and crocheted hat festival in September with entries invited from all over the UK and beyond! Trophies will be awarded to the three winning entries in each of ten categories. You are invited to participate! Detailed entry form is available by writing to the committee at borderbunnets@gmail.com, subject line: entry form. The deadline for entries is August 31st 2019, with the proposed festival dates September 14 - 21, culminating in an auction currently planned for September 21. Please pass this information on to friends, craft groups, knitting groups as widely as possible.

ALL proceeds from the subsequent auction and sale of all donated hats will support the work of ALZHEIMER SCOTLAND



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

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We are grateful to all who offer their time and fuel to do this.

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.