

KEY NOTES

KIRKHOPE, ETRICK & YARROW PARISH MAGAZINE



April 2019

Ettrick and Yarrow Parish Worship Services 2019

Date	Kirkhope	Yarrow	Ettrick
April 14 th	10.00am	-----	-----
April 18 th Maundy	7.00pm	-----	-----
April 19 th Good Fri	-----	7.00pm	-----
April 21 st Easter	-----	-----	11.00am
April 28 th	10.00am	-----	-----
May 5 th	-----	10.00am	-----
May 12 th	10.00am	-----	-----
May 19 th	-----	10.00am	11.45am
May 26 th	10.00am	LAMBING THANKSGIVING	
June 2 nd	-----	10.00am	-----
June 9 th	10.00am	-----	-----
June 16 th	-----	10.00am	11.45am
June 23 rd	10.00am	-----	-----
June 30 th	-----	-----	11.00am

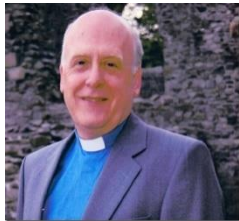
Letter from the interim moderator

Let's be honest - many people have given up on church. Some have given up on God. Unable to believe the miraculous parts of the story that the church tells, you lose sight of what's central. That you are loved unconditionally? That you can share a system of moral values that defies the self-centredness of our world? That you can find hope? Believe it or not, the people who go to church have as many questions and doubts as those who don't. And you don't have to believe everything. All you need is faith in God and in Jesus Christ. Faith is trusting in something that can't be proved, but works for you and lets you know Jesus in your life. That's the Easter message – that Jesus is still in our lives – thank God! May God bless you this Easter with love and joy!



Elspeth Harley

Easter Celebrations at Ettrick and Yarrow.



Many people believe that Springtime is the very best time of the year with new life springing up all around us. With lambing going on, it's possibly the very busiest time for many folk. However, the freshness of new growth and banks of daffodils by the wayside certainly lift the spirits and make us think of better days ahead. After the dark days of winter with all the colds and flu going around it comes with some relief to think of the prospect of some bright sunshine and long summer evenings.

In our churches of course it is Easter that occupies our thoughts as we remember Jesus on the cross, unjustly and cruelly condemned but offering himself up for us. In rising from the dead he won complete victory over it. It is a remarkable story, well documented and witnessed by his followers.

We no longer have to wonder what happens when we die because one man, acting on our behalf has crossed that boundary for us and returned to proclaim that, because he bore the guilty judgement on our sin when we belong to him we can have a place with him in eternal glory. The glorious message of Easter is that, in him, we can be forgiven and cleansed of all that condemns us, burdens us and wearies us to be welcomed, at the last into his eternal kingdom. Now that's what you call "new Life"

For Christians it is the most special of all the Christian festivals and we have some great services to which we would warmly invite you so that you might share with us the joy of Easter.

On Thursday 18th April at 7.00pm (Kirkhope) we remember Jesus and his disciples gathered in the Upper Room to break bread together in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

On Good Friday 19th April at 7.00pm (Yarrow) we remember Jesus on the Cross in a series of meditations reflecting the events of the day.

On Easter Sunday at 11.00 am (Ettrick) there is the joyous celebration of Jesus' resurrection when there will be great hymns, hard boiled eggs for the children (and adults) to decorate and another celebration of the Lord's Supper. After the service there are refreshments with sandwiches and cakes and an opportunity to roll the decorated eggs. It should be an exciting time so do come along.

In the meantime may I wish God's richest blessing on you and yours over the holiday period.

Jim Wallace, Ettrick and Yarrow Locum Minister.

Birds in our Gardens – the Wren



The Wren is a tiny brown bird, dumpy and round with a fine bill and short narrow tail which is sometimes cocked up vertically. Wrens eat insects and spiders so do not come to garden feeders but they are our most common breeding bird with about 10 million pairs in Britain and Ireland, so will be often seen in and around garden hedges and walls. The Wren's solitary lifestyle tends to disguise the total population and its number one breeding status is a fact still thought sufficiently unexpected for it to crop up routinely in pub quizzes!

Its tiny size and almost mouse like creeping behaviour mean that it is less conspicuous than most other common birds but it is hardly shy and retiring. It has a very loud voice and its trilling song can be heard from great distances. In the presence of humans, Wrens are not so much brave as indifferent and often behave as if we do not exist. However, this does not prevent them giving vent to an alarm call if we get too close, sounding not at all scared, just furious with us having the cheek to invade their territory!

The male Wren builds six to 12 nests, but only one is used by the female which adds the lining to the nest she decides to use. The bond between the male and female is loose, and only a minority of males help rear the young. Choice of nest site can be quite bizarre and noise or movement are no deterrent whatsoever. Young Wrens are recorded as being successfully reared from a nest right next to a circular saw in use eight hours a day while the young and eggs of another pair made a twice weekly journey from Kent to Covent Garden on the running board of a lorry.

For all its air of vitality, the wren is extremely susceptible to hard weather and bad winters can wipe out much of the population. This has been well illustrated by the recent RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch which has found a drop of 17% in Wrens in Scottish gardens, likely due to the Beast from the East of March 2018. Fortunately, Wrens' capacity for multiple broods and large clutches allows them to recover population quickly. One of their strategies

for dealing with heat loss during the long winter night is to gather at dusk in communal roosts. Impossibly large numbers of the wee birds can squash into small spaces including squirrel dreys and old bird nests. I have had 15 of them roosting in a wooden nest box in my garden and one winter six of them squashed every night into a Housemartin's nest above my back door. This behaviour is seldom seen however as the birds usually arrive shortly after dusk and depart before first light.

Wrens appear frequently in Celtic folklore where they are symbols of life, energy and cleverness. One of the best-known tales tells of how the Wren became known as the King of the Birds. Birds of the world gathered to decide which of them would be king of the birds. They held a contest to see which bird could fly highest and that bird would be crowned king. After a long and tiring flight towards the heavens, only the strongest of the Eagles managed to win out. Smugly the Eagle congratulated himself and began his triumphant descent when he heard from above him a small bright voice calling "I am king, I am king". It was the little brown Wren fluttering above him. She had carefully and quietly hidden among his feathers and ridden on his back into the sky, only taking flight when the Eagle tired.

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

The Napier Family in Ettrick

The Napier family have been in the Ettrick Valley for over 600 years. They originally came from Loch Lomond, moving to Edinburgh in 1400 where they lived in Merchiston Castle, now part of Napier University.



John Napier of Merchiston (1550-1617) invented logarithms and popularised the decimal point (portrait shown left). His son, Archibald, Treasurer Depute of Scotland, was created first Lord Napier in 1627.

William, 9th Lord Napier lived at Thirlestane. He was the Chief Superintendent of Trade at Canton, China in 1837. He was the first person to find Hong Kong as a suitable port for trading between east and west. He died of Yellow Fever in 1834 and is buried in Ettrick, having been exhumed from

Macau. A book called "Foreign Mud" by Maurice Collins gives fascinating, and

shocking detail of relations between the UK and China in the 1830s.

Francis, 10th Lord Napier held ambassadorial posts in the USA, Netherlands, Russia, Prussia and was governor of Madras and acting Viceroy of India. He was created 1st Lord Ettrick in 1872. In 1883 he was asked by the Gladstone government to lead a commission, known as the Napier Commission, to look into the rights of crofters in Scotland after the Clearances. This led to the Crofters Holdings Act which gave back rights to the crofters to do with rents, boundaries and access, and is an important part of Crofting legislation to this day.

The family have had strong ties with Ettrick Kirk over the years, using the balcony reserved for family members.

In 1965 the family home, Thirlestane Castle, an early 19th century building replacing a castle which dated back to the 16th century, was found to be riddled with dry rot and was dynamited by Lord Napier and Ettrick who died in 2012 and is buried in the church yard.

His son, Francis, the current Lord Napier and Ettrick has kindly contributed to this history which has been summarised for Keynotes.

Lucile MacLeod

Lambing Time - The Basics in a Nutshell

As you read this, many hill sheep farmers will be starting their lambing.

As with any event in the farming calendar management and preparation is the key to a successful outcome..... and weather conditions permitting.

In the time leading up to lambing the ewes are (pregnancy) scanned 4-6 weeks after the tups (rams) come in at

the end of December – so about February time. Any older ewes not in lamb are put away (culled), although the first-time lambers (gimmers) are given a second chance.

Then 4-6 weeks prior to lambing the ewes are dosed for liver fluke and worms, then given a pour-on along their backs for the control of ticks and lice. (With the spring being exceptionally warm this year there could be an



increased risk of ticks). They are also injected with a vaccine to prevent clostridial diseases, such as tetanus and pulpy kidney, being transmitted to their lambs via the milk. Therefore, it is vitally important that the lambs receive the first milk, colostrum, as soon as possible to build up their immunity. At the same time as the vaccinations, the ewes that have been scanned and found to be carrying twins or triplets are then kept in fields so that they can be given supplementary feeding along with their High Energy licks.

The ewes scanned with single lambs are left on the hill and only receive the High Energy licks – as it is important to for all the sheep to keep up their energy levels, and receive the right nutrition in order to produce enough milk and nurse their lambs.

So the farmer needs to know, from the results of the scanning, which ewes need which requirements, and that equates to cost as much as animal welfare.

Happy ewes and lambs = Happy Farmers!

Alison and Michael Blackadder

Etrick and Yarrow Community Council News

St Mary's Loch area warden service. After a successful trial of the St Mary's Loch Warden Service in the summer months of 2018, the Community Council and its partners (Police Scotland, Scottish Borders Council and Wemyss and March Estate) have decided to run it again this year. There will be a 60% increase in the hours available for the Warden, Chris Amy, who re-started his duties on March 29th. The service will run through till the end of September and while being mainly at the weekends, Chris will have greater flexibility so that he can work the hours that suit local circumstances and needs. His responsibilities include:



- Monitoring those camping in the area;
- Encouraging respectful behaviour and co-operation;
- Recording and reporting any anti-social behaviour or potential law breaking;
- Local Liaison; and
- Keeping the area tidy as far as possible.

If you need to contact Chris, you can reach him on 07790 567125 – provided that he is in an area that has a mobile phone signal. Chris will be working very closely with Isobel Brown who will be his local contact person. If you can't reach Chris, you can phone Isobel on 01750 42243 – but please bear in mind that Chris still has a finite number of hours available so cannot be everywhere, all the time.

Valley AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators) The EYCC recently replaced many older defibrillators in our valleys and bought an extra one for the Gordon Arms. We now have a total of 11 AEDs.

These are located in the Ettrick Valley at The Boston Hall, Honey Cottage Caravan Park Shop, Ettrickbridge Hall and Ettrickbridge Kirk. In the Yarrow Valley they can be found at the Glen Cafe, Cappercleuch Hall, The Gordon Arms, Yarrow Feus Hall, Yarrow Kirk, Yarrowford Village Hall, and The Waterwheel Cafe.

Training in the use of the defibrillators was provided in Ettrickbridge and Yarrowfeus and we are trying to arrange a session in the Boston Hall. The defibrillators can all be used without training – you just take the defibrillator out of the cabinet and to the person in trouble, open it up and the defibrillator will speak to you and tell you what to do.

Providing CPR through chest compressions is also very helpful as it keeps the blood supplied to the brain and means that people have a better chance of a normal recovery afterwards. However, as we found out at the training, this can be very tiring and it is better if you can have a team of people to work together with one taking over from the other on a continual basis.

Also, there are 2 'phone apps that could be extremely useful in an emergency which can be downloaded from your usual app store:

CROWDSAV - will show you where your nearest AED is located anywhere in the UK. It shows a map to the place and often a photograph of its precise location. *WHAT3WORDS* - this is vital where you are in a place you are not familiar with. It identifies every location in the world by just 3 words. It will work even if the 'phone is offline and out of a normal signal so can be used when you need to call the emergency services in the UK. Have a look at their Facebook page for more details. <https://what3words.com/about/>

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

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

Scottish Borders Walking Festival

This year marks the 25th outing of the Scottish Borders Walking Festival, 7th - 14th of September, taking place in and around Selkirk and the Ettrick and Yarrow Valleys. It is the longest running festival of its kind in Scotland but that's not the only reason it is special - it is run on a "not for profit basis" and is organised by volunteers for the enjoyment of both visitors and the community.

Over the course of the Festival week, there will be 28 daily countryside walks of varying lengths and levels of difficulty. Locals will recognise some well-loved routes in the programme and many of the Walk Leaders come from within our community as well as the SBC Ranger Team.

There will also be a series of Free and Easy Strolls led by local people, with special interest themes such as James Hogg, The Selkirk Ring o' the Toun, Philiphaugh Estate and many more.

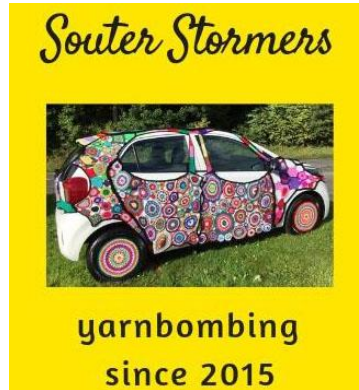
The team is keen to create a Festival atmosphere and has worked hard to build a varied and enjoyable social programme, drawing on the pool of Borders talent such as the ceilidh band Dere Street, Discover Scottish Borders with "The Birth and Death of the Border Reivers", "A Souter's Year" with retired journalist John Smail, "Dr John Muir" with popular local performer John Nicol to name but a few.

A highlight will be the Festival First Night on September 7th in Selkirk's grand Victoria Halls, with a very special guest – Cameron McNeish, the presenter of the BBC Adventure Show. Cameron will give a presentation on his recent book "There's Always the Hills" with a book-signing afterwards.

Even more atmosphere, creativity and fun will be provided by the Walking Festival's 2019 collaborators the mighty Souter Stormers who are running their *Border Bunnets* Hatfest at the same time. This year, walkers will see Selkirk come alive with weird and wonderful hats as part of the competition.



Entries will be sold to raise money for Alzheimer Scotland, with winners auctioned on September 14th at a Mad Hatter's Tea Party by celebrity antiques expert Anita Manning (from the BBC's Bargain Hunt and Antiques Road Trip). Enter the competition via borderbunnets@gmail.com or follow them on Facebook *Souter Stormers - Knitting and Crochet in the Scottish Borders*



We are also delighted to say Sunday 8th will see a special outdoor worship service at the atmospheric St Mary's Kirkyard. Please check the website for details

We are privileged to be able to walk in our landscape any time we like but the team would like to extend the warmest of welcomes to everyone in our community to join a Group Walk, take part in a Stroll or come along to a Social Event. All are welcome. Here's to a great Walking Festival!

Please visit the website www.borderswalking.com for further information or find us on Facebook and Twitter.

Advent Appeal

Over the Christmas weeks and particularly at Christingle on December 24th, Ettrick and Yarrow churches collected donations from you for our Advent Appeal. You were extremely generous and the money amounted to £800 which is being divided equally between our two chosen charities: Scottish Charity Air Ambulance and David Gallagher's Open Arms International (which cares for, and educates orphaned children in Kenya). A huge thankyou from all of us for your help.



Ettrick and Yarrow Kirk Session

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 Summer Afternoon Tea: Sunday 9th June. Excellent teas with entertainment by Safety in Numbers. Tickets 07774 683064.

Yarrowford Hall

5th April at 7.30pm Well Road Production : The Borders Horse. This moving story is seen through the eyes of Jock Tamson a proud Kelsae man.

Admission £8 licenced bar. To book a seat phone Viv 76212 or Jim 76204

21st April Easter tea and Easter Egg hunt 2-4pm

23rd June Sunday lunch 12.30 for 1pm. 2 course lunch with glass of wine or soft drink £15 per head. After lunch speaker Ian Landles. To book a place phone Jim 76204 or Viv 76212.

25th August Horticultural show. Teas available from 2pm

S.W.I.: 9TH April. Betty Turnbull summer punch, 19th May afternoon tea 2-4pm £5 per head.

Table Tennis every Wednesday night 6-7.30pm

Kirkhope

Coffee mornings: 1st Saturday of each month 10am -12noon.

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

Church Spring Fair: May 18th afternoon. Teas, stalls (including baking) and games.

Boston Hall

SWI meetings 7.30 on first Tuesday of the month. 9th April - Easter Craft and Tuesday 14th May - Therapets

Macmillan Cycle ride is on Sat 25th May - further details on FB page

Ettrick Sports Day is on Sat 3rd August 2pm start

Boston Hall enquiries: Irene McFadzen on 62219

Poet's Corner

Persevere - Anon

Somebody said that it couldn't be done
but he with a chuckle replied
That maybe it couldn't but he would be one
who wouldn't say so till he tried
So he started right in with a trace of a grin
on his face - if he worried he hid it -
And tackled the thing that couldn't be done
that couldn't be done - and HE DID IT!



The Ladles - William Addison, from Ettrick Verse, 1949

In Ettrick Kirk they tak the pence
E'en till this vera day
Wi' the twa lang-handled ladles
In the auld-fashioned way.

Round the pews in flair and lafts
The Elders aye maun gae
Wi' the twa lang-handled ladles
In the auld-fashioned way.

Letither Kirks use plates or bags,
The custom here will stay
Wi' the twa lang-handled ladles
In the auld-fashioned way.



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

Thanks to all volunteers who help distribute Keynotes

Opinions expressed in contributed material within KEYNOTES do not necessarily reflect the views of the Interim Moderator, Locum Minister and Kirk Session of Ettrick and Yarrow Parish Church.