Cessford Castle and Corbet Tower, around Morebattle, and on the St Cuthbert’s Way, are reminders of more turbulent times of Border reiving, when the cross-border stealing of livestock (and inevitably killing and burning) was a norm. Today everything is more peaceful! You will pass by good farmland. The farms once employed a big workforce, but now many of the farm cottages, and indeed houses in Morebattle, are sold as holiday homes. Pray for opportunities for the young to stay.

Morebattle retains a strong sense of community, with its village shop and butcher’s. You will pass the curiously-named Teapot Street, leading to Thimble land. But turn into Toongate, around the corner from the shop, and you will pass Wellgate, where there is a peace garden open at weekends. It is a special space to ponder the splendour of God’s creation.

Next door is the parish church. It is open during the day, so pop in and sit where people have worshipped down the centuries and enjoy the peace. One former minister’s wife interested in calligraphy decorated one of the walls with murals of the Lord’s Prayer and Apostles’ Creed. Pray for ministry in the rural areas. Outside of the church you will find spectacular view over the Cheviots.

Just outside Morebattle and worthy of a detour is Linton Kirk. It is a ‘thin place’, where earth seems to meet heaven, and indeed above the door is the text from Genesis, ‘This is none other than the house of God, the gateway to heaven’. The list of ministers goes back to 1127, but worship in this place may have preceded. It is a special place. Above the porch is a Norman tympanum of Somerville killing the Linton worm, a dragon-like creature, one of the legends associated with Linton.

(Almighty God, who did call your servant Cuthbert from keeping sheep to follow your Son and to be a shepherd of your people, mercifully grant that we, following his example and caring for those who are lost, may bring them home to your fold, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen).