

Newlands and Kirkurd



Parish Magazine

February 2019

Cover photo kindly donated by Rod Sibbald Photography

The past few months has seen the leadership and congregations of Carlops, Newlands, and West Linton engaging in a variety of ways with our journey together as part of the Interim Ministry process. The eldership of the three congregations met together in early December to focus on congregational life within the linkage as they sought to explore our gifts, our strengths, and our weaknesses. This task **identified a number of the creative ways our shared faith is lived out and expressed**: from Messy Church planned and led by people alongside St Mungo's Episcopal Church to the Service Leaders who serve the three centres of worship; from Soup Lunches to Guid Blethers; from innovative all-age worship events at Newlands to reflective evening communions at Carlops; from Baby Brunch to Prayer Focus who offer the gathered prayers of members and visitors; from the formal and informal Pastoral Care offered around the linkage to the Care Van Team and the support given to clients attending the Castle Craig rehabilitation Centre. It was encouraging and insightful to remind ourselves of the faithful, committed and engaging work being carried out across the parishes.

Of course, **we also identified some of the strains and difficulties** that are around and especially those that emerged more acutely over the past few years. There was a recognition that communication could be much improved between and within the congregations, and also with the communities; an awareness of the fragile trust in relationships, and a deep sense of disappointment in the lack of information and length of processes particularly with the national church which had a significant negative effect.

Following this, **Listening Spaces** were offered by myself where small groups of elders, with differing perspectives, gathered to share feelings and experiences in order to understand each other better, begin to restore and rebuild relationships, and identify the main difficulties to be addressed and the hopes for the future. These Spaces, although entered into with some anxiety, people left feeling they had a greater understanding of one another and encouraged to move forward. These Listening Spaces are now open to anyone who feels they would like to speak and to listen in a safe and focussed setting.



The three congregations then gathered at The Newlands Centre in order to identify ways of moving forward together resulting in creating **Aims and Objectives** for the period of Interim Ministry and beyond, with the intention of creating a healthy church into which a new minister might be called to serve. The priority areas are currently being discussed at each Kirk Session and a strategy planned for this ensuing year which will be shared with you soon.

In all of this we have not sought to avoid the difficult questions, which has resulted in engaging with differences of opinion, increased understanding, and an acknowledgement of seeking to positively see a future which respects and celebrates diversity rather than feels threatened by difference. Of course, this is not an easy journey, but requires grace, patience, trust and can be a sign of Christian hope in a world which appears divided and antagonistic.

All of this is set in a church context which is rapidly changing in terms of leadership, resources, and how faith communities are perceived within the world. However, faith is about following a way of living within the world rooted in the life of a man who laid down his own ego and power for the good of others that all may discover wholeness. And as we move forward, we must at the very heart of it all keep our eyes, hearts, minds, and our prayers centred on the one who shows us the way to the heart God who is the source of grace and love.

Please pray for all involved in the process of planning, shaping, and seeking to create a transformed and transforming community of faith rooted in and for the communities in which we live, love, and serve.

Yours in faith,

Stewart McPherson



STATED ANNUAL MEETING

This will take place after the service on March 17th after the morning Service. All are welcome to attend.

Listening Space



Matthew 11.15 *"He who has ears to hear, let him hear."*

What is it?

A Listening Space offers a safe space where with a small number of people you are given time to say how you feel without interruption while others listen. Then you listen while another speaks. During this time you respect confidentiality, speak from the heart, both listen and speak with grace and respect, and, where you know you will not be judged as a result of what you say. You listen to different voices knowing that others will listen to you. It is an opportunity to focus more intentionally, listen more deeply, and speak more honestly. As you hope others will understand you more, you can seek to understand them more too.

Once everyone has spoken for six minutes or so, then each can share what we have learned from the experience; any insights, any deeper understanding, any questions, any actions we feel we need to take as a result of the time given to listening to each other.

What have others said after attending?

"I found it unburdening ... helpful ... encouraging."

"There was a greater shared understanding."

"It was an opportunity to recognise common ground."

"I understand more how events have affected others."

"I appreciated the honesty."

"It has been helpful to share with people with whom I disagree."

"Sharing positives was important."

What do I do?

If you would like to have the opportunity to attend, or simply want to find out a little more before you decide, then please speak with the Interim Minister, Stewart McPherson, in confidence.

Phone: 01968 660221

Mobile: 07814 901429

Email: smcpherson@churchofscotland.org.uk

A space to listen and be listened to!



The next sessions of Messy Church are on:

Sunday 3 February - Candlemas and the Presentation of Jesus at the Temple

Sunday 3 March – Messy Pancake Day

They are from 4-6pm in the New Church Hall at West Linton.

All children from babies to P7 are most welcome to come and join in the fun!

After a game to start the children will do a range of craft activities, then have a song and a story and finish off with a meal together. All children **MUST** be accompanied by an adult.

For more information contact Jean Howat (01968 660677)

howatjean@gmail.com

Food Banks

As the winter cold begins to nip at fingers and toes we turn the heating up, pull on our woollies and eat warm foods. But for some folks we learn they have little or no food and they have to make use of Local Food Banks.

The Emergency Food Supply Committee of the Linkage continue to give food to those referred within our Parish but think we should show wider support to the local foodbanks in Peebles and Penicuik.

To that end the Committee has begun collecting items from January 2019 which will be taken to the Bank monthly. A list of the foods and toiletries most needed will be attached to a collection box in church. This will run for three months and then be assessed. Should you have questions in this regard please talk to Jean Howat (01968 660677)

THE GUILD

Our Guild has 2 events to attend in February. The first is the AGM of Upper Tweed Guilds Together which will take place on February 13 at 2 pm in Innerleithen Church.

On Wed 20th February, we will be joining with Upper Tweedsdale Guild in Broughton Village Hall at 7pm, and we'll be hearing from Pamela Straughan about her recent inter-faith fact-finding visit to Lebanon. We made this arrangement after discovering that each Guild had invited her to speak on the same subject, one week apart!

On March 4th, we have been invited to join Glencorse Guild, Penicuik to hear a talk by Charmaine McMeekin who is the daughter of the author Eric Lomax. She is calling this 'My walk with God and the Railwayman'. The meeting begins at 2.30pm in Glencorse Church.

We were pleased to welcome members from both Glencorse and Upper Tweedsdale Guilds at our Visitor's afternoon in November, and it's good to be able to share friendship and ideas with folk from other areas – all of whom who are doing their bit to work in support of their local churches and communities.

Margaret Habeshaw

Kirkurd SWI

At the December meeting Morag Kinloch gave a very interesting demonstration of Christmas Nibbles. Using easily accessible ingredients, Morag, made a great selection of sweet and savoury treats. This was all interspersed with amusing stories of her time as a home economics teacher. Margaret Adamson proposed a very well deserved vote of thanks.

Competitions: Home Made Coaster 1st. Sandra Howieson 2nd. Mo Lamb
Winter Photograph 1st. Margaret Adamson 2nd. Peggy Wills.

January 2019 one of our own members, Jane Prady provided us with a very interesting presentation about Breast Screening and other forms of screening. She explained, she had started out as a radiographer and how she had made the move to breast screening and how vital this service is to the well being of women.

Vote of thanks proposed by Margaret Adamson

Competitions: First Aid Box: 1st. Margaret Adamson 2nd. Elma Noble
6 home made sweeties 1st. Margaret Adamson 2nd. Peggy Wills.

Wednesday 6th. February Surviving inner city Birmingham WW2 with Ted Bowen, Biggar

Competitions: 2 plain oven scones Best polished shoes or boots.

Wednesday 6th. March Practical Craft Evening with Jean Fraser, West Linton
Competitions: Bowl of Bulbs Home Made Easter Card

We extend a warm welcome to anyone who would like to join us for any of the meetings

Meetings are held in Netherurd Hall on the 1st. Wednesday of the month at 7:30p.m.

Members met for the first meeting of the New Year on 9th January when Jan Miller brought along a lovely selection of stained glass made by herself and her daughter. She showed us how it was all made after she had the design worked out on paper. The items on display were beautiful and we all enjoyed seeing such an interesting craft. Margaret Habeshaw gave the vote of thanks and the winners of the competition for an old piece of pottery were 1st Lin Hunter 2nd Nancy Dow 3rd Margaret Habeshaw.

The February meeting will be held in the Cafe at Lamanca Hub on Wednesday 13th February at 7.30 p.m. when Wim Bosma will give a talk on his work at Langhill. The competition on that evening is a photograph of a farm animal.

MOTHERS & TODDLERS

We meet every Thursday morning in

Netherurd Hall 10:00 - 11:30

We look forward to seeing everyone and a warm welcome to any new members.

Adults £2

Children 50p

Peggy Wills 01968 682231

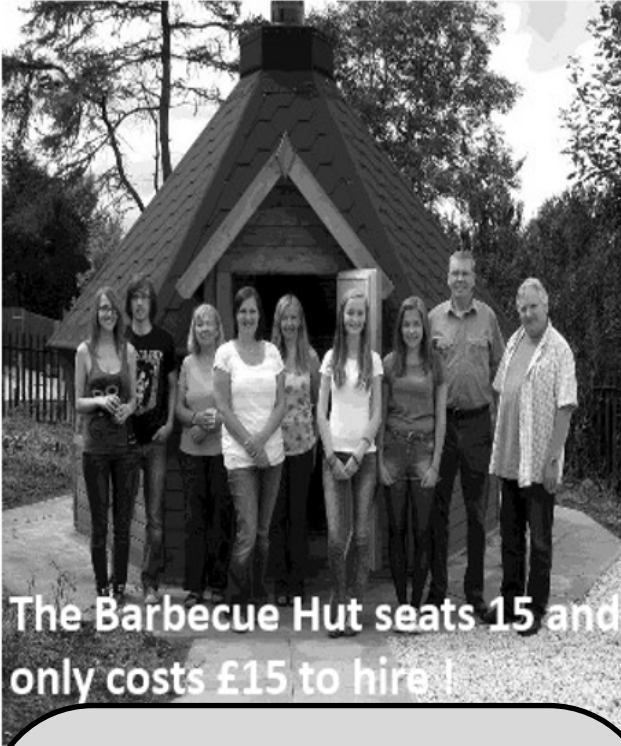
Pat Graham 01721 752205



Don't forget to try to find the church mouse hiding somewhere in this magazine!

LAMANCHA **hub** COMMUNITY

Lamanca Hub is a family-friendly community centre which has two multi-purpose halls (recently re-decorated), a community garden, a children's play area and a Scandinavian Barbecue Hut. Recent events at the Hub include a Christening Party and birthday parties where the BBQ hut was included in the package. We also have first-aid courses organised by a fully qualified paramedic.



The Barbecue Hut seats 15 and only costs £15 to hire!

By popular request we are holding a **knit and/or natter** group every Wednesday morning from now until Spring. The cafe is the place to meet at 11am till 1pm. No charge but there will be home made soup, hot drinks and bacon butties at a nominal charge if required. All welcome including beginners.

What's on at the hub

Tuesday: Mindful Yoga

7.30pm

Classes full!!

Thursday: Hatha Yoga 9.30am

Classes full!

Thursdays Pilates! Beginners and intermediates. First class starts 6.15pm - Second class 7.15pm

Classes full!!

Drumming lessons: call Ian 07847 486074

NEW! Poly tunnel for use by the community! Located behind the BBQ hut!

info@lamanchahub.org.uk

Run by the Lamancha & District Community Association, a charity reg in Scotland, no SC035299 & a company limited by guarantee reg in Scotland no SC263766. Reg office is: Old School House, Old Moffat Road, Lamancha, Peeblesshire EH46 7BD

February Facts

From circa 700 BC, when Numa Pompilius, the second king of Rome, added it to the calendar, February had 23 days and 24 days on some of every second year, until 46 BC when Julius Caesar assigned it 29 days on every fourth year and 28 days otherwise. Leap year Day, February 29, is added in every year that can be divided equally by four, such as 2012 and 2016, but this does not apply when the year ending in "00" at the turn of the century does not divide equally into 400. This means that 2000 was a leap year in the Gregorian calendar, but 1900 was not. This is where the Julian calendar calculated dates differently, as it always repeated February 29 every four years.

February is a winter month in the Northern Hemisphere and a summer month in the Southern Hemisphere. In each hemisphere, it is the seasonal equivalent of August in the other. In weather lore, Groundhog Day, in the United States, is set to decide what the weather will be like for the rest of the winter.

February's flower is the violet and its birthstone is the amethyst. The meaning of the amethyst is sincerity. The zodiac signs for February are Aquarius (January 21 to February 19), and Pisces (February 20 to March 20).

A quicker way to get your parish magazine!

If you would like a digital copy of the magazine sent to your email please contact Alison on

nkparishmag@outlook.com or look at the Newlands and Kirkurd Parish facebook page and as soon as the magazine is published you will receive your copy!

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Newlands and Kirkurd Parish Church

<http://www.newlands-kirkurd.org>



Photocopying of this magazine has been kindly donated by Dr McCann of Castle Craig.