

Newlands & Kirkurd

Parish Magazine

April 2020



Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,

He that for three days in the grave had lain,

Quick from the dead my risen Lord is seen:

Love is come again,

Like wheat that springeth green.

Hymn 417: John Macleod Campbell Crum (1872-1958)



Cancelled until further notice.

Sunday Worship, groups, and all events in
Carlops, Kirkurd & Newlands,
and St Andrew's West Linton churches

STAMP 2020 APPEAL

We are collecting stamps to support The Women's Development Centre (WDC) in Kandy, Sri Lanka. Your used stamps can help the WDC support women and girls who have survived rape, sexual violence and family rejection, returning them to education or learning skills that will allow them to make a living. You can leave your stamps in a bowl in the church or give them to Jean Howat.

Please contact your elder or Ilka Roehe by email on ilka.roehe@btinternet.com if you would like a digital copy of the magazine sent to your email or if you would like a large print copy. Material for the May magazine to Ilka by Tuesday, 21st April 2020.

CHRISTIAN AID UPDATE

CA Week 2019 raised £7.5m. This money was well spent to help improve the terrible maternal and neonatal infant mortality situation in Sierra Leone, the world's most dangerous country to give birth in.

58,000 people given access to new well-built health clinics where nurses could save lives

64,000 people trained in hygiene practices helping mums and children fight off illnesses and live healthier lives

13,000 women given the means to pay for transport to their nearest clinic through community savings groups



CA Week 10-16th May 2020

This year's campaign will focus on Rose who is 67 and lives in eastern Kenya. When she was a child, Rose remembers how often the rain would fall giving fruit to the trees and providing plenty of nutritious food to eat. Now, drought is robbing her of the chance to farm. She and her family are hungry. Sadly millions like her in Kenya are desperately struggling to survive the severe drought, it's now a national emergency. Every day, without any breakfast, she sets out on a long and dangerous journey to collect water for her family. When she returns exhausted later in the day, she has no energy to do anything else. This is Rose's climate crisis.

Your gifts could help Rose's community build a dam to provide a long-lasting reliable water supply to reliably grow fresh vegetables for her family to eat and see her grandchildren grow up and live life to the full. No more exhausting treks for water.

Find out more at caweek.org .

With every gift, every prayer, every voice we can stop this climate crisis.

LOCAL EVENTS

CA coffee morning with raffle and home baking, Saturday 9th May, Graham Institute from 10am-noon

CA service, Sunday 10th May, St. Andrew's church

Door to Door envelope collection throughout linkage, 10-16th May

Letter from Stewart

The number of times we have heard the word 'unprecedented' used in recent weeks must be unprecedented! There are other words which, to our surprise, are now in common use, such as, quarantine, lockdown, self-isolation, social distancing, all of which have a rather negative meaning. Although, perhaps having an anxiety-inducing tone, they have a health and wellbeing purpose. There are also Coronavirus and Covid19 which are new additions to our language but quite undesired, however, now that they have entered our vocabulary, they are here to stay.

The phrase 'panic-buying' is not new but perhaps never been used with such regularity nor with such anger. Although panic-buying is not the same as greedy buying. When told we must stay at home for weeks and you have a family, then there is an instinctive anxiety which may cause a bit of panic in getting enough food in the cupboards to survive and also remain 'safe at home' for as long as possible. However, the greed and selfishness of some is evident. Meanwhile the foodbanks (a phrase all too familiar in recent years in the UK) run short.

By the time you receive this, the tone of language may have changed again. The words 'stay at home' may be used in a far more commanding tone and the thoughts of the army or police rationing the trolleys at Tesco does not seem so far-fetched.

We may need to rediscover and resurrect some traditional words which have held people in and through difficult times down the generations: such as hope, compassion, neighbourliness, and faith. Words of encouragement and of kindness are more difficult at a time when we have to keep a distance and therefore have fewer conversations, and we do not even want to bump into anyone during a necessary but quick trip to the shops. So, the old-fashioned telephone comes into its own, as do the recent innovations in social media which can help us keep in touch, exchange greetings, continue to do necessary work and tasks even if from your home while still in your pyjamas.

The other word to hold on to and which we can action is 'prayer'. Whatever our personal form and pattern, this is an enforced but opportune time to pray for our world, for leaders, for our community, our family and ourselves. It is something we can rediscover and as we do it in isolation, we are so aware that we do not pray alone. We are in the company of God, of each other, and what is beautifully called 'The Communion of Saints'.

And it is a time to remember the most common phrase in the whole of scripture, "Do not be afraid!" Words spoken to prophets, to shepherds, and to two women early on an Easter morning are words for us to hear, to hold, and to share as we travel through these unprecedented times.

An ancient Gaelic Blessing

God to enfold you,
God to surround you,
God in your speaking,
God in your thinking.

God in your sleeping,
God in your waking,
God in your watching,

Interim ministry

The meeting of Melrose & Peebles Presbytery in March affirmed the report of the Transition Support Group and drew this period of Interim Ministry to a close in these words:

Presbytery notes that a final report of the Transitional Support Group has been received in respect of the Interim Ministry of Rev Stewart McPherson in the charge of Carllops l/w Kirkurd and Newlands l/w West Linton: St Andrews. The report commends the work of Mr McPherson and the congregations, and concludes that the objectives of the Interim Ministry have been achieved, although the situation has now altered with the planned linking with the Churches of Upper Tweeddale. Presbytery agrees that Mr McPherson remains in the charge until June 2020, to assist the congregations with the move towards the new linking.

For this we are all delighted. Of course, we are aware that does not mean everything is neat and tidy, but that a significant journey has been made to a healthier place. There were plans to have a few meetings, such as our Lenten series on Discovering The Way, which was beginning to explore how we journey forward in our life and faith together in Christian community. However, that stopped short after two well-attended and much appreciated weeks. It was also the intention to hold a few small group meetings and a General Kirk Session meeting, but, yet again, the current situation means these cannot take place in the near future.

But it is pleasing that we reached the stage we did when we did, meaning we can focus on being church in such a drastically different climate. Our call to live out our faith individually and in community is so important as we negotiate our way through this period of our life together which is affecting people across the world.

I would want to say a huge and sincere thank you to all who engaged with and participated in the Interim Ministry process. This made it possible to do this together with some trickiness but also in hope and trust.

Although the intention is for me to leave here in June and be placed elsewhere, obviously this is a little unpredictable at present. However, I am here with you during this time when our main desire is the restoration of a healthy and hope-filled world when supporting one another is vital as we discover different ways to 'love one another'!

Presbytery Plan

The March Newsletter described aspects of the new Presbytery Plan which came into place at the March meeting of Presbytery. Again, much of the early progress has been delayed. However, representatives from our Linkage and from Upper Tweeddale had met to shape a process the week before small gatherings were discouraged. One small group is beginning to look at what a Basis of Linking might look like in formal terms; a group is exploring how a General Kirk Session model might look in the future; and an administrator is coming to help us address how best to administer a new group of six congregations. Some of our work can continue via email, phone conversations, and also, if we manage to figure out how to use it, 'video conferencing'. Many of us will hopefully be learning how to do this. So, while there are more important things to be coping with and worrying about at present, we will take a few small steps forward.

Services, Weddings & Funerals

As well as Church Services being suspended you will be aware that many people are postponing weddings, with some going ahead with only a handful of people present. Obviously, traditional baptisms won't take place either in church for now with families unable to travel and attend. Unfortunately, and with greater sadness, funeral services are being reshaped in this Social Distancing period. As I write, funerals are being restricted to 25 people, with fewer in some circumstances and this is likely to be reduced even more. An undertaker or minister visiting someone's home is now not best practice with much being done by telephone or a few people visiting the Funeral Director's office with stringent hygiene precautions in place. If the situation deteriorates, then it may be that only a very few of the immediate family might be able to attend the crematorium or graveside. It could be restricted even further.

This will without doubt, be one of the most difficult impacts of the current restrictions, even though one which is understandable. However, it will affect our traditional rites of mourning and ways of coping with bereavement. If you or anyone has a concern then please contact the Interim Minister, Stewart.

Communication

It is possible that this Newsletter and future ones will not be hand delivered for the foreseeable future. This would be asking people to leave their homes to deliver it during a period when we are being advised to remain in our own homes, while also risking cross-contamination. It will be available on the church websites where it can be read or printed off by yourself or perhaps by a family member.

Along with this, Stewart has begun a weekly email to members and friends of our congregations. This will include such things as a short reflection, bible readings, prayers, information, intimations, and hopefully a little humour. It does not take the place of our gathering together for Sunday worship, but in the circumstances, offers you help in your own personal devotional life in the knowledge that others are sharing this with you. Already this is a growing list with many saying they appreciate it. So PLEASE, if you would like to receive it then simply let Stewart know. Email him at smcpherson@churchofscotland.org.uk

YouTube & Facebook

On Mothering Sunday, the first day our churches were closed for worship, Stewart posted a short reflection online while standing in the manse garden with St Andrew's Church in the background. Although not promising this to be frequent or highly polished, the intention is that it will be offered as another means of keeping in touch and enabling our faith to be encouraged during this time. It was also viewed by many people beyond the congregations. There is a link on the St Andrew's Website or if you are on Facebook you will be able to see it. Again, you could email Stewart and ask for the link so you can view it.



Newlands Community Development Trust (NCDT)

NCDT is delighted to congratulate our fellow director, Joe Fernand, on his recent award for Citizen Of The Year 2019. Joe was nominated for the wealth of activities he undertakes and drives in our local community both as part of the Board of NCDT and in his roles in the Newlands Youth Group and many other local charitable youth & educational bodies. He is a very deserving winner.

In other business, NCDT continues to be frustrated in it's attempts to negotiate with SBC for an increase in the hire rates that SBC pay for their hire of the Newlands Centre for use by Newlands Primary School. After 3 years of negotiations that have not provided a satisfactory outcome for the Centre SBC have now decided to conduct a review (over a six month period) of their use of the Newlands Centre in it's role supporting the Newlands Primary School curriculum delivery. It goes without saying that the Board of NCDT, who manage the Centre, are very frustrated at this further delay in reaching an improved financial deal for the Centre and see SBC paying a fair hire rate for the services provided. We will keep you updated on the outcome of that review in due course. In the meantime, NCDT is reviewing its business plan to ensure the sustainability of the Centre for the community in the event that SBC withdraw from using the Centre for the School, or if an improved financial package cannot be agreed.

As always, we make a plea to any interested parents with children at the school or anyone who has a vested interest in keeping the business of the Centre going, please consider joining our Board. We're all volunteers giving up some time for a very good cause in our local community.

Please contact Sue by email at secretary@newlandscdt.org.uk or call 07730 556086.

Lamancha, Newlands and Kirkurd Community Council



All Community Council meetings have been **cancelled until further notice** due to the ongoing situation regarding the Covid-19 virus. Should you need to contact the Community Council, please email LNKCCChair@gmail.com.

With the arrival of COVID-19, the Newlands Centre at Romano Bridge is working to bring volunteers together with the most vulnerable in our Community who will require additional support during any periods of enforced isolation and during this very worrying time for all.

If you are in the position of wanting to engage with friends and family online and are not sure how to do it, check out the Centre's Surf Club which has now gone to an online format.

Volunteer Registration, Requests for Support and Surf Club are all available via the Centre Website. <https://newlandscentre.org.uk/>

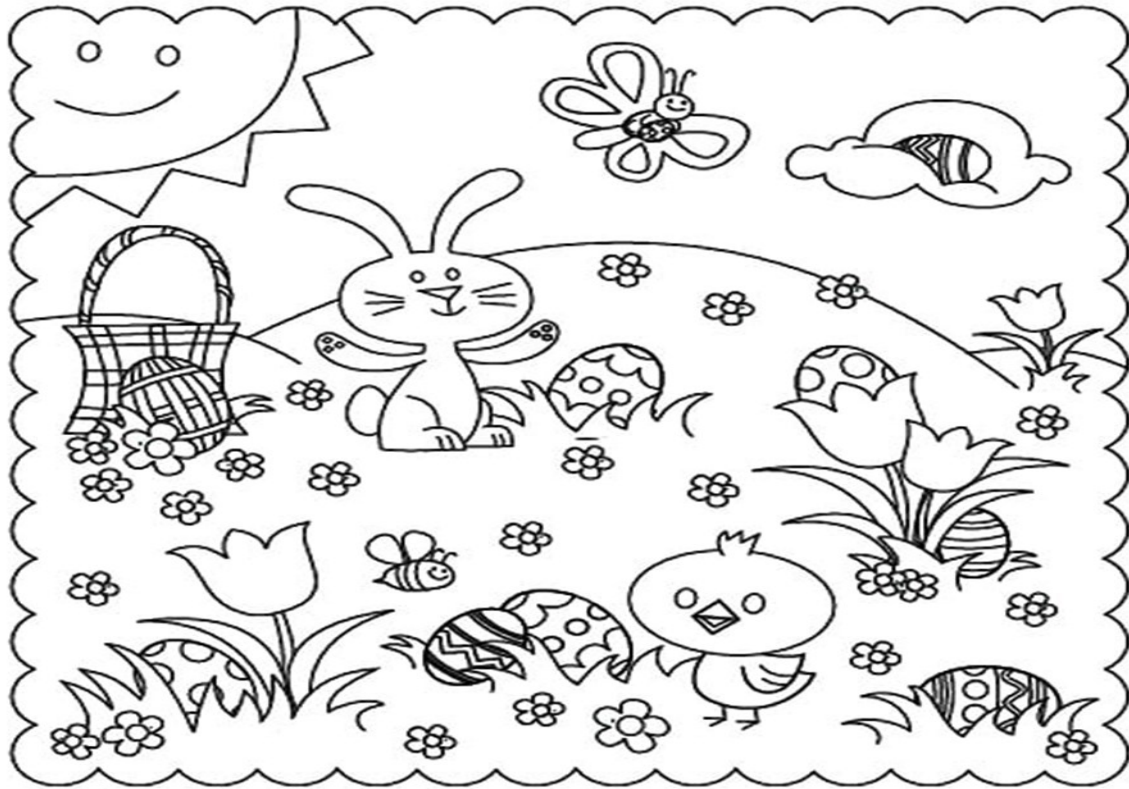
THE OPEN GATE

Due to concerns about the corona virus, for the next 3 months, the Open Gate will not have a physical presence in Newlands Centre on Friday afternoons .

However, we will now make ourselves available throughout the week for counselling support by telephone, using our existing Open Gate contact **07535 898 244**.

These are stressful times, so please use this resource if you feel that you are needing a bit of help in coping.

Easter Egg Hunt
How many Easter eggs can you find?



MOTHERS & TODDLERS

We are off for the Easter Holidays.

We hope to resume after the holidays, however, this all depends on the continuing situation associated with the Covid-19 Virus.

We shall continue to monitor the situation.

We meet every Thursday morning in

Netherurd Hall

10:00 - 11:30

A very warm welcome awaits any new member who would like to join us.

Mums, Dads, Grannies, Grandads, Carers, babies & toddlers.

Adults £2

Children 50p

We wish everyone a Happy Easter and hope you all keep safe and well.

Peggy 01968 682231

Pat 01721 752205

At the March meeting members and friends enjoyed an excellent presentation, 'Dawyck – A jewel in Scotland's Crown', with Graham Stewart, curator of Dawyck Botanic Garden. Graham gave a brief history of the garden and previous owners. He also gave an insight to the constant work being carried out to maintain the garden and developing it as a carbon neutral sight. This was all highlighted with a wonderful visual display.

Peggy Wills proposed a very well deserved vote of thanks.

Competitions:

Bowl Spring Bulbs	1 st . Peggy Wills
	2 nd . Margaret Adamson
Spring Photograph	1 st . Margaret Adamson
	2 nd . Elma Noble

Wednesday 1st. April AGM

Wednesday 6th. May Outing all depending on the situation with Covid 19–Virus

Netherurd Memorial Hall

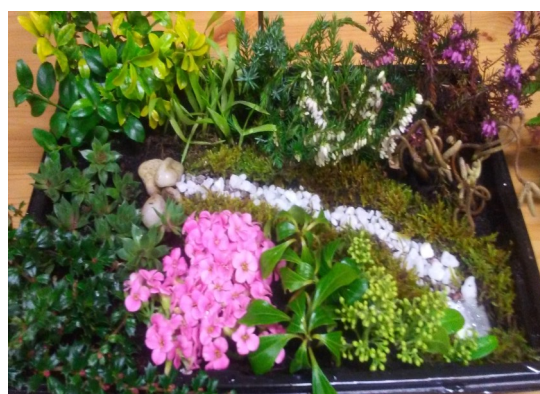
The AGM for the hall will be held in late May, dependent on the situation with the Covid 19 – Virus.

The hall is a valuable community asset. It is looked after by a committee of volunteers. However, as members are getting older and less able, we are always looking for new friends and members to help out.

NEWLANDS SWI

Peeblesshire Federation of 9 WI groups had a really enjoyable bulb show on the 14th March at the Newlands Centre in spite of all those lovely teas with cakes galore off the menu due to the virus. New friendships were made and old friends were reunited. The Easter display tables were just lovely and I'm glad that I wasn't a judge as there wasn't much between the points. Well done ladies. Thanks are due to Ilka from Newlands WI for the photographs.

Cilla Davidson



LAMANCHA COMMUNITY **hub**

YOGA

Tuesday evenings with Eileen

Thursday mornings with Linda

NEW!!! PILATES

Friday mornings with Kirsten

FRENCH

Wednesday mornings with Yvonne

Knit and/or natter for ladies and gents

Wednesday mornings from 11 am till 1 pm.

Community café open for soup, cakes, coffee, etc.

ALSO AVAILABLE: FIRST AID COURSES

***** COMING SOON *****

First Aid course for dogs given by vet Aileen.

Saturday, 21st March, 10.30 am. £ 2 per person for Hub funds.

The BBQ hut is for all weathers and as we have lanterns why not treat the kids to a BBQ in the dark before summer appears. Cost £15 to hire for as long as it takes.



The hall has central heating and is available for special events such as birthdays. Contact us on info@lamanchahub.org.uk

APOLOGIES

***ALL CLASSES
CANCELLED DUE
TO THE CORONA
VIRUS!***

Run by the Lamancha & District Community Association, a charity registered in Scotland, no SCO35299 & a company limited by guarantee registered in Scotland, no SC263766. Reg. office is: Old School House, Old Moffat Road, Lamancha, Peeblesshire EH46 7BD

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Adventurers Mrs Jean Howat and Mrs Ilka Roehe

Scottish Charity Number SCO 18087



Newlands and Kirkurd Parish Church

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