

*Kirkurd & Newlands*

*Parish Magazine*



*December 2020 | January 2021*

## *Zoom Sunday Services*

*December 2020*

*\* Service planned in KN Church*

<i>Date</i>	<i>Carlops</i>	<i>Kirkurd &amp; Newlands</i>	<i>West Linton</i>
06 December*	Rev N. Norman	D. Henderson-H.	D. Henderson-H.
13 December	S. Livingstone	Rev N. Norman	Rev N. Norman
20 December*	Rev N. Norman	D. Henderson-H.	Steven Whalley
27 December	Rev C. Levison	Mary McElroy	Kevin Scott
03 January*	tbc.	D. Henderson-H.	tbc.



### **Christmas Services**

- 6 December, 10am** Christmas Gift Service in church. Gifts for children from newborns to 18 year olds will be distributed in the Borders via the Salvation Army. New gifts should be brought to the service unwrapped (wrapping paper is appreciated) or can be handed in to Jean Howat at Stoneyknowe before 6 December.
- 13 December 10am** Zoom Service
- 20 December 10am** Christmas Service in church.
- 24 December 11.30pm** Watchnight Service via Zoom
- 25 December 11.30am** Christmas Day Service via Zoom

### **Zoom links to church services**

We are currently holding some of our services in church with all the necessary distancing measures and the other services via Zoom. If you would like to be added to the mailing list for the weekly Zoom links **AND** if you would like to attend a service in church please contact Jean Howat [howatjean@gmail.com](mailto:howatjean@gmail.com)

While places are limited for the church services, we are always happy to welcome anyone who wishes to come, providing we know **in advance** that you want to attend so that we can allocate you a seat. There is unlimited space for our Zoom services so you are warmly invited to join us for any of these!

### ***CHURCH FINANCES***

It will come as no surprise to anyone to hear that our church finances have been badly hit by Coronavirus. In particular, we have had no income from the regular Sunday plate offerings since March. As a result, it seems likely that our deficit for 2020 will be around £5500. Fortunately, we have been able to draw on reserves in our deposit account to plug the gap – but this cannot go on for ever!

We are enormously grateful to all those members of the congregation who have increased their contributions to Kirkurd & Newlands church through monthly Standing Orders, or given through cheques or other direct payments into our account. This is now our main source of income. Any further donations would be hugely appreciated – they can be made to Kirkurd & Newlands Church, account number 00559263, Sort Code 80-09-39.

David Howat, Treasurer

### **Plans for the future**

Following much discussion we have now drawn up more detailed plans for joining our linkage – Carlops, Kirkurd and Newlands and West Linton – with Upper Tweeddale (Broughton, Skirling and Tweedsmuir). We have discussed issues such as the role of a minister in the new linkage, the organisation of meetings and the financial arrangements. The three Kirk Sessions of our current linkage will be meeting to approve this formally before the end of November.

Unfortunately, due to the current restrictions, we are not able to hold a congregational meeting in the church. Therefore, the document, which outlines the basis of linkage together with a statement of explanation, will be sent out to all members and adherents of the church and they will have the chance to ask questions about it. Once all these questions have been answered voting papers will be sent out to seek approval for the linking of our parishes with those of Upper Tweeddale. After that we will be able to start the process of finding a new minister. If you have any questions contact Jean Howat. [howatjean@gmail.com](mailto:howatjean@gmail.com)

## Advent Message from our Interim Moderator

In Advent we wait and long for Christ and His Kingdom to come. Advent is the season of groaning! Has a minister ever encouraged you to groan before?! The Scriptures tells us there is a place for groaning in our lives. But Christian groaning is not moaning! Rather it is responding to the pain of this world with relentless and expectant hope, like a mother in the pains of childbirth, eagerly anticipating the joyful birth of her child.

*<sup>22-25</sup> All around us we observe a pregnant creation. The difficult times of pain throughout the world are simply birth pangs. But it's not only around us; it's within us. The Spirit of God is arousing us within. We're also feeling the birth pangs. These sterile and barren bodies of ours are yearning for full deliverance. That is why waiting does not diminish us, any more than waiting diminishes a pregnant mother. We are enlarged in the waiting. We, of course, don't see what is enlarging us. But the longer we wait, the larger we become, and the more joyful our expectancy.*

*(Romans 8:22-25, The Message)*

Perhaps in 2020 we've been very conscious of a sort of global groaning. Although it has not necessarily been a God directed groaning, the world has *groaned* under the weight of a pandemic. The collective experience of loss and anxiety born out of isolation from one another and the threat to our livelihood and other securities makes advent more relevant to us than ever.

One singer-songwriter commenting on the experience of the pandemic, racial injustice and a divisive US election writes:

*"...this year has reminded us again and again of our mortality, lack of control, and collective brokenness. As 2020 comes to a close, we long—perhaps like never before—for hope, love, joy, and peace."* (Caroline Cobb)

This is what advent is all about - longing, aching and groaning for God to come to us in Christ his Son.

At Christmas we rejoice that a new day has dawned, the Light of the world has come, and he will come again to complete the work he has begun. He will bring a final end to decay and death, sin and sorrow.

May this advent be filled with longing for Christ to bring the hope, love, joy and peace that he alone can give.

**Malcolm**

## **CHRISTIAN AID NEWS** - **LOCUSTS IN ETHIOPIA**

Thanks to funding from the Scottish Government, Christian Aid is working in southern Ethiopia to prevent the further devastation of crops and land by swarms of desert locusts. The region, already impacted by the coronavirus pandemic, will suffer major food insecurity if the swarms are not eradicated. A swarm of 40 million locusts can eat the same amount of food in one day as 35,000 people.

The insects, not seen on this scale for two decades, have been causing problems in the country since June 2019. Locusts thrive on warm temperatures and heavy rainfall. Climate change is enhancing the conditions they need to emerge and flourish.

CA has been supporting farmers living in poverty to battle the locusts, using hand sprayers to kill the young hoppers before they swarm. The near perfect breeding conditions make these local interventions vital. In addition, through Scottish Government funding, we are able to supply farmers with seed so that they can provide food for their families and the wider community.

Robert Higgins, CA Chair

The members of the Flower Show Committee

extend *Seasonal Greetings*

to everyone but especially to all our senior citizens.



Unfortunately our social event could not take place this year due to the virus.

Take care, stay safe and we look forward to meeting you all again in 2021.

Dryna

### ***The Guild***

Though our small Newlands Guild branch has been unable to meet for some time, its been good to read in our regular News Update letters from Head Office online, that the great work of the Church of Scotland Guild continues with its ongoing support of the 6 chosen projects. Some of our larger guilds have managed to hold virtual meetings and activities across the country.

Keep a look-out for the occasional colourful face-mask in the red, blue and white Guild tartan.

# NCDT NEWS

Newlands Activity Centre | Newlands Memorial Hall | Newlands Community Orchard

## Newlands Activity Centre

Manager Neil Clunie and his team of volunteers continue to support Newlands Kids Nursery and After School Club along with Newlands Primary School during these challenging times.

## Newlands Memorial Hall

The decorators are in, the heating system is being commissioned and SBC planning officers will hopefully pay us a visit in the coming weeks to sign off the completion works.

## Newlands Community Orchard

We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to manage the Orchard at Newlands Activity Centre.

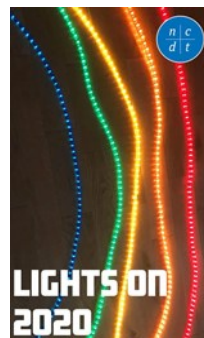
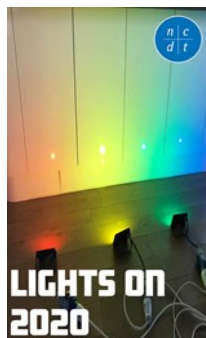


## Lights On 2020

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 restrictions, NCDT are unable to host our annual 'Lights On' event at Newlands Activity Centre in Romanno Bridge – so instead we have decided to go big with a plan to fill the whole area with festive light and cheer.

We want to encourage as many people in the area as possible to commit to displaying a rainbow of lights in their gardens, on their house exterior or in their house windows and create a common theme from Lamancha to Blyth Bridge.

Full details are available on the NCDT website - [www.newlandscdt.org.uk/lights-on-2020](http://www.newlandscdt.org.uk/lights-on-2020)



# Lamancha, Newlands and Kirkurd

## Community Council

### Online Community Council Meetings



**Wednesday 16 December 2020 and Wednesday 20 January 2021 at 7.30pm**

To attend each meeting you will need to register by email [LNKCCChair@gmail.com](mailto:LNKCCChair@gmail.com) with the subject Meeting Registration

**Deadlines for registering is noon on Monday 14 December 2020 and Monday 18 January 2021**

The monthly face-to-face Community Council meetings ceased due to the Covid-19 virus and it is hoped they can resume in the near future.

**Please check the Parish Magazines for details.**

**New Year Resolutions - We're planning ahead!**

Sign up to volunteer for spring 2021 and be part of the local Pathways Network team.

The aim is to carry out maintenance work on one of our local Core Paths, John's Path, which is at the southern end of Blyth Bridge and much enjoyed by our community.

To register your interest email [LNKCCChair@gmail.com](mailto:LNKCCChair@gmail.com) with the subject Path Volunteer

## Scottish Borders Council (SBC)

### Proposed Local Development Plan

SBC has prepared a Proposed Local Development Plan (LDP) to guide the future use and development of land within the Scottish Borders over the next ten years. It sets out a series of policies and provides guidance on the future provision of a range of subjects including housing, business and industrial use, transport, infrastructure and recreation.

**There is a 12 week public consultation period on the proposed LDP which started on 2 November and finishes on 25 January 2021.**

You can access the Proposed LDP and complete the online consultation at [www.scotborders.gov.uk/ldp2](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/ldp2)

If you don't have access to the internet, you can phone the Planning Officers on **01835 825010** and they will help you with questions you may have about the LDP.

All representations must be provided in a written format and cannot be made verbally. You can respond online or alternatively email [localplan@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:localplan@scotborders.gov.uk) or mail **The Forward Planning Team, Corporate Improvement and Economy, Scottish Borders Council, Newtown St Boswells, Melrose TD6 0SA**

## The Story of Four Burning Candles

In a room there were four candles burning. The ambiance was so soft you could hear them talking. The first one said, “I am **PEACE**, however, nobody can keep me lit. I believe I will go out.”

It’s flame rapidly diminishes and goes out completely.

The second one says, “I am **FAITH**. Most of all I am no longer indispensable, so it does not make any sense that I stay lit any longer.”

When it finished talking a breeze softly blew on it putting it out.

Sadly, the third candle spoke in its turn. “I am **LOVE**. I have not gotten the strength to stay lit. People put me aside and don’t understand my importance. They even forget to love those who are nearest to them.”

And waiting no longer it goes out.

Suddenly a child entered the room and saw three candles not burning.

“Why are you not burning? You are supposed to stay lit till the end.” Saying this, the child began to cry.

Then the fourth candle said, “Don’t be afraid! While I am still burning, we can re-light the other candles. I am **HOPE**.”

With shining eyes, the child took the candle of Hope and lit the other candles.

The flame of Hope should never go out from our life and that each of us can maintain **HOPE, FAITH, PEACE and LOVE**.





### **THE OPEN GATE PHONE**

This is just a reminder that the Open Gate Phone is still being kept ready to receive any incoming calls. The Open Gate offers counselling by phone or video-call to anyone who makes contact. The approach used is Solution-Focussed Brief Therapy which is pleasant and effective, and suitable for all sorts of problems and ages. Phone appointments can be arranged for any time throughout the week.

The number remains the same: **07535 898 244**



### **Mothers & Toddlers**

In these difficult times of continued restrictions due to Covid-19, I hope you and your families are all keeping safe and well.

Sadly, we shall be unable to meet at Netherurd Hall for our annual Christmas Party, Santa is staying home to keep safe so he can get out and about on Christmas eve.

Stay safe everyone and have a good Christmas and New Year.

Peggy & Pat



## KIRKURD SWI

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup>. December 7:00p.m.** Christmas meeting via Zoom. Seasonal crafts and recipes. Join in and have your shortbread or mincemeat pies ready with beverage of your choice. A link will be sent to members a few days before the meeting. If anyone else would like to join us please contact Margaret Adamson or Mo Lamb.

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup>. February 7:00p.m.** Meeting via Zoom. Link will be sent a few days before meeting.

The Bulb Show in March will be held virtually. Classes are: bowl of 3 hyacinths any colour, bowl of 10 miniature daffodils any variety, jug of spring flowers, any article of handcraft made during the winter.

*Best wishes to everyone for a safe  
and happy Christmas and  
best wishes for the New Year.*



### Cranberry Cookies

250g butter softened	50g caster sugar	100g light muscovado sugar
150g S.R. flour	225g porridge oats	250g dried cranberries

Method: Oven 180C

Line 2 or 3 baking sheets with non-stick baking paper.

Cream butter and sugars until light and fluffy.

Stir in flour, oats and cranberries. Roll into balls and place well apart on baking sheets.

Flatten slightly with the heel of your hand.

Bake 15 – 20 mins, until the cookies are golden around the edge but still feel soft in the centre.

Cool 5 mins on baking sheet the transfer to cooling rack.

## *Garden Ramblings*

"A year like no other " is a phrase that will surely go down in history. Thank goodness for the gardens we have all been saying. Whether we are serious gardeners or use our outdoor space for relaxing in with a cup of tea or a G and T they have all proved their worth in spades. The community garden at Lamancha is open to all and has been well used this year. A local family have been seen with their visitors having picnics, passing cyclists stopping for a breather and I even saw one lady spend an afternoon in there with what looked like a good book!

At the time of writing (mid November) in my own garden I am amazed that there are still two pink lupins flowering and also a couple of roses. The birds have stripped all the rowan berries and also the rugosa rosehips but never mind, there are plenty slugs. The snowdrops are pushing their way through the bank outside the gate. They appear earlier every year. Climate change is a hot topic but could there be some truth in it?

I have 4 little hens in my garden and they too have been a source of comfort during this very odd year. Here is a photo of Amy my little silkie bantam who sometimes lays eggs and makes me laugh with her punk hairdo.



Remains for me to wish you all a happy Christmas and better things for next year. Special thanks to Ilka for such a well produced magazine and lovely colour photos. (I rather like getting my mag online.)

Cilla Davidson

## *LAMANCHA HUB UPDATE*

We are still running the community cafe for Knit and Natter on Wednesdays from 11am till 12 pm for coffees, bacon rolls and cakes etc.

The mini knitted angels are flourishing and will probably be handed out nearer Christmas.

Hopefully the hall should be open for classes to resume early next year.

Cilla Davidson



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Email: nancy.norman1@googlemail.com      Romanno Bridge  
01968 660677

**Church** Mr David Howat      **Guild President** Mrs M Habeshaw  
**Treasurer** StoneyKnowe      Damside  
Romanno Bridge      Romanno Bridge  
01968 660677      01968 660887

**Adventurers** Mrs Jean Howat and Mrs Ilka Roehe

In order to save costs we will be making increasing use of electronic newsletters. To ensure that you will continue to receive a copy please email Ilka with your email address. [ilka.roehe@btinternet.com](mailto:ilka.roehe@btinternet.com)

If you are not on email and would like to be kept in touch please contact your local elder or Jean Howat to arrange for a paper copy. [howatjean@gmail.com](mailto:howatjean@gmail.com)

Material for the February magazine to [ilka.roehe@btinternet.com](mailto:ilka.roehe@btinternet.com) by Tuesday, 19 January 2021.



Newlands and Kirkurd Parish Church

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

**Scottish Charity Number**

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