

*Newlands & Kirkurd
Parish Magazine*



March 2020

Services March 2020

Date	Carlops	Newlands & Kirkurd	West Linton
01/03	C. Levison	Murray Campbell	M. Campbell
08/03	Mary McElroy	Rev. Stewart McPherson	Rev. Stewart McPherson
15/03	Rev. Stewart McPherson	Kevin Scott	Kevin Scott
22/03	Nancy Norman	Rev. Stewart McPherson	Nancy Norman
29/03	Colin Herd	David Henderson-Howat	Steven Whalley

Elder's Rota: March: Jean & David Henderson-Howat
April: Janette Raeburn & Jim Brown

Church Cleaning: March: Rosie Sim
April: Ilka Roehe



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 April magazine to Ilka by Tuesday, 17th March 2020.

**The next session of Messy Church is on:
Sunday 1st March – Messy Spring
The session is 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



All Age



Service

22nd March, 10.00 am

A Celebration of Love

"We can do no great things on this Earth, only
small things with great love."

Mother Theresa



STATED ANNUAL MEETING

This will take place after the morning service on
March 22nd, 2020. All are welcome to attend.

There is a saying which has popped up in various situations and films in recent times attributed to a variety of people such as John Lennon: “Everything will be okay in the end. If it's not okay, then it's not the end.” Perhaps it has been on my mind, or I have been more susceptible to it, when thinking of this period of Interim Ministry.

Our recent gathering of congregations with the Transition Support group drew together our work and thinking over the past 18 months (copies of the report are available in church for members who would like one) and drew to an end this part of our journey. It indicates the commitment and participation of so many in working through various issues and discovering a different perspective on being and living together within our congregations and across our linkage. It has proven positive and engaging for all who have participated in the process. For some there is a sense of completion, for some a sense of partial completion but a positive step forward, while for some having no definitive conclusion leaves a little anxiety. What is clear is that it has been and remains an important part of our journey: a journey that will continue and require similar commitment and participation always in the hope and trust that there is an aspect which is outwith our control, while accepting that which is.

I, and others, noted such a different atmosphere of relationship and trust and openness at our recent meeting to that which we experienced over a year ago. That is to be recognised and embraced while acknowledgement of this has spread to the wider community, made possible by everyone’s engagement with and commitment to the process. However, we are aware that required energy, openness and a willingness to listen to and trust the voices of others. That does not end with the end of Interim Ministry. If we have learned anything it is that relationships rarely just happen, but have to be formed, nurtured, nourished and given time and space to grow. Just as in a marriage or a family, similarly in church relationships require working at.

This is so important now that we begin to draw this period to a close and enter a new age both locally and nationally in church life. What we do know now is that we begin closer links with our neighbours in Upper Tweeddale with the main focus of ensuring Christian Community lives and thrives in each place while sharing in the sustaining and nourishing and resourcing of that. We have so often begun a new stage of church life beginning by counting the number of clergy and the number of buildings and numbers on the bank balance sheet, whereas here we begin by focussing on Christian community – where it is how it functions and building on that. This is a different way of moving forward under the grace of God and in the footsteps of Jesus, but it would seem to be a first step placed in God’s purpose rather than our own security. That is risky, but exciting.

I will remain with you for a few months yet until June, committed to building the trust and understanding we have developed as we advance conversations across the new linkage. In the meantime, I journey with you in the faith that *“Everything will be okay in the end. If it's not okay, then it's not the end.”*

Our New Presbytery Plan Conversations with Upper Tweeddale

Our conversations with Upper Tweeddale Parishes (Broughton, Skirling, & Tweedsmuir) began as part of Presbytery's desire to explore different possibilities for the future of the church in this part of the Borders. The proposal which was agreed by Presbytery, affirmed by the Presbytery Planning Task Group (at national level) will now be consolidated at the March meeting of Melrose & Peebles Presbytery. This is to create a new 'linkage' of our three congregations with the three congregations in Upper Tweeddale. This means each congregation retains its own Kirk Session, financial responsibility, local governance and mission etc but share a minister and some other aspects. This is different to a *Basis of Union*, when there would be one Kirk Session and one Bank Account while maintaining separate worship and congregational life. It is our desire and intent to shape a future where congregational identity remains while we seek to share resources in a broader, supportive, and fruitful way. As one person said, "*Cherish togetherness; cherish individuality*".

A *Basis of Linking* will be drawn up and agreed over areas such as sharing of a Minister of Word & Sacrament; other staffing requirements; provision of the manse; ways of governance such as Joint Kirk Session meetings; Creating a Parish Profile; forming a Nominating Committee and other things.

Most of all it is important to begin to create relationships and see how best we can work together and share resources, while retaining the identity of each community and congregation. To begin this, the Session Clerks from all the churches met along with myself and the Interim Moderator of Upper Tweeddale, Calum MacDougal. At this meeting we simply shared such things as each other's story, a little about each congregation, how our Kirk Sessions functioned, and how Worship Leaders were utilised. This really was a 'getting to know you' gathering. We arranged a follow up meeting which, unfortunately, was postponed due to the snow on the chosen evening, so have rearranged that for early in March.

The idea is that we will be involving people from across the congregations in working towards this new partnership and keeping everyone informed from the beginning. We did acknowledge that we cannot move at the pace of the most impatient who wants everything done tomorrow, but neither can we wait on the most hesitant or we may never move at all. Change, as we have often said, is not easy, is often anxious, but can be enlivening, while it is certainly the inevitable reality we face.

I write this on the day I heard Colin Herd preach in St Andrew's about change, transformation, and transfiguration as something which is at times terrifying, but also the only thing that leads to the fullness of the glory God desires for us. The closer we keep to God in planning, practice and prayer, then we can trust we will be led to the end he has in store for us. "*Everything will be okay in the end. If it's not okay, then it's not the end.*"

Stewart McPherson



Discovering Our Way

A series for Lent based around the film “The Way”

Thursday evenings

7.30 - 09.00 pm, New Church Hall, West Linton

05th March Showing of film “The Way” (till 9.30 pm)

12th March Travellers’ Tales

19th March Travelling Alone

26th March Travelling companions

02nd April Travelling Light

Please feel free to come to any or all of the evenings.

Led by Stewart McPherson & Nick Bowry



I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and
hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the
breeze.

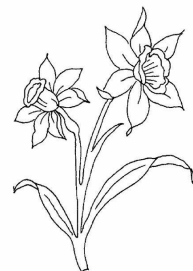
Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending
line

Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly
dance.

The waves beside them danced; but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
A poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company:
I gazed- and gazed- but little thought
What wealth the show to me had
brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.

William Wordsworth



Lamancha, Newlands and Kirkurd Community Council



The next meeting of the Community Council is at 7.30pm on Wednesday 18 March at the Newlands Centre in Romanno Bridge. We would love to see you at the next meeting or you can contact us at lnkccchair@gmail.com.

Cloich Forest Wind Farm Update – since the application was approved in 2016 the ownership of the project has changed and EDF Renewables, the new owners, is undertaking a design review to make the wind farm more productive.

The process is at an early stage and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is underway.

The initial redesign is considering fewer turbines at the increased maximum height of up to 149.9metres.

Representatives from EDF will attend the next Community Council meeting to talk through the project and to answer any+ questions you may have.

THE OPEN GATE

The Open Gate continues to offer a counselling service on Friday afternoons in Newlands Centre. Anyone can make contact by phoning or texting **07535898244**.

We use a solution-based approach which is pleasant and effective, and appropriate for most type of problems which are causing concern or anxiety. Also no months of waiting for an appointment! All sessions are free and confidential. Perhaps you know someone you could encourage to make contact.

THE GUILD

With renewed interest in recognising the benefits of pilgrimage, and the development of pilgrim routes in this country, we in the Guild felt that we would make a pilgrimage of our own. So for our next meeting on Wed 25th March, we are planning to walk to St Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh, with a little help from our bus passes en route. We'll then have a spot of lunch before continuing on our pilgrimage home again.

As all Guilds across the country, we are following this year's theme of 'Companions on the Way', and are always ready to welcome any new person to join our small group of travellers!

Margaret Habeshaw

Collecting used stamps

Please leave used stamps in church or give them to Jean Howat. They can be used to raise money for a charity in Kandy, Sri Lanka, who help women who are victims of sexual violence. Thank you.



Teaching girls in the Atlas Mountains of Morocco

Jean Howat is giving a talk in Carlops Church on Friday 6 March, 7.30pm. Her subject is her work teaching girls in the Atlas mountains of Morocco, where she has made several trips in recent years.

There is no entrance fee, but we will be inviting donations to "Education for all", a charity chosen by Jean. Thank you. Rennie McElroy

NEWLANDS SWI



Due to bad weather in February we had to cancel a well looked forward to talk on Cottage Gardens by local gardener John Bracken but hope to have him back at the start of our new session later this year.

Our next event is our bulb show in the Hub café at Lamanca on March 12th at 7.30. The committee are all on tea rota.

Cilla Davidson

MOTHERS & TODDLERS

**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
The last day before we break for the Easter Holidays is
Thursday 2nd. April**

Peggy 01968 682231

Pat 01721 752205

WEST LINTON & DISTRICT HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

**17th March: Traquair's History of Catholicism
by Lady Catherine Maxwell Stewart & Margaret Fox**

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

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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Scottish Charity Number SCO 18087



Newlands and Kirkurd Parish Church

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



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