

Newlands & Kirkurd Parish Magazine



Christ The Redeemer, Corcovado,

Rio de Janeiro

September 2020

Farewell to Stewart McPherson

Stewart has now concluded his period of interim ministry with us and we will be marking his final service on ***Sunday 6th September*** with a joint Zoom Communion service at 11am.

We have been blessed to have him with us for more than two years, nurturing the three churches, and building up strong links between each one, as well as providing outstanding leadership and guidance on our journey as we make the first steps towards joining the parishes of Upper Tweeddale. With his series of reflections, videos and Zoom services he has also provided inspiration and reassurance during the period of lockdown.

In addition to this he has touched the lives of so many in our parish with his warmth and friendliness at weddings, funerals, Sunday worship and other community events.

He will be missed but we wish him well as he moves on to work in the parish of Jedburgh.

Jean Howat

Reopening of Newlands Church

We are pleased to announce the reopening of Newlands Church for a special pilot service on ***Sunday 13th September at 10am.***

Following detailed risk assessments we have a number of protocols in place to keep everyone safe and to observe social distancing. Therefore if you do want to come to this service you should email Jean Howat in advance at howat-jean@gmail.com and she will send you more information. Masks should be worn.

Depending on the success of this service we will conduct more services in the future on a monthly basis or for special occasions. Meantime the regular weekly services on Zoom will continue to be held. On 13th September you will still be able to access the Zoom services organised by Carlops at 10am and St Andrews West Linton at 11.30am.

We really look forward to seeing some of you for face to face worship on Sunday 13th. Please contact Jean for any further information. Jean Howat 01968 660677

BLYTHSWOOD SHOE BOX APPEAL

We just feel this will be more important than ever this year, so have decided to support this appeal again. As this magazine is not going out to everyone in the district just now, if you can spread the word around your family, friends and neighbours, that would be much appreciated.



It will take the usual form of shoeboxes (**not** the hinged type!!) for all ages, male/female - toiletries, toothpaste/brush, comb/brush, socks/tights, cosy hat/scarf/gloves, underwear, pjs, t.shirt, pens/pencils, notepads/colouring books, etc. small toy (new) sweets (no choc. or loose sweets) etc. It is sometimes nice to include a Christmas/Greeting card from 'a friend in Scotland'.

Please do not feel you have to fill a box - loose donations will be welcome and will be incorporated.

Blythswood have been on the go for many years, work all the year round, have a base in many of the Eastern European Countries, so please be assured, these donations will go directly to the right destinations!! I should have the official leaflets next month, as the delivery date is usually early Nov.



Thank you so much, and please make contact with me if you wish any other info.

Fay - 660374



Harvest Supper - to be postponed
We are looking forward to seeing you all
next year - October 2021.

Mary Swan Howie MBE

22/05/1936 - 01/06/2020



Peeblesshire was in mourning after the sad loss on 1st June 2020 of local stalwart Mary Howie MBE after a short illness.

Mary was born and brought up at the Grange Farm, Kirkcaldy, the second of four children to Robert and Peggie Howie. She attended the local Kirkcaldy schools where she excelled at sport, as Captain of the school Hockey team and Scottish Schools Champion at javelin and discus. On leaving school Mary had only one ambition, which was to be a livestock farmer. She worked for 6 months at Hatton Farm, Angus with Jim Findlay, where she caught “the sheep bug”. At the Scottish Agricultural College her hard work and enthusiasm for science won her a Scottish Diploma in Agriculture with distinction, along with the Wardlaw Ramsay prize for the most outstanding student of her year.

She returned home to the Grange after university, but her heart was not in arable farming. Realising Mary’s love of livestock, the family bought Spittal Farm at Carlops where she moved in 1962, crossing the Forth via ferry driving her tractor and trailer. She soon set up a tremendous herd of Galloway Cattle, being a member of the Galloway Cattle Society since 1959, was a past Vice President (first, and to date the only, female vice president of the society) always very willing to help at shows or sales and promote the breed, and an avid supporter of recording with the breed. In 2005 she sponsored Mr Iain Houstoun’s dissertation which aimed to “investigate the scope for the Galloway breed to become involved more widely in performance recording and to establish whether the introduction of maternal EBV’s would increase the commercial sustainability of the Galloway breed”. Her theory being, “Vision without action is a dream, Action without vision is a nightmare”. She stocked the Spittal hill with Blackface sheep. Mary was not one to follow any fashion. Her cattle and sheep had to be commercial and have the ability to thrive and survive on a hill farm environment. Temperament of every animal bred at Spittal was a big part of Mary’s breeding policy and every heifer either sold or retained for breeding at Spittal had to be halter trained.

Mary enjoyed nothing better than making her way to Castle Douglas for the 6 monthly Galloway cattle sales or a trip to the Great Yorkshire show. She loved to offer her opinion and give advice to those young breeders who loved her enthusiasm and dedication.

In 2000 Mary sold Spittal and retired to Blyth Bridge, with a large garden being her main priority, although she never really retired from farming. Every day she could be found at a neighbouring farm where she loved to lend a hand, and in the Spring she finished her 70th lambing. She loved to take a young raw student under her wing and pass on her old and trusted ways.

Mary had a strong faith and enjoyed looking after Newland Church garden. She also took part enthusiastically in any Community projects.

She was a member of Peebles show and regularly attended the Peeblesshire Monitor Farm meetings; Peebles Discussion Society was also a meeting she would never miss. Mary was an Honorary Vice President of Peebles show where she organised the Golden Fleece qualifier after persuading and cajoling over 50 local farmers to enter a fleece. Her tent became the star attraction where she educated local kids about how wool and farming had evolved over the years.

In 2001 Mary received an MBE for services to Agriculture, the Community and Education.

She was a pivotal volunteer and supporter of RHET in the Lothian and surrounding areas. She made many school visits and had a great ability to pass on her knowledge with her homemade display boards and pictures, which were fascinating to the children. She regularly conducted groups of school children around the Royal Highland Show at Ingliston.

Mary was gifted in her ability to pass on her experience in Agriculture to a younger audience. She firmly believed that RHET's work in educating the next generation in Agriculture practices would go a long way to help them support British Farming in the future.

Mary was a great supporter of the local Blyth Bridge Tractor runs which worked tirelessly to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Care and Breast Cancer. Only last year in her 83rd year she drove her trusted Massey Ferguson 35 tractor around Peeblesshire in the pouring rain without a cab for shelter. It was a fitting tribute to Mary when the Blyth Bridge Tractor group lined up their tractors along the local green to say farewell on Mary's final journey, passing her former haunts, especially her beloved Spittal.

Mary is survived by her brother Archie and sister Janet, nieces and nephews.

Newsletter article from Stewart

I will have many abiding memories of my time with you at Kirkurd & Newlands Church including that of the lovely outdoor Celtic Service last year in the ruins of the old sanctuary. The weather was a little unpredictable, but a good number of us gathered in that sacred space to offer worship in the continued tradition of those gone before us. We then followed our outdoor service with an indoor picnic in the church as the potential afternoon drizzle began to materialise.



The afternoon symbolised for me so many aspects of our faith journey. The remains of what once was linked to the present by the people walking through the field along the road and inside to put the kettle on. Blessed spaces hewn from rocks and moulded by landscape held together by relationships of people from past to present and the varied places from which we had come and gathered. It illustrated the changing continuity or continuous changing nature of church throughout the generations. And this is experienced once again, as I take my leave, we have been meeting via Zoom to worship and beginning the careful and slightly anxious re-opening of our sanctuaries to physically gather together. Although I go with many good memories there is also that sense of something unfinished or incomplete and unable to be present with you again in that lovely space.

However, the story of church is always one of being on the move, ever transitioning to something other than it was. Yet ever running through it is that thread of faith, grounding of hope, and the passionate nature of love.

My time with you has been part of that journey during which we have experienced some awkward and some blessed conversations, some difficult and some delightful encounters as we picked through the remains of what was to begin to shape a new future. But that is something which is never really complete, and the continuing re-forming lies in your hands.

But I have learned much from you, not least that sense of true hospitality. Not just about serving a good cup of tea and excellent cake, but that natural welcoming into your heart and hearth people who are perhaps lost and broken and seeking to rebuild their lives. And you do that with a natural grace and openness which has shaped who you are and lives out something of the nature of Christ.

These last months of Lockdown have been difficult for many if not all of us as we have had to put much of life on hold including aspects of church life. However, this echoes something of the story of people of old journeying through wilderness, and of Jesus' time in the desert, and the present church in this new landscape wondering where it will arrive and when. God places this reshaping and rebuilding in our hands as he always has before while never leaving us alone but ever journeying with us.

My old Church History lecturer the late Gavin Whyte once said:

“In the history of the church the old may suddenly become the new, and the new may suddenly become the old. What seemed to be permanent often fades away, and what seems to have faded is there after all. The church is pushed this way and that by waves and by winds, and yet it never quite goes on the rocks.”

In 1914, when asked where the church stood, Henry Scott Holland said that the church does not stand at all, but “moves and pushes and slides and staggers and falls and gets up again, and stumbles on and presses forward and falls into the right position after all.” That is the story of the church.

The structures which embrace and embody the community of faith will always have a sense of transience about them. But remember that there are three things that do last for ever ...

“faith, hope and love”.



Carlops Church Events

7.30pm, Friday 4 September, a Zoom meeting

Please join us for an evening with

Dr Malcolm Alexander

author of

'Close to Where the Heart Gives Out:

A Year in the Life of an Orkney Doctor'

Dr Alexander will talk for 30 minutes followed by an opportunity for questions and a quirky quiz.

Please email Sophie Pilgrim who will send you the link sophiepilgrim@btinternet.com

Malcolm has many 5 star reviews on Amazon. Here is the recommendation of one of his readers: *A beautiful, well told story that gently draws you in to life in Eday and leaves you wanting to hear more. This wonderfully descriptive tale entwines you in island life and the dramas that unfold. Long after having finished reading, I'm still day-dreaming about cutting peat and cabbages from the Laird's garden.*

There is no charge for this event, but Malcolm would welcome any donations to the Lade Centre which provides support to people requiring palliative care and their families on the Isle of Bute. BACS transfer to Bank of Scotland: sort **80 22 60** account **17402164**. Or cheques to **Lade Centre, 58 Ladeside Street, Rothesay, Isle of Bute PA20 0DJ**.

THE OPEN GATE PHONE

This is just a reminder that the **Open Gate** Phone is still being kept charged up, ready to receive any incoming calls. Although we are no longer available as a Friday afternoon session at Newlands Centre, **The Open Gate** is continuing to offer counselling by phone to anyone who makes contact. The approach used is Solution-Focussed Brief Therapy which doesn't need face-to-face contact to help.

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

Phone appointments can be arranged for any time throughout the week to suit both client and therapist.

Please let folk in our community know about this resource which can be helpful for all sorts of problems and for all sorts of age-groups.

Margaret Habeshaw



LNKCC & NCDT through Covid-19 lockdown.

Following the lockdown SBC gave the community council (LNKCC) a £1,000 grant to assist with a local response to the pandemic. As LNKCC is not a body that actually provides tangible services to the community it was agreed that NCDT would set up the LNK Resilient Community Hub based at Newlands Activity Centre and the funds were transferred to NCDT to deliver the response.

Flyers were printed to drop through doors to advise the community of the support that was being set up and later followed by an 0800 line being set up to take calls. Volunteers were invited to Sign Up to assist with delivering shopping and medical supplies for those who were ill, who could not get to the shops or who were shielding.

The SignUp volunteers responded to a steady stream of requests for shopping trips, medication up-lifts, hospital transport, IT support and often times simply a friendly voice or piece of advice.

Since lockdown weekly fruit & veg boxes have been delivered to families and households in need in our community. Approx. 14 per week have been provided which to date has cost approx. £2,300.

The LNK Resilient Community Hub will stay in place as Phase 3 is extended by the UK and Scottish Governments - as lockdown eases and the furlough schemes ramp down then more people are likely to find themselves in financial difficulty and in need of support.

Anyone locally needing support can either contact the LNK Resilient Community Hub on 0800 121 6212 or get in touch with SBC on 0300 100 1800 (and select Option 7).

Support has also been provided to local school children who required access to laptops at home to be able to do their home schooling and online support with using them has also been provided.

Funds were also applied for via NCDT to provide additional facilities to assist our community in exiting lockdown and to contribute to health and wellbeing in a safe controlled environment.

Three outdoor fitness frames have been installed on the sports field at the rear of Newlands Activity Centre for general use plus ropes and poles have been purchased to section off areas of the field to allow multiple groups or families to use the field for outdoor activities.

Funds are also being applied for to install outdoor gentle fitness equipment for older and less able members of the community to participate in individual or group fitness activities.

A community orchard has been planted within the grounds of Newlands Activity Centre, again for general access but with the hope that members of the community will adopt a tree and look after it, whether for themselves or in memory of a loved one. We have planted a range of fruit trees and bushes and would be delighted if anyone locally would like to assist in maintaining the area around the orchard so that it remains in good condition.

NCDT and the Centre Management Team have been very busy working with SBC, Newlands Primary School and Newlands Kids to prepare for the reopening of the Primary School, Nursery and After School Club. We are pleased to note that Newlands Kids Nursery has a very healthy number of registered children for 2020/21 and is now offering a five-day weekday service.



NCDT and the Centre Management Teams' focus is now on how we move forward and introduce new online activities and events plus accommodate activities which are Covid-safe and allow for our regular community clubs and classes to get back into the Centre and Centre grounds safely.

Much activity has been going on to support the community through the crisis and we are now spearheading activity across the area as many of the small groups that set up to respond to Covid-19 are closing down and transferring service requests to the LNKCC Resilient Community Hub and NCDT.

Separately, NCDT would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank both Jane Dickson and Jayne Adamson for all their hard work on behalf of NCDT over the years. We wish them both all the best.

Joe Fernand
NCDT Community Development
joef@newlandscdt.org.uk

Lamancha, Newlands and Kirkurd Community Council



Online Community Council Meeting

Wednesday 16 September 2020 at 7.30pm

To attend the meeting you will need to register by email
LNKCCChair@gmail.com with the subject AGM registration.

Deadline for registering is noon on Monday 14 September 2020.

One of the topics to be discussed is the increase in HGV traffic in Blyth Bridge. 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.

KIRKURD SWI



Kirkurd SWI usually meets on the first Wednesday of the month from October to April, in Netherurd Hall at 7:30p.m.

However, at the time of writing, due to current government guidelines, it has been decided to postpone all meetings until further notice.

We may try to have the AGM via Zoom sometime in October.

Members will be contacted with a date and the link sent out.

Points prizes for 2019 – 2020: 1st. Margaret Adamson

2nd. Equal Mo Lamb & Sheila Voas

Keep safe and well.

POTATO AND COURGETTE BAKE

1onion sliced and cooked until soft in a little butter Grated cheese

Potatoes cooked and sliced Courgettes sliced Tomatoes sliced

Method: Grease a shallow ovenproof dish. Put in a layer of potatoes, then a layer of onion, cover with slices of tomato and courgette. Sprinkle over some cheese. Repeat layers finishing with a good covering of cheese. Bake in fairly hot oven for approx. 30 mins. until hot and bubbling.

MOTHERS & TODDLERS

Cancelled until further notice.

Hope you have enjoyed the summer and are staying safe and well.

Netherurd Memorial Hall

AGM

Thursday 17th. September

7 : 30 p.m.

Social distancing etc. will be observed.

This meeting is open to all hall users and anyone who has an interest in the future of the hall. Please come along and support this vital community resource.

NEWLANDS WI



On August 19th we decided to hold an outdoor meeting in the garden at Lamancha Hub and were blessed as the rain kept off and the sun shone! Nearly all were able to attend which was nice as we hadn't seen each other for what seemed ages.

We obviously couldn't make any plans until we hear from HQ but have provisionally decided to hold a quiz night in October.

Ideas were mooted as to what we could do over the long winter months and Fay suggested we might like to help the charity Blythswood Care by filling a shoe box or doing a bit of knitting of scarves and hats as this year more than ever our neighbouring countries such as Romania will benefit. Fay will collect boxes and part goods. You don't have to fill a box.

Cilla Davidson

Garden Ramblings

Late August now and the first signs of Autumn appearing here in Lamancha. My favourite rose Rosa Rugosa has rosehips and the rowan tree is heavy with berries. Where are the starlings who normally scoff the lot before they ripen I wonder?

The lilac and white Phlox are coming into their own so much so that the white one could be split up for next year.



The little white flowers of Oxeye Daisies and Feverfew are over now but more than made up for by Leucanthemum with its large white daisies which seem to glow in the fading evening light. Well worth a place in any garden.

Have your Buddleia been slow this year? Mine have and are just flowering now with very few butterflies as of now but hope for more in September. I have just seen a baby robin and two baby wrens so I'm wondering if they have had two broods this year.

Now is the time to be sending in my bulb order. I always enjoy doing this. I have just cleared an old shrub border with help from hubby and I have planted a few new shrubs so there is plenty space for daffodils and tulips and perhaps I will transfer some snowdrops too if I can find the bulbs!

Good luck with your own gardens. What a godsend they have been this year.

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.

APOLOGIES

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

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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Please contact your elder or Ilka Roehe by email if you would like a digital copy or large-print copy of the Parish magazine sent to your email address.

Material for the October magazine to *ilka.roehe@btinternet.com* by Tuesday, 22 September 2020.



Newlands and Kirkurd Parish Church

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



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