

*Kirkurd & Newlands  
Parish Magazine*



*December 2021*

## All Services back in Church

We are now holding weekly services back in church again and everyone is very welcome to attend. Zoom services are still being held at Carlops at 10am and St Andrews West Linton at 11.30am. For more information contact Jean Howat. [howat-jean@gmail.com](mailto:howat-jean@gmail.com) 01968 660677

### *West Tweeddale Parishes*

<i>Date</i>	<i>Carlops</i>	<i>Kirkurd &amp; Newlands</i>	<i>West Linton</i>
05 December 2021	Rev Tony Foley	Mary McElroy	Rev Tony Foley
12 December 2021	Mary McElroy	Rev Tony Foley	Rev Tony Foley
19 December 2021	Rev Chris Levison	Steven Whalley	Steven Whalley
24 December 2021	7pm Carol Service	11.30 pm Watchnight	11.30pm Watchnight
25 December 2021	-	-	Rev Tony Foley
26 December 2021	Murray Campbell	David Howat	Colin Herd

Duty Elders: Fay Young & Rosie Sim

Church Cleaning: Rosie Sim



<i>Date</i>	<i>Broughton</i>	<i>Skirling</i>	<i>Tweedsmuir</i>
05 December 2021	Isobel Hunter	Isobel Hunter	Fiona Burnett
12 December 2021	Fiona Burnett	Fiona Burnett	Peter Worthington
19 December 2021	Peter Worthington	Peter Worthington	Rev Tony Foley
24 December 2021	-	-	Lessons and Carols 6.30 pm
25 December 2021	-	-	-
26 December 2021	Rev Tony Foley	-	-



## **Christmas Services**



**5 December, 10am**

### **Christmas Gift Service**

Gifts for children from newborn 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).



**19 December, 10am**

### **Christmas Nativity Service**



**24 December, 11.30pm**

### **Watchnight Service**

There will be a retiring collection in aid of Afghanistan and also MidAid which supports refugee families in Midlothian.



**25 December, 11am**

### **Christmas Day Service**

St Andrews West Linton

### *What is the greatest gift?*

Well, it finally happened. On October 25<sup>th</sup> at St Andrews in West Linton I was inducted as the minister of the 6 parishes of West Tweeddale. I cannot tell you all how happy I am to be here. My journey away from and back to this area has been a convoluted one but sometimes the journey tells you a lot about your destination. We are all born without choosing to be, to parents we didn't choose, into bodies and within borders we didn't choose but the choices we do decide upon all work to shape the life we make. I am happy to say that I choose to be the minister of West Tweeddale and happily for me you the people and churches of West Tweeddale choose me to be your minister. I don't for one minute imagine that you will all be filling the pews of our churches every Sunday simply because I am now your minister or even that you might believe everything that I believe in or indeed the way that I believe it. But I do want you to know that in as much as I can be of help to you and yours, I will try my best to be here (and there) for each and all of you. I leave you with a poem by Mary Oliver that I think captures what I am trying to say.

*What is the greatest gift?*

*Could it be the world itself - the oceans, the meadow lark,  
the patience of trees in the wind?*

*Could it be love, with its sweet clamour of passion?*

*Something else - something else entirely -  
holds me in thrall.*

*That you have a life that I wonder about  
more than I wonder about my own.*

*That you have a life – courteous, intelligent –  
that I wonder about more than I do my own.*

*That you have a soul – your own, no one else's  
that I wonder about  
more than I do my own.*

*So, I find my soul clapping its hands for yours  
more than my own,*

*Peace,*

*Tony*

## *The Weight Of a Snowflake*

By Joseph Jaworski



“Tell me the weight of a snowflake”, said the robin to the dove.

“Why, it weighs nothing at all,” replied the dove.

“In that case,” the robin went on, “I must tell you a marvelous story. I was sitting on a branch of a fir tree, close to its trunk,” the robin began, “when snow began to fall...not heavily, not in a raging blizzard, no just like a dream without any violence. Since I did not have anything better to do, I counted the snowflakes settling on the needles and twigs of my branch. I reached the number 3,741,952. Then when the 3,741,953 snowflake dropped onto the branch weighing nothing as you say, the branch suddenly broke off.”

With that the robin flew away.

The dove thought about the story and said to herself, “I sometimes think that all my efforts and the little I can do make no difference. We might think they are nothing at all, but if we put all our efforts together,

great things are possible.”



*Merry Christmas*

*May the peace and blessings*

*Of Christmas be yours;*

*And may the coming year*

*Be filled with happiness.*



“**Martyn Blissitt**, of Craigmur, was awarded an OBE in the New Years Honours List in 2019 for services to Animal Health. He was invested at Windsor Castle on Tuesday 16th November following a delay due to the Covid Pandemic. Martyn has worked in state veterinary medicine since 1990 and has been a veterinary advisor to the Scottish Government since 1997 where his achievements include producing evidence to support a successful application for officially TB free status for Scotland and veterinary advice to tackle the 2001 Foot and Mouth disease outbreak.”

*Sheila Voas*

### LAMANCHA COMMUNITY HUB

Games night every Friday from 7pm. All welcome. Closed for the Festive period from 17th Dec until the 7th January.

Cafe on Wednesdays from 10 till 2 closing on 22nd December for the winter break and re-opening on Wednesday 2nd February.

Yoga with Linda in December. Thursday and Friday mornings from 9am. Closing for Christmas and New Year from 17th December.

SWI on 8th December at 7.30 in the cafe. All welcome.

Rooms are available for hire. Email [info@lamanchahub.org.uk](mailto:info@lamanchahub.org.uk)



Cilla Davidson



## **Show Your Heart for Refugees and Asylum Seekers in the UK**

The Faith Action Forum of the Church of Scotland in its most recent update of 10<sup>th</sup> November has drawn attention to the urgent need for church members to be aware of some new legislation currently being put before the UK Parliament, in The Nationality and Borders Bill.

This had its first reading on 6<sup>th</sup> July'21, and will be having its second reading quite soon. We are being urged to show our support in sharing our concerns about the new proposals.

The main key points are;

It will be a criminal offence to knowingly arrive in the UK without permission.

There will be 'regular' and 'irregular' routes. Those arriving by an irregular route will either be sent back to the nearest 'safe' country through which they passed, or allowed to stay only temporarily with limited family reunion rights and with limited access to benefits.

Reception Centres will be set up for those asylum-seekers who have been rejected and for those who are waiting for processing.

Various churches, including our Church of Scotland, are urging us to show our support in opposing these changes, and in particular, by contacting our local MPs. Personal letters are seen to be the most effective way of contact, and it is important that your name and address is on the letter.

Margaret Habeshaw will be happy to forward you a copy of the Faith Action Forum update if you have difficulty finding it from the Church of Scotland website. This gives guidance on how to write an effective letter, and also details of the Orange Heart campaign.

Our Guild members are currently looking at ways in which we could support some local churches in their support of families being relocated into Midlothian from Afghanistan.

M Habeshaw



## Got a problem?

Stressed? Anxious? Depressed?  
Parenting difficulties? Relationship  
issues? Work problems? Weight  
problem?

Trouble at school/college? Etc.

**PHONE THE OPEN GATE**  
**07535 898 244**

This service is free and confidential,  
and can help quickly and pleasantly, with  
Solution focussed Brief Therapy.

Phone or text to ask for an early phone  
appointment.

The line is available every day.



**GO FOR IT**

Funding Change in Church and Community



Lamancha, Newlands and Kirkurd  
Community Council...



*...would like to wish everyone a Merry  
Christmas and a very Happy New Year*

**NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR 2022**

We need someone to produce the minutes of our meetings. We meet nine months of the year (no meetings July, August and December) and our AGM in May means there are ten meetings. We are offering an honorarium of **£10 per meeting which is £100 a year.**

The meetings are interesting and if you would like to know more, please email [lnkccchair@gmail.com](mailto:lnkccchair@gmail.com) with the subject heading Minute Secretary.

The next meeting will be online at **7.30pm on  
Wednesday 19 January 2022**

To attend, please email [lnkccchair@gmail.com](mailto:lnkccchair@gmail.com) by noon on Monday 17 January with the subject heading Meeting Registration



**We have a new Facebook page which  
will keep you up to date on meetings  
and local issues**

How many flowers does a bee visit to make 1 lb of honey?

At the November meeting, Luis Molero, lead bee inspector for the Scottish Bee Inspectorate, gave a fascinating presentation about honey bees. He explained the life cycle of the honey bee and of the threats to bees from virus and other predators and how this could impact on food production worldwide.

Everyone enjoyed sampling the various types of honey which he had brought.

**1<sup>st</sup>. December** Practical Night Christmas door wreaths and swags.

A short EGM will be held at the start of the meeting.

**12<sup>th</sup>. January** Talk from Citizen's Advice

**2<sup>nd</sup>. February** Sara Roberts will talk about her business: Healthy Snack Vending machines.

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup>. December** Peeblesshire Federation SWI, EGM at Newlands Centre, 7:30pm

With best wishes to everyone for a Happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year.

### Chocolate Chestnut Cupcakes

435g. tin chestnut puree                      6 eggs    175g. golden caster sugar

200g. ground almonds                      1 teaspn baking powder.

Topping:

200g. dark chocolate                      generous knob butter                      400ml. double cream

Method: Oven 180C

Line muffin tin with muffin cases approx. 18 or approx. 30 bun tins.

Mash the chestnut puree in a large bowl with a fork.

With an electric whisk, whisk the eggs and sugar until pale and frothy.

Fold half the egg mixture into the chestnut puree to lighten it, then fold in the ground almonds and baking powder.

Gently fold in the rest of the egg mixture, spoon the mixture into the paper cases.

Bake 25 – 30 mins until firm. Allow to cool. (Can be frozen at this stage).

Topping: gently heat all topping ingredients together in a small pan.

Pour into a bowl and allow to cool.

Beat well to thicken the mixture and pipe onto cupcakes.

Decorate as desired.



## *Garden Ramblings*

We are now into the middle of November and still only one night of hard frost this Autumn. Amazing to see rudbeckias still flowering but the bedding plants have had their day by now.

Last week the SWI talk was about winter colour for your outside pots with gardener and grower Joanne Thomson. I now have a new shrub with pink flowers, namely Viburnum "Lisa Rose" which is still in its pot ready to put into the garden in Spring, and it is sitting in the middle of a tub with its pot hidden surrounded by Ivy, violas and cyclamen in red. Underplanted with various bulbs. I also bought two small shrubs of Gaultheria with pink berries. New to me so will see how they do in our area. I still need to do a bit of tidying up with chopping down the crocosmia leaves which go mushy and are difficult to remove later on. The rest can wait till Spring.

Happy Gardening and A Happy New Year.

Cilla Davidson



### *NEWLANDS WI*

At the November meeting Joanne Thomson was warmly welcomed by all to demonstrate how to keep our doorstep planters full of interest over the winter. We were amazed at how many bulbs and plants were squeezed into each pot using the lasagne method, that is planting in layers. Plants grow slower in winter hence more plant space!

Joanne had a few pots "oven ready" for sale so there were a few happy ladies who purchased them. Votes of thanks were given by Yvonne and Marion.

Our next meeting is on the 8th December at 7.30 when local lady Margaret Adamson will host a Christmas wreath making class.

We welcome new members.

Meetings are held in Lamanca Hub cafe.

Cilla Davidson



**Minister for West Tweeddale**

Rev. Dr. Tony Foley

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Mrs. Jean Howat

Stoney Knowe, Romanno Bridge

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**Church** Mr David Howat

**Guild President** Mrs M Habeshaw

**Treasurer** Stoney Knowe

Damside

Romanno Bridge

Romanno Bridge

01968 660677

01968 660887

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

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 January magazine to [ilka.roehe@btinternet.com](mailto:ilka.roehe@btinternet.com) by Tuesday, 21 December 2021.



*Many Thanks to Castle Craig  
for printing this magazine.*



Newlands and Kirkurd Parish Church



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

**Scottish Charity Number**

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