

Kirkurd & Newlands Parish Magazine

February 2022



*If Candlemas Day be fair and bright,
Winter will take another flight.
If Candlemas Day be cloud and rain,
Winter is gone and will not come again.*



*Happy
Candlemas Day*



*The first snowdrops are already standing
like little lamps, their colours of green and
shining white heralding the vitality and
purity of the emerging life of the earth.*

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 01968 660677

West Tweeddale Parishes

<i>Date</i>	<i>Carlops 10 am</i>	<i>Kirkurd & Newlands 10 am</i>	<i>West Linton 11.30 am</i>
06 February 2022	Mary McElroy	Kevin Scott	Mary McElroy
13 February 2022	Rev Tony Foley	David Howat	Rev Tony Foley
20 February 2022	Murray Campbell	Rev Tony Foley Baptism	Murray Campbell
27 February 2022	Rev Chris Levison	Colin Herd	Colin Herd
06 March 2022	Rev Tony Foley	Mary McElroy	Rev Tony Foley

Welcome: Joan White & Stuart Rose

Church Cleaning: Yvonne Ashforth



<i>Date</i>	<i>Broughton 11 am</i>	<i>Skirling 11.30 am</i>	<i>Tweedsmuir 9.30 am</i>
06 February 2022	Rev Tony Foley	Isobel Hunter	Rev Tony Foley
13 February 2022	Peter Worthington	Fiona Burnett	Peter Worthington
20 February 2022	Fiona Burnett	Rev Tony Foley	Julian Birchall
27 February 2022	Rev Tony Foley	Peter Worthington	Rev Tony Foley
06 March 2022	Murray Campbell	Mary McElroy	Isobel Hunter

The Fleas of Ravensbruck

The Apostle Paul was a person who throughout his life and ministry suffered many personal hardships, professional setbacks, physical sickness, and violent persecutions. But he tells us that throughout all these experiences he learned that God can, if we let him, use all things, even the painful, the unpleasant and the unexpected, to bring blessings out of burdens.

In her book *The Hiding Place*, Corrie Ten Boom tells of her family's experience of helping Jewish families to escape from Nazi persecution. Sadly, one of their neighbours informed on the Ten Boom family. The Gestapo later arrested Corrie and her family. Corrie and her sister Betsie were sent to Ravensbruck concentration camp. The barrack block that the sisters were placed in was not only overcrowded but also, flea infested. The overcrowding was difficult but for Corrie and her fellow female prisoners the fleas made life intolerable.

Corrie and Betsie had been able to miraculously smuggle a Bible into the camp. In the Bible, they had read the words "give thanks in all circumstances" [I Thessalonians 5:18]. Betsie decided that this meant thanking God even for the fleas believing that God can use all things for our good. This kind of response was initially too much for Corrie, who said she could not do such a thing. But Betsie insisted, eventually Corrie conceded and prayed to God, thanking Him even for the fleas! Over the next six months a wonderful and curious, thing happened. Corrie and Betsie found that the guards never entered their barracks. This meant that Corrie, Betsie, and the women in their block were spared the humiliating experience of being assaulted by the guards. It also meant that they were able to do the unthinkable, which was to hold Bible studies and prayer meetings in the heart of Ravensbruck concentration camp. Through this small Bible study, countless numbers of women came to faith in Christ. It was only at the end of the war that Corrie discovered why the guards would not enter their barracks: It was because of the fleas!

Friends, not everything that happens to us is God's will for us, but God can, if we let Him, make all things work together for our good. The year ahead of us holds its own blessings and burdens. Continuing economic uncertainties mean that people will face difficult financial challenges. There will also undoubtedly be physical, emotional, and spiritual challenges this year. For some of us the act of "*giving thanks in all [those] circumstances*" might be a step too far. But I want to encourage you that when you face those challenges and "*giving thanks*" is the last thing you want to do, take a moment, and remember *the fleas of Ravensbruck*.

Peace,

Tony

WALK DON'T RUN

Walk, don't run.
That's it.
Walk, don't run.

Slow down, breathe deeply,
and open your eyes because there's
a whole world right here within this one.
The bush doesn't suddenly catch on fire,
it's been burning the whole time.

Moses is simply moving
slowly enough to see it. And when he does,
he takes off his sandals.

Not because
the ground has suddenly become holy,
but because he's just now becoming aware that
the ground has been holy the whole time.

Efficiency is not God's highest goal for your life,
neither is busyness,
or how many things you can get done in one day,
or speed, or even success.

But walking,
which leads to seeing,
now that's something.

That's the invitation for every one of us today,
and everyday, in every conversation, interaction,
event, and moment:
to walk, not run.
And in doing so,
to see a whole world right here within this one.

Join the Lent conversation on Zoom

Lent will soon be upon us and as a group of churches, we will again be hosting Zoom faith conversations centred around the two books over a 6–7-week period. I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to join in the conversation. Our studies are intended to be grace spaces where you get an opportunity to explore not only the story of the crucifixion but also to talk your own understanding of the Christian faith in an unfiltered open context.

The books are ***The Nail - & The Things He Did***. They are both by author Stephen Cottrell. Each book includes 6 stories told in the first person from the perspective of those who were there that week. You can check them out on Amazon. We will be hosting the studies / conversations on separate nights. Each study is built around one of the chapters of a book and lasts approximately 45mins. If you wish you are welcome to join us for one session just to sample what they are like. You can also drop in and out as your schedule allows or you can stick around for the ‘whole 9 yards’. These studies are designed with the hope that they will be of use to you. So why not give it a try. If you are interested, please get in touch with myself, or your Session clerk and we will answer all your questions and queries about times etc.

The Things He Did -

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/Things-He-Did-Story-Holy/dp/0281076235/
ref=sr_1_5?
crid=2L7B8OI29VATG&keywords=stephen+cottrell+books&qid=1643737302
&s](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Things-He-Did-Story-Holy/dp/0281076235/ref=sr_1_5?crid=2L7B8OI29VATG&keywords=stephen+cottrell+books&qid=1643737302&s)

The Nail –

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/Nail-Being-part-Passion/dp/0281066353/
ref=sr_1_11?
crid=2L7B8OI29VATG&keywords=stephen+cottrell+books&qid=1643737750
&s](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Nail-Being-part-Passion/dp/0281066353/ref=sr_1_11?crid=2L7B8OI29VATG&keywords=stephen+cottrell+books&qid=1643737750&s)

Tony

Stated Annual Meeting

Sunday 13 March 2022

This year's stated Annual Meeting of the congregation will take place after the church service on Sunday, 13 March 2022.

An update will be given on the church accounts and other church activities.

All are welcome to attend.

THE OPEN GATE PHONE-LINE

The Open Gate phone is still being kept available at all times for access by those who would like some counselling help for any sort of problem.

This is a free, confidential service, and offers a Solution Focussed Brief Therapy approach which is really helpful in a short time. It can be useful for all ages. Since March '20, instead of a Friday afternoon in Newlands Community Centre, phone appointments can now be arranged for any time to suit throughout the week, and can be either by phone or video-link.

However, no-one has contacted The Open Gate for some weeks.

With so much publicity at present being given to the rise in mental health issues, and the lack of services, it is sad that this available service is not being used as it could be. It is unlikely that there are no children or young people or adults in our area who could do with a bit of help with their anxiety, low mood, or coping with behavioural or relationship difficulties

***So – please help to keep the phone-line in place -
let others know about it.***

TEXT OR PHONE 07535 898 244 to ask for an appointment

Netherurd Memorial Hall

A public meeting was held on 24th. November to discuss the future of the Hall.

Lorna McCullough, Area Manager of the Bridge had been asked, as an independent voice, to chair the meeting.

Martyn Blissitt, chairman of the hall committee, thanked Peggy Wills for all her years of dedication to the hall and to the groups which had used it.

Martyn presented a very full report of the background of the hall, the usage and recent finance.

He stated the committee shared many great memories and much affection for the hall and their decision that the hall is no longer fit for purpose has not been reached lightly.

The purpose of the meeting was to seek support for the committee's unanimous decision to discontinue the use of the hall for which it was originally intended. After some discussion and questions from the floor, MB asked eligible voters to identify themselves by a show of hands.

MB asked if any voters disagreed with the Committee's position and stated aims.
0 votes

MB asked if any voters agreed with the Committee's position and stated aims.
24 votes

The committee will now employ a qualified representative to obtain the Title Deeds and clarify options to move forward.

A public meeting will be held in 2022 once information has been collated.

The Hall AGM will be held in May 2022.

The meeting was brought to a close and all thanked for their attendance.

LAMANCHA COMMUNITY HUB

We are now able to take bookings for classes and birthday parties etc. Favourable rates.

Our popular cafe will be re-opening on Wednesdays from 10am till 2pm on the 2nd February and thereafter every Wednesday for home made soups and rolls etc.

There is a knit and/or natter group also held in the cafe from 11am on Weds. You can be assured of a warm welcome. Masks will still be worn when moving around in the cafe. French class and Yoga classes are back.

Cilla Davidson

Lamancha,
Newlands and
Kirkurd
Community
Council



The next meeting is online at 7.30pm on

Wednesday 16 February 2022

Please register to attend by emailing lnkccchair@gmail.com
by noon on Monday 14 February with the subject heading
Meeting Registration

MINUTE SECRETARY: LNKcc is looking for someone to produce the minutes of our meetings. We meet on nine months of the year (no meetings in July, August and December) and our AGM in May means we hold ten meetings. We can offer an honorarium of **£10 per meeting which is £100 a year**. The meetings are interesting and if you would like to know more, email lnkccchair@gmail.com with the subject heading Minute Secretary.

JOHN'S PATH MAINTENANCE: We are looking for volunteers to help clear the pathway when the weather improves. Interested? Please email with the heading John's Path.

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

KIRKURD SWI

Due to ongoing Covid restrictions the January speaker has been postponed until March.

We met via Zoom, to discuss the Federation Bulb show and our entry for the community effort.

Tuesday 1st. February Sara Roberts talk about her business : healthy snack vending machines.

Tuesday 1st. March Meeting with Citizens Advice

SWEETCORN CHOWDER

1 onion chopped	1oz. Butter	¼ pint milk
11oz.can sweetcorn	1 “ Flour	3oz.Philly cheese
1 ham cube (approx.)	4 “ Bacon chopped and cooked until crispy	

Method:

Sweat onion in butter until soft. Add flour, milk, and approx. 3/4 pint water.

Add stock cube and sweetcorn (drained), and allow to cook for approx. 25 mins.

Add Philly and stir until melted.

Serve topped with crispy bacon.

(a whole stock cube may be too much, adjust to taste)

Garden Ramblings

At the time of writing January is nearly over and I for one am pleased as we have not had much sun this month but today is better and the first snowdrops are in bloom. Seeds are jumping out of the packets but it's a wee bit early for them as some tell you to sow in March. This year I have yellow cosmos to try. A friend gave me some plants last year and they bloomed for months. If you are gardening on a shoestring what better way to get plants ? Even Clematis is easy to grow from seed, especially Tangutica (Old man's beard). The seed heads are fluffy and easily pulled apart. This is a good starter clematis as it is so hardy and has nodding yellow bell shaped flowers in bloom over a long period with the seed heads taking you into Autumn.

Joining a garden group is another good way for meeting like minded people to do a bit of swapping plus getting together to visit other gardens and have some cakes too!

I have been a member of the UK based Cottage Garden Society for many years. Look them up online. Our local Hortie group in West Linton is also a very friendly society and worth checking out.

Cilla Davidson



NEWLANDS SWI

Our next meeting is on **Thursday, 17 February** at the Lamancha Hub cafe at 7pm. The Federation bulb show in March has as its theme "All about recycling". Some ideas are already being mooted. Should be interesting.

A warm welcome extended to old and new members.

Cilla Davidson

Minister for West Tweeddale

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Session Clerk

Mrs. Jean Howat

Stoney Knowe, Romanno Bridge

Tel. 01968 660 677

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Guild President Mrs M Habeshaw

Treasurer StoneyKnowe

Damside

Romanno Bridge

Romanno Bridge

01968 660677

01968 660887

Adventurers Mrs Jean Howat and Mrs Ilka Roehé

Please contact your elder or Ilka Roehé 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 March magazine to ilka.roehé@btinternet.com by Tuesday, 22 February 2022.



Newlands and Kirkurd Parish Church



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

Scottish Charity Number

SCO 18087