

Watching For The Kingfisher by Ann Lewin

*Prayer is like watching for
The kingfisher. All you can do is
Be there where he is like to appear, and
Wait.*

*Often nothing much happens;
There is space, silence and
Expectancy.*

*No visible signs, only the
Knowledge that he's been there
And may come again.*

*Seeing or not seeing cease to matter,
You have been prepared.*

*But when you've almost stopped
Expecting it, a flash of brightness
Gives encouragement.*

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>
07 May 2023	Mary McElroy	Peter Worthington	Mary McElroy
14 May 2023	Rev Tony Foley	David Howat	Rev Tony Foley
21 May 2023	Rev Chris Levison	Rev Tony Foley	Rev Chris Levison
28 May 2023	Rev Tony Foley	Fiona Burnett	Colin Herd
04 June 2023	Patsy Campbell	Kevin Scott	Kevin Scott

Welcome: Janette Raeburn & David Habeshaw

Church Cleaning: Jo Ranson



<i>Date</i>	<i>Broughton 11 am</i>	<i>Skirling 11.30 am</i>	<i>Tweedsmuir 9.30 am</i>
07 May 2023	Rev Tony Foley	Peter Worthington	Rev Tony Foley
14 May 2023	Steven Whalley	David Howat	Steven Whalley
21 May 2023	Fiona Burnett	Rev Tony Foley	Fiona Burnett
28 May 2023	Isobel Hunter	Fiona Burnett	Isobel Hunter
04 June 2023	Rev Tony Foley	Patsy Campbell	Rev Tony Foley

Are you allergic to being ‘present’?

Are you allergic to being ‘present’ or maybe you are addicted to ‘being somewhere else’. Let me explain, have you ever sat at a table trying to talk to someone and found that you’re losing the battle with their mobile phone. You’re trying to look into their eyes, but their eyes keep dipping down to glance at a little screen. You’re trying to talk about this shared reality, but they are busy attending to a virtual reality that is wooing them with differently toned beeping noises at odd intervals. You might find yourself asking; “Is it me? Am I too boring, too threatening, too intense, too in-your-face, too demanding, just too much for you? Maybe the problem is that the little electronic device in your hand offering you a possible future of texted assignments or *Tik-Tok* funny moments or Twittered allegations, a whole fantasy world of potential possibilities. While I am sitting here right in front of you, offering you simple present-tense reality but you seem to be addicted to being somewhere else.

Before we get too self-righteous and resentful about friends, or family members who are *phubbing*^[1] us and who seem to be ‘allergic to being present’, hold your judgment call. Don’t you think that we’re all little like that with God? We all, even the religiously devout, can often be preoccupied with fiddling and fantasizing all the while avoiding eye contact with God. We are behaving as though we are allergic to being present in his presence.

The Roman Catholic priest Henry Nouwen shares of how what he thought of as a life of religious devotion to God was actually a form of avoiding God. He explains that at the root of his “devotion” was a desire to control God, of him trying to control how much access God could have to his life and on what terms He could have it. He goes on to say that during that time what he imagined was his personal struggle to find God, “*God had been trying to find me, to know me, and to love me*”.

Nouwen says, it was only then that he realised that his question was no longer “*How am I to find God?*” but “*How am I to let myself be found by him?*” The question was no longer “*How am I to love God?*” but “*How am I going to let myself be loved by God?*” Like the father in Jesus’ story of the Prodigal son God is looking into the distance for us, longing to ‘see us’ and to celebrate us.

In other words what Jesus came to tell us, in stories like the Prodigal son, is that God is the one who is longing to look into our eyes. So, this week why not put your ‘phone’ down and take time to be *present* in *God’s presence*, let Him look into your eyes, let Him love you.

Peace,

Tony

Phubbing is the practice of ignoring one's companion or companions in order to pay attention to one's phone or other mobile device.

Celebration of Communion

We will celebrate Communion on Sunday **21st May** at 10am

in Newlands Church.

The service will be led by the Rev Tony Foley and everyone is warmly invited to attend.



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 14-20th May



FIGHT POVERTY WITH PEAS?

Publicity this year focuses on Malawi where CA are helping farmers like Esther and Jen to transform their livelihoods using the mighty pigeon pea! This is a drought resistant, soil revitalizing, high protein, low cost, delicious crop. Their families are suffering because of the global crisis. Food, fuel, fertiliser and school fees have doubled in price in the last year. Hard working farmers are seeing their traditional harvests fail as climate change brings increasingly erratic weather. The pigeon pea is proving to be more reliable, profitable crop helping to build happier futures for their children.

Read Esther and Jen's stories on line at www.christianaid.org.uk

CA Activities in the West Tweeddale linkage

There will be no return to traditional door to door collections in the linkage post pandemic.

Alternative ways to donate:

Ideally, online at www.christianaid.org.uk. Your money goes direct to CA with no hidden deductions reducing its value.

If you still prefer to use the traditional CA envelope, these will be available to pick up at Sunday services in May – return to your CA representative.

By post, send personal cheque to CA, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1EL.

CA QUIZ

The theme of this year's popular cryptic paper quiz is Flowers and Plants names – hard copies will be available to pick up in church (optional discretionary donation). Answers are available on request (but not yet!) if you get stuck.

CA Service St.Andrew's Church, Sunday 14th May 1130am. Open invitation. Tony Foley will lead the service. Refreshments and fellowship afterwards.



CARLOPS CHURCH EVENTS



Soup lunch Wednesday 24th May, 12 noon to 1.30pm

Coffee drop-in Saturday 27th May, 10.30-12 noon

SKIRLING CAR BOOT SALE

Sunday afternoon 14th May

Everyone in the enlarged linkage is invited to come. Cars and contents of their boot are invited; if you sell for CA, entrance is free; otherwise, £8. Home baking and plant stalls. Afternoon teas in village hall. Ice cream van and Bouncy Castle.

Volunteers to help on the day appreciated. More information from the organiser Isobel Hunter tel 01899 860274; Email isobel@skirlinghouse.com

ROBERT HIGGINS, CA Chair



Christian Aid Car Boot Sale

Sunday 14th May, Skirling Green

We need bric a brac, books, baking, plants, etc. to sell on the Christian Aid stall plus baking - cones and cakes - for the teas in the village hall. Also help with the teas would be wonderful ... a couple of my Skirling stalwarts are away this year. So if people can clear out those cupboards for the 14th that would be marvellous.

On the day there will be excellent stalls, the ice cream van and a special treat this year a bouncy castle .. it is actually better than that it is a sort of bouncy assault course!!!

Many thanks, Isobel

Linkage Administrator – Part-time (12 hrs p/w)

Job Opportunity

The Church of Scotland in West Tweeddale is looking for a part time assistant for their Minister partly based in a central office in West Linton and partly working from home. The linkage of West Tweeddale consists of six congregations based in Broughton, Carlops, Kirkurd and Newlands, Skirling, Tweedsmuir and West Linton.

The post-holder will provide administrative support to the Rev. Dr. Tony Foley, and to a team of four session clerks. The successful candidate will be responsible for worship rota schedules, event planning, calendar management, minute-taking, action point facilitation and ad hoc administrative duties to support the Church's activities.

The job holder will also be the main point of contact with the Church of Scotland's national and regional offices..

Essential skills are: IT and administrative experience; communication skills; and a driving licence with access to a car. Experience of Church of Scotland structures would be useful.

Salary: £12 per hour/12 hours per week. 72 hours paid holiday per annum.

Closing Date: 31 May 2023

Contract Type: one year fixed term

How to Apply:

Please send a CV and personal statement outlining your suitability and motivation for the role to The Rev Dr Tony Foley.

tfoley@churchofscotland.org.uk

For a full job description please email cos1560.tweed@outlook.com.



MESSY CHURCH



We will be holding a **Summer Picnic** on
Sunday 21 May at 3pm in the garden of St Mungos Church,
West Linton.

Families are warmly welcome and please bring your own picnic and come and join the fun! (All children must be accompanied by an adult).

For more information contact Jean Howat: howatjean@gmail.com

THE OPEN GATE

This is a free counselling service for anyone, young or old, who would like some help.

Phone or text 07535 898 244 for a phone appointment to be arranged.

LAMANCHA AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

CAFE Will be open all summer on Wednesday mornings from 10am and closing at 2pm. Choice of soups including veggie and also filled rolls, scones and cakes plus tablet.

CLASSES French, Sewing and Yoga classes are available.

HALL HIRE Large room costs are £10 per hour for parties, First Aid Courses and other meetings. Cafe/kitchen facilities are a one off £10 if needed.

Contact details are info@lamanchahub.org.uk

Cilla Davidson

Lamancha, Newlands and

Kirkurd Community Council



**The next meeting will take place at the
Newlands Centre, Romanno Bridge,
on Wednesday 17 May 2023 at 7.30pm.**

*Community Councils give people a voice on issues
concerning where they live. Come along and make sure your
voice is heard.*

Please email lnkccchair@gmail.com if you have any
comments for the Community Council or if you want to take
part in the painting!

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

At the April meeting, various items of business were discussed before commencing the AGM.

Mo Lamb, president, gave a very full report of the year's activities and congratulated everyone who had taken part at the Bulb Show and won prizes and trophies.

The treasurer's report showed a healthy bank balance.

Office Bearers for 2023-2024

President: Sheila Voas

Secretary: Margaret Adamson

Treasurer: Sharon Cowle

Minute Secretary: Viv Thomson

Wednesday 24th. May

Lunch at West Linton Golf Club
12:30pm

Tuesday 30th. May

Peeblesshire Federation SWI outing to
Dumfries House. Bus leaving Newlands
9:30am

Saturday 10th. June

Whipman, West Linton

Donations of baking, jams, jellies, chutney, etc. for the sales table can be handed into Margaret Adamson on Friday, 9th. or the morning of the 10th June or to the marquee on the village green at 5:30pm.

Helpers: May, Mo, Margaret, Doreen, Sharon, Jean, Lesley.

Garden Ramblings

Top marks to all our daffodils these past few weeks. The snowdrops were a hard act to follow but the daffs have done us proud with all the different varieties. I especially like the Pheasants Eye as they are so delicate. Must make a note to purchase more in Autumn.

The shrubs in my garden are coming into bloom and a favourite of mine is Sambucus. Tough as old boots. I have the black variety with pink flowers, and Aurea which is lime green. Both have autumn berries. To propagate, when sap is rising, just break a bit off and stick it in a quiet spot and leave alone. No need for any special treatment. Another favourite is Spirea Bridal Wreath which lives up to its name as it does just that with masses of small white flowers tumbling down just like a waterfall. I also have to mention Amelanchier which needs a prune in Spring but this year I forgot and will have to wait until flowering has finished. This shrub has all year round interest as the leaves have lovely autumn reddish tones not to mention the new spring leaves which are golden hued.

Woke up to a Blackbird singing this morning. Was there ever a sweeter sound? Birds are collecting nesting material in beakfuls too, so it's all happening....

Happy gardening.

Cilla Davidson



NEWLANDS SWI

Our AGM was held on 13th April and it was a friendly get together allowing time to vote for a new committee and ideas mooted for next year's syllabus. There was no shortage of ideas so something to look forward to.

The meetings will be held on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7.30 in the cafe at Lamanca Hub with the first one on 14th September.

Meanwhile, have a lovely summer all of you.

Cilla Davidson

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David Howat

Stoney Knowe, Romanno Bridge

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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 June magazine to ilka.roehé@btinternet.com by

Tuesday, 23rd May 2023



Newlands and Kirkurd Parish Church



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

West Tweeddale Parishes

www.westtweeddale.org.uk

Scottish Charity Number

SCO 18087