

Kirkurd & Newlands Parish Magazine



February 2025

Sunday Services

All our services are held in church but there is a Zoom link to services in Carlops at 10am and St. Andrews West Linton at 11.30am.



For more information contact Jean Howat. howatjean@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>
02 February 2025	Kevin Scott	Fiona Burnett	Kevin Scott
09 February 2025	Rev Tony Foley	Peter Worthington	Rev Tony Foley
16 February 2025	Fiona Burnett	Rev Tony Foley	Fiona Burnett
23 February 2025	Peter Worthington	Isobel Hunter	Peter Worthington
02 March 2025	Rev Tony Foley	Rev Chris Levison	Rev Tony Foley

Welcome: Mary Alexander & Joan White/Alistair Hammond-Chambers

Church Cleaning: Yvonne Ashforth

<i>Date</i>	<i>Broughton 11 am</i>	<i>Skirling 11.30 am</i>	<i>Tweedsmuir 9.30 am</i>
02 February 2025	Rev Tony Foley	Fiona Burnett	Rev Tony Foley
09 February 2025	Fiona Burnett	Peter Worthington	Fiona Burnett
16 February 2025	Isobel Hunter	Rev Tony Foley	Isobel Hunter
23 February 2025	Rev Tony Foley	Isobel Hunter	Rev Tony Foley
02 March 2025	Fiona Burnett	Rev Chris Levison	Fiona Burnett

'American Dirt.' - books worth reading.

"This path is only for people who have no choice, no other option, only violence and misery behind you...Many will be maimed or injured. Many will die. Many, many of you will be kidnapped, tortured, trafficked, or ransomed ... every single one of you will be robbed."

The quote is a warning from a local priest ministering to those in the 'migrant caravan' from South and Central America. It comes from a novel I recently read called *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins. The tale centres around a horrific tragedy that forces Lydia, a young mother and her 9yr old son to join the migrant trail from Central America to the USA. The novel challenges you to check your moral compass and is a powerful reminder of the value and importance of kindness. There is a very poignant part of the story that tells of when Lydia begs for a ride with a busload of young American missionaries. They are initially met with hesitant resistance prompting one character to ask, *"Are they just drive-by Samaritans?"* ... *"Do they just want to make pancakes and take selfies with skinny brown children?"*

The hesitancy of those responsible for the young group of missionaries is not one of callous indifference but struggling with the dilemma of weighing up the risk and their responsibility. The encounter causes Lydia to remember a time when before the horrific circumstances that forced her to take such a desperate pathway to a hoped-for safety, she too was only superficially aware of the plight of migrants. When she half-heartedly listened to news items and wondered with the *"detached fascination of the comfortable elite, how dire the conditions of their lives must be wherever they came from, that this is the better option."* This novel is not an easy story to read but it is one well worth reading. It is rooted in real life interviews with migrants and that is what gives the story its visceral impact. In the present climate it is a powerful reminder that every migrant is a human being with their own story of desperation and longing.

*'you have to understand,
that no one puts their children in a boat
unless the water is safer than the land...
no one crawls under fences
no one wants to be beaten, pitied
no one chooses refugee camps
or strip searches ... [No one chooses]
prison, [unless] ...
prison is safer
than a city of fire.'*

Peace,
Tony

PEGGY WILLS – A good news story

Many of you will have known Margaret (Peggy) Wills, a longstanding member of the Newlands church congregation. She died peacefully in November 2024, aged 95. There was a large turnout for her memorial service. The generous leaving collection of £800 was split between Poppy Scotland and Christian Aid, her two favourite charities. Peggy was a lifetime supporter of CA being particularly involved as a door to door collector and organizer of coffee mornings in CA Week.

The thank you letter recently sent to me as CA treasurer is shown below.

With so much conflict in the world at present, this is a heart-warming “good news” story of a life well lived helping others less fortunate. R. Higgins

THANK YOU FOR LETTING THEIR LIGHT SHINE

Dear Robert

I'm writing to say how sorry we were to hear of your loss, and how touched we are by the gift you've given to Christian Aid in memory of Peggy Wills.

Please accept our heartfelt sympathy, and our sincere appreciation for the generous £400 donated in her name. At this difficult time, it's so compassionate of you to reach out to help others. And it says a lot about the kind of person Peggy was, the values she held, and the love they inspired.

It can sometimes feel like a light has gone out of our lives when we lose someone. I hope it helps you to know that Peggy's light will shine on through Christian Aid's community-led projects to create lasting change. Your gift in memory will support hope, dignity and justice in other people's lives.

May that thought bring you comfort. On behalf of everyone at Christian Aid, thank you very much again for your gift and for choosing to remember Peggy in this special and beautiful way. We're honoured to be part of helping their light and faith in a better world to live on.

With warmest wishes from all of us,

Yours sincerely,

Katie Mathers

Legacy and in Memory Team

Peggy Wills

Peggy Wills was one of our most faithful and longest serving members of the congregation at Kirkurd and Newlands.



She was involved in the Guild and helped to run the Mother and Toddler Group for many years. Indeed, generations of children and their parents will remember her delicious pancakes! She was a member of the Christian Aid Committee and organised the poppy collection in the district for Poppy Scotland. She also ran the Cub pack at Netherurd Hall with Evelyn Rose and generations of boys will attest to her enthusiasm and positive attitude. But most of all, we all miss her ready smile and her cheerful, friendly face at Newlands Church. She was always so interested in everyone. It was always a pleasure to be served coffee and to have a chat with Peggy.



Pudding Night **Friday 7th February**



This is your last chance to get a ticket for the Pudding Night on Friday 7th February at 6.30pm at Newlands Church! Soup will be served and everyone brings a pudding to share. Tickets are £5 in aid of Shelter Scotland and are available from Jean Howat howat-jean@gmail.com There will be a raffle.



The next Messy Church session is on
Sunday 9 February – Lost and Found



The session starts at 4pm in the New Church Hall at West Linton.

All children from babies to P7 are most welcome to come and join in the fun!

We will start with a Bible Story and a song and then the children will do a range of craft activities, followed by a prayer and finish off with a meal together. All children MUST be accompanied by an adult.

Please do consider joining us for an afternoon of fun activities and a family meal together.

For more information contact Jean Howat howatjean@gmail.com

Newlands Kirk Session – Monday 10th February

Our next Kirk Session Meeting is at 7.30pm on Monday 10th February
in the Church Annexe.

Save the Date!

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We will be holding a concert of the
Crescendos Choir in Newlands Church
on Saturday 29th March in the evening.

Pete Carthy's Art Show:

811 Days of Nature Journaling - @ Newington Trinity, Edinburgh

(formally Mayfield Salisbury Parish church – EH9 1TQ)

Our very own Pete Carthy (who attends Newlands Kirk) is holding his first art show on **Saturday, 22nd March 2025, 10-4 pm at Newington Trinity Church.**



Join Pete for an extraordinary celebration of art, nature, and storytelling as Pete presents his remarkable exhibition, *811 Days of Nature Journaling*. This inspiring showcase features Pete's journey of documenting the natural world daily over an incredible two-year period. Through stunning sketches, vibrant watercolours, and insightful observations, Pete captures the beauty, complexity, and ever-changing rhythms of nature. The vast majority of the art and observations are from around Romannobridge and West Linton.

The exhibition promises to engage visitors of all ages, whether you're an artist, a nature enthusiast, or simply someone who appreciates creativity and mindfulness. Pete's work highlights the profound connection between art and the environment, inviting us all to slow down, observe, and reflect on the world around us.

Please get in touch with Pete at 07555445605 or email pete-carthy@hotmail.com his website is www.petecarthy.co.uk for more info.

The Broughtonknowe Community Woodland

In the November edition of the magazine, I wrote about the planned buyout of the Broughtonknowe Woodland, and I thought that you might like an update.

The main news is that in December we heard that the Scottish Land Fund had awarded us a significant percentage of the woodland's purchase price, and to celebrate we held a small event at the 'fire-pit' in the woodland which was featured both on BBC Scotland news and ITV Borders news. We are also pleased to report that the Broughtonknowe Community Woodland has achieved charitable status.

We are hoping to raise much of the balance of monies required through grants from the two local windfarms and the South of Scotland Enterprise. This will still leave us with a shortfall, so there is now a drive to raise the balance through donations so that we can complete the purchase and fund the expected start up costs. If you would like to help ensure that we are successful in the purchase of this valuable amenity for the community, you may like to consider donating through our Cloudfunder which can be accessed through our website at Broughtonknowe-wood.co.uk where you will also be able to get a lot more information about the woodland.

Hopefully the next update will be able to report that the purchase has been successful!

Alastair Leaver



Celebrating the SLF award with the dragon at the Fire-Pit

Lamancha, Newlands
and Kirkurd
Community Council



**The next meeting will be at 7.30pm
on Wednesday 19 February
at the Lamancha Hub**

Community Councils give people a voice concerning where they live. Come along and make sure your voice is heard and find out what is happening in your area.

All welcome

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

Inkccchair@gmail.com with any comments or questions.

Information regarding flooding: The Scottish Flood Forum website is a good source of information. [The Scottish Flood Forum - Supporting Flood Risk Communities](#). The Forum works to support communities and individual property owners with any source of flooding issue whether it's out of sewer, pluvial or fluvial flooding . It should also be able to give advice on any insurance issues faced by customers.

Small grants up to £50 can be awarded by the Community Council to Community Groups. To apply or for more information, email **Inkcc**chair@gmail.com.

KIRKURD SWI

At the December meeting Libby Cairns kept us all busy making Christmas Cards. The finished cards were all beautiful.

Margaret Adamson proposed the vote of thanks.

Competitions: Christmas wrapped box of teabags

1st. Margaret Adamson 2nd. Agnes Howieson

Piece of Christmas Jewelry:

1st. Jean Fraser 2nd. Margaret Adamson

The boxes of teabags were donated to the Peebles Food Bank.

The evening was rounded off with a very festive Christmas tea.

6th. December we enjoyed Christmas Lunch at the West Linton Golf Club.

Sadly the January meeting had to be cancelled due to the weather.

Tuesday 4th. February Practical Night

Competitions: Winter Photograph Outdoor Flower of the month

Tuesday 4th. March Pasta Demonstration with Helen Harrison, Carllops.

Competitions: 2 dropped scones A scarf

Saturday 8th. March Peeblesshire Federation SWI Spring Show, Newlands Centre.

Entries to be placed in hall 8:30 - 9:30am

Doors open to the show 1:30 – 4:00pm.

Tea, coffee and homebaking

Raffle

The Open Gate

Please don't forget about the presence of The Open Gate on Friday afternoons at Newlands Centre. There, anyone of any age, can receive early counselling help for any problem, large or small. The approach used is Solution Focused Brief Therapy which is pleasant and effective - and free!

For an appointment, phone 07535 898 244

LAMANCHA HUB COMMUNITY CAFÉ

A warm welcome awaits you at the cafe every Wednesday from 10am till 2pm. Bring your friends along for a scone or two plus cakes and yummy bacon rolls and 3 soups to choose from, all home made.

Rooms to hire at £10 per hour and we also have Yoga and Pilates classes, not to mention Alex's sewing classes. Further information at info@lamanchahub.org.uk

Cilla Davidson

West Tweeddale Guild

Our next meeting will be held in The Old Church Hall, West Linton, on Wed 19th February at 2pm, when Kate Whalley will be telling us about our local Errington Cheese production. Everyone is welcome to come along.

Before that, on Wednesday 5th February, some of our Guild members will be visiting Whim Care Home to share a short informal service with residents. We would be glad of any help with the singing!

Margaret Habeshaw

Garden Ramblings

Like most of us I am glad to see the end of January with those awful gales. Chatting with friends in the cafe I was amazed that I had got off lightly with only one pane of glass broken in the greenhouse. Thanks to Hubby it has now been replaced with a few mutterings, but job done!

The snowdrops are blooming and I spy some daffodil bulbs showing face. Was tempted into buying a lovely white Hellebore which has withstood the awful weather. I have been looking at the Spring bulb catalogue and need a calculator to tot up my potential order! Clematis loom large as they don't take up much space! Stay safe everyone.

Cilla Davidson



NEWLANDS SWI



We are a friendly group who meet the 2nd Thursday of every month in the cafe at Lamancha Hub. Time 7.30.

The February speaker is Paul MacDonald and he is explaining about "Academy of Arms".

Teas by Joan and Lottie.

Date for your diary is 8th of March for the Federation Spring Bulb Show at Newlands Centre. Always worth a visit.

Cilla Davidson

Minister West Tweeddale

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Jean Howat

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Church Treasurer

David Howat

Stoney Knowe , Romanno Bridge

Tel. 01968 660677

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 March magazine to ilka.roehe@btinternet.com by

Tuesday, 18 February 2025



Newlands and Kirkurd Parish Church



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

West Tweeddale Parishes

www.westtweeddale.org.uk

Scottish Charity Number

SCO 18087