

*Harvest Thanksgiving 2024*



*Kirkurd & Newlands Parish Magazine*

*November 2024*

## 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](mailto:howatjean@gmail.com) 01968 660677

### *West Tweeddale Parishes*

<i>Date</i>	<i>Carlops 10 am</i>	<i>Kirkurd &amp; Newlands 10 am</i>	<i>West Linton 11.30 am</i>
03 November 2024	Steven Whalley	Isobel Hunter	Steven Whalley
10 November 2024	Murray Campbell	Rev Tony Foley	K Scott/S Whalley
17 November 2024	Sheena Livingstone	Fiona Burnett	Rev Tony Foley
24 November 2024	Fiona Burnett	Rev Tony Foley	Fiona Burnett
01 December 2024	Kevin Scott	Murray Campbell	Kevin Scott

**Welcome:** David Habeshaw & David Henderson-Howat

**Church Cleaning:** Sheila Chapman

<i>Date</i>	<i>Broughton 11 am</i>	<i>Skirling 11.30 am</i>	<i>Tweedsmuir 9.30 am</i>
03 November 2024	Peter Worthington	Isobel Hunter	Peter Worthington
10 November 2024	Peter Worthington	Rev Bill Buchan	Peter Worthington
17 November 2024	Rev Chris Levison	Fiona Burnett	Rev Chris Levison
24 November 2024	Steven Whalley	Rev Tony Foley	Steven Whalley
01 December 2024	Rev Tony Foley	Murray Campbell	Rev Tony Foley

Current worship leader rota is also available on the linkage website:  
[westtweeddale.org.uk](http://westtweeddale.org.uk)

## *God put faith in a body!*

It's getting to that time of year again, Advent. A time when we are reminded of how God put faith in a body. John opens his gospel with the words, "*and the Word became flesh and lived among us.*" Matthew and Luke, in their gospels tell us, this all happened because God first put faith in a woman's body, a woman called Mary.

Know that God put faith in a body, it is somewhat odd that Christians so often speak of spirituality in disembodied terms? Why do we feel this need to separate the physical from the spiritual, damning one and lauding the other? Why do we assume that truly holy things are immaterial and invisible?

Bodies matter! In all of the 4 Gospels we read of Jesus feeding the hungry, cleansing the lepers, giving sight to the blind, opening the ears of the deaf and on occasions raising dead bodies back to life. He even dared to offer his own body as proof of his identity when he invited Thomas to touch his physical wounds.

*Christian spirituality should never be portrayed as an escape from our bodies. But rather a deeper engagement with our own physicality and that of others.*

So many today aren't comfortable in their own skins, (just ask the cosmetics industry). We don't seem to know what to make of or do with our bodies other than to compare them to others or submit them to the deeply destructive standards of what passes for beautiful and acceptable in contemporary society.

What's your relationship to your body like? Do you like your body? Are you listening to it? Do you respect and care for it? Do you see it as holy and beautiful? Do you have joy and gratitude for the gift of your body? In what ways are you inhabiting the amazing gift of your body?

I am asking these questions as we draw close to the Advent season because I don't think we can fully appreciate the wonderful gift of our bodies. Perhaps that's why we miss the wonder of the words - "*and the Word became flesh and lived among us,*".

Let me say it again - *God put faith in a body!*

Think on that this Advent season.

Peace,  
**Tony**

## **Remembrance Service – Sunday 10 November**

This service will be held at 10.00 am and will be led by the Rev Tony Foley. Immediately following the service wreaths will be laid first at the Newlands war memorial and after that – between 10.45 and 11.00 - at the memorial at Blyth Bridge. Guides, Brownies, Cubs and Scouts are invited to attend in uniform.



## **Communion Service – Sunday 24 November**

We will celebrate Communion at the church service on Sunday 24 November. Everyone is warmly invited to attend.



## **Christmas Gift Service**

**Sunday 15 December**

Gifts for children from newborns 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).

## **Harvest Thanksgiving Donations**

A total of £400 was raised at the Harvest Supper. It has gone to Practical Action. We also had a wonderful evening with fantastic food and lots of good chat!

The collection of food donations was taken to Penicuik Food Bank where it was also gratefully received.

Thank-you to all who contributed so generously.

## **The Guild**

Our next Guild meeting will be held in Newlands Church on Wednesday 20th November at 2pm, when we will be given an update on how to save lives in our community. A member of our local Fire Safety Service will be updating us on the siting and use of defibrillators etc. in our area, and how to cope with emergencies. We are hoping that others will join us for this to swell our small numbers. As usual, there will also be tea and cake to follow. The Guild also is committed to visiting Whim Care Home on the first Wednesday of each month.

Margaret Habeshaw

## **Peeblesshire Youth Trust Christmas Hampers**

Once again PYT will be assembling Christmas hampers to be delivered to families who are struggling in the Tweeddale Area. We have been asked to donate jam, shampoo and shower gel. They can be brought to the church at a Sunday service.

## CHRISTIAN AID NEWS

Christian Aid Week May 2024

How much do you think CA raised nationally during CA Week?

You'll have to read a bit more to find out.....

Do you remember the week's theme featuring Aline Nibogora in Burundi? Poverty pushed her to the brink of survival. She was abused, homeless and hungry. But Aline pushed back harder. Driven by hope, faith and the love of her children, Aline was able to fight against the inhumanity of poverty and build herself a new life. "I thank God because the Village Savings and Loan Association have allowed me to see that a bright future for me and my children is really possible".

Harvest of Hope campaign

CA Harvest of Hope campaign featured Nyarai Zirugo's story about the difficulties faced by farmers in Zimbabwe associated with the climate crisis especially drought has resulted in declining productivity and food security. The money raised will help many more farmers like Nyarai to survive and thrive in a time of climate chaos.

Christmas 2004 Appeal

Read Sheda's story online on the CA website. She was forced to flee war-torn Sudan with her daughter Saida and granddaughter Mariem. There is precious little room for comfort and joy when you've left everything behind to just survive, but with help from CA partner Smile Again Africa Development Organisation, Sheda is now rebuilding her family's life in the Wedwell refugee camp. Her story is a hard one, but filled with courage and hope.

As we celebrate the coming of the Prince of Peace, please remember those whose lives have been torn apart by war.

## Christian Aid Scotland Carol Service

New Town Church, George Street, Edinburgh Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024 at 6.30pm.

This special local event has a Theme of Peace and will include many carols led by Siskin Green and Fischy Music.

The keynote address will be delivered by John Bell from the Iona Community.

\*\*\*\*\*CA WEEK TOTAL\*\*\*\*\*

£4,446,337 !!

Robert Higgins, CA chair

**Newlands Kids** is a charity which is a small, rural **Early Years education and childcare** provider for 2 - 5 year-olds.



Newlands Activity Centre  
Romanno Bridge  
Near West Linton  
Peeblesshire  
EH46 7BZ

## What do we offer?

Our rural setting allows us to focus on the Natural world which surrounds our setting.

Going outdoors and bringing the outdoors indoors allows our care team to fully integrate our natural setting with the aims of the Curriculum for Excellence.

We learn and grow fruit and vegetables in our outdoor classroom, poly tunnels and raised planting beds. Our in-house cook creates healthy balanced menus for them to enjoy in our outdoor sitooterie.

### Term time setting

(38 wks a year)

Holiday Club is available for part of the Summer

### Days and times

Mon - Thurs,  
8:30am - 6:00pm

For more info, or to come for a visit please contact  
Gill Ross, [gill@newlandskids.org.uk](mailto:gill@newlandskids.org.uk)





Messy Church will be starting again this winter on the following Sundays:



**Sunday 24 November – Zaccheus**

**Sunday 15 December – Christmas**

**Sunday 19 January – The house built on rock**

**Sunday 9 February – Lost and Found**

**Sunday 16 March – The Seed and the Sower**

Sessions start at 4pm prompt in the New Church Hall at West Linton and finish at 6pm.

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

We will start with a Bible Story and then the children will do a range of craft activities, followed by a song and 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 (01968 660677) [howatjean@gmail.com](mailto:howatjean@gmail.com)

### *LAMANCHA HUB COMMUNITY CAFÉ*

**CAFÉ:** Open every Wednesday from 10am till 2 pm and run by volunteers. Home made choice of soups including veggie, cheese and fruit scones, cakes and tablet and nice coffee or a pot of tea.

Come and meet your friends and make new ones.

**HALL HIRE:** Would anyone like to start up a games night for the winter evenings? We have a rather nice pool table, darts board and table tennis facilities. Get in touch with the committee or email [info@lamanchahub.org.uk](mailto:info@lamanchahub.org.uk)

The large room is available at £10 per hour for exercise classes or birthday parties, talks, etc.

**BBQ Hut:** Weather is a bit chilly to have your barbies in the garden but don't forget the community BBQ hut at Lamanca Hub. Seats 15 and only £15 for as long as it takes. Discount if you bring your own charcoal.

Cilla Davidson



## Wondering about Wandering



I have recently been wondering what makes a journey a pilgrimage. The word pilgrimage can be used to refer to a journey to a significant and special destination, but it can also be used to refer to the action of journeying. Last year I took a pilgrimage across the parish of West Tweeddale, stopping at 5 of the churches as I went. I walked 65 kilometres, (the parish covers a large and varied rural area!) The purpose of the walk was to journey across the parish, visit the churches and listen to God's voice as I went. I travelled from Carlops church in the north to Tweedsmuir Kirk in the south, on Roman roads, tarmacked roads, drove roads, ancient footpaths, forestry tracks, across fields and under a fair amount of rain. The parish felt steeped in history both ancient and more recent.

There is something special about being outside in nature that is good for our physical, emotional, mental and spiritual health. John Muir famously said, "I'd rather be in the mountains thinking of God, than in church thinking about the mountains". Many people find 'head space' and a connection with something bigger than themselves more readily in the outdoors.

For the past three years I have led a church youth group in Broughtonknowe woods. I am grateful to the owner and the Friends of Broughtonknowe for their upkeep and our use of the woods. The young people find, in the woods, a space where they can explore faith for themselves and respond in an active and meaningful way. Gathering outdoors around a fire seems to help us connect both with each other, and the physical and spiritual world around us.

Over the next few months, I plan to start a similar gathering for all ages called '**Wanderings**'. This will entail going for led, reflective walk in the woods. These would be gatherings where people can connect life and faith: wondering and wandering together. Working in partnership with the churches of Upper Tweeddale, plans are shaping up to make this happen. To help inform our **Wanderings** we would be very interested to hear what you think about the idea. We would be delighted if you could help us by completing the short survey available on this link. If you have any other feedback or to discuss further, please contact myself Nicola Campbell [nshawcampbell@hotmail.com](mailto:nshawcampbell@hotmail.com).

<https://forms.gle/7ueEQE29KXnrxDUTA>



Hills near to K&N church

## **Community buyout of Broughtonknowe Woodland**

You may have heard that the woodland at Broughtonknowe is up for sale and that the community are trying to buy it. Here is a little bit of the history of the woodland, why it is up for sale, and why the community want to buy it. The woodland extends to 138 acres and was planted in the late 1980s with a mixture of native hardwoods and commercial softwoods. It was the vision of the late Major David Balfour-Scott who conceived the idea of a woodland with commercial potential softened by amenity and the beauty of native species. Once planted the wood immediately won awards for its forward-thinking vision.

Friends of Broughtonknowe Woodland (FoBW) was set up in 2021 to bring together like-minded people aiming to improve the woodland amenity and increase its biodiversity. With the aid of wind farm grant funding, nature trails and several new paths have been developed. A new pond has been dug and another significantly enlarged. Several board walks and mini bridges have been constructed over bogs and burns and new seating benches have been added along the various routes. A bird-watching hide has been erected next to one of the ponds.

In 2024, due to ill health, the current owner placed the woodland on the market but agreed to suspend marketing while the community investigated the feasibility of purchasing and operating it for community benefit. FoBW made a successful Stage 1 bid to the Scottish Land Fund for a detailed feasibility study. This demonstrated that community ownership is viable financially and that it will deliver significant additional benefits over the current, already successful, operation.

A key overarching motivation for community ownership of Broughtonknowe Wood is to ensure that the amenity and biodiversity enhancements already achieved by FoBW will be protected from development and that it will in perpetuity be owned and managed sustainably to deliver multiple community benefits for residents in neighbouring areas of the Borders and South Lanarkshire.

**Key objectives following a successful community purchase are to:**

1. Retain the woodland environment and make gradual transitions to increase the broadleaf/native woodland component while retaining a sound economic base of productive species that supports local employment and skills development.
2. Provide a 'forest school' which will offer environmental education activities such as tree planting days, bug hunts, pond dipping and outdoor events for local Primary and Secondary schools and adult interest groups.
3. Provide facilities for youth groups (currently the Scouts and Biggar Church Youth Group) to continue to meet in the "Fire Pit" area and to attract other groups such as the cubs and guides.
4. Rent out space within the shed to one or more private businesses to help retain and create employment within the local area.
5. Further develop volunteering opportunities to maintain the existing infrastructure.

Currently there is an application for significant funding from the Scottish Land Fund, but we know that even if this is successful, there will still be a need to raise a considerable amount of money. It is hoped that the two local windfarms will contribute, and several potential grant funders are being contacted. Once the outcome of the Scottish Land Fund grant application is known, a major local fundraising initiative will be launched.

Broughtonknowe Community Woodland Ltd is now a registered company, and it is hoped that within a couple of months, charitable status will be achieved. If you are interested in this project, visit the woodland website at [broughtonknowe-wood.co.uk](http://broughtonknowe-wood.co.uk). where you will find more information and can keep up to date with the progress of the project.

Lamancha, Newlands and  
Kirkurd Community Council



**The next meeting will be at 7.30pm  
on Wednesday 20 November  
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 [lnkccchair@gmail.com](mailto:lnkccchair@gmail.com)  
if you have any comments or questions.

At the October meeting Sheila Voas welcomed members and friends to the first meeting of the winter programme, with a special welcome to some who had joined us for the first time.

Mary Craig gave a fascinating presentation about women in the Scottish Borders who had been wrongly accused of being witches. Mary is such an enthusiastic and knowledgeable speaker and was happy to answer many questions which continued over tea.

Sheila Voas proposed a very well deserved vote of thanks.

Competitions: 2 Treacle Scones    1<sup>st</sup>. Margaret Adamson    2<sup>nd</sup>. Sheila Voas

Witch's Hat:            1<sup>st</sup>. Lesley Johnstone    2<sup>nd</sup>. Sheila Voas

**November 5<sup>th</sup>.** Kirkurd SWI 100<sup>th</sup>. Birthday    An Evening of Magic & Memories

We are looking forward to welcoming many past and present members and special guests to share many memories of days at the 'Rural'.

N.B. time 6:15 for 6:30pm

**December 3<sup>rd</sup>.**        Practical evening with Libby Cairns, West Linton

Competitions:        Christmas wrapped box of teabags (to be donated)

A piece of Christmas Jewelry.

**December 6<sup>th</sup>.**        Christmas Lunch, West Linton Golf Club. 12:30pm



Parish of Upper Tweeddale  
presents a programme of

# Films That Make You Think!

next showing  
**Broughton Village Hall**  
**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November**  
film starts **7:00 PM**

A family friendly Christmas film followed  
by an open discussion of some of the  
themes and issues raised by the film

Free Admission  
Light Refreshments



for more information scan the QR code or go to  
[www.uppertweeddale.org.uk/films\\_that\\_make\\_you\\_think.asp](http://www.uppertweeddale.org.uk/films_that_make_you_think.asp)

## *Garden Ramblings*

Where have all the rowan berries gone? A month ago the branches were laden. Some people say this is a sign of a bad winter heading our way but only time will tell.

One shrub I am about to order is the *Euonimus Alatus* with its fiery red autumn leaves. Hidden in the community garden at Lamanca there is a beauty and it would fit into any size garden, height 4ft and easily managed.

The tall garden perennials such as campanulas are about to be cut down and composted but I leave ground cover plants as they save the soil from erosion. Lamiums and geraniums spring to mind.

So far we have only had two nights of frost so hope it stays that way. Time to get the tulips planted!

Cilla Davidson

*NEWLANDS SWI*



The October meeting was well attended and it was a pleasure to meet Susan Finlayson in person at long last due to previous cancellations. Susan gave a very interesting talk on the Great Tapestry of Scotland with plenty of background information on how it came about. This will be around for generations to come. Our member, Mary Darling, was actually one of the talented sewers involved so it was fitting she gave the vote of thanks. Teas were by Nancy P and Fay.

Our November meeting will be a very special meeting as we celebrate our centenary. Can you imagine a 100 years ago when they held their first meeting? Would they have met by candlelight or would they have met in daylight? What would they have spoken about?

We are having a celebratory meal in Lamanca Hub, a fitting place as it was the school 100 years ago when some pupils came on horseback and others walked 3 miles or more. Most will be arriving by car this time round!

Date , 14th November. Be there for 7pm for 7.30.

**Cilla Davidson**

***Minister West Tweeddale***

**Rev. Dr. Tony Foley**

Email: [tfoley@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:tfoley@churchofscotland.org.uk)

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***Church Administrator West Tweeddale***

**Kate Whalley**

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***Session Clerk***

**Jean Howat**

Stoney Knowe, Romanno Bridge

Tel. 01968 660 677

***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 December/January magazine to [ilka.roehe@btinternet.com](mailto:ilka.roehe@btinternet.com) by

**Tuesday, 19 November 2024**



Newlands and Kirkurd Parish Church



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

West Tweeddale Parishes

[www.westtweeddale.org.uk](http://www.westtweeddale.org.uk)

Scottish Charity Number

SCO 18087