

*West Linton St Andrew's
Parish Church*

December 2024

Scottish Charity No SC003938

Minister: Rev Dr Tony Foley

O come let us adore Him



The Risk of Birth

It will soon be Advent – a time of hopeful waiting. It will of course be followed by a time of birth, a particular birth, a birth that speaks of new beginnings, of new possibilities and new potentials. All this happens because someone did not give up, someone was willing to take a risk, to make themselves vulnerable at a time when making oneself vulnerable was a dangerous thing to do. It happened at a time when demonstrating hope seemed such a forlorn thing to do. But do it He did.

‘For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given...’ ISAIAH 9:6

I offer you this poem to think about this coming Advent season.

The Risk of Birth by Madeleine L’Engle

*This was no time for a child to be born,
On an earth beset by war & hate
When a nova lights the sky with warning
As time runs out & the sun burns late.
This was no time for a child to be born,
In a world suffocating under the rule of Rome
Where truth & honour are trampled with scorn—
Yet here the Saviour came to make his home.*

*When is the time for love to be born?
The Inn is full on the planet earth,
By greed & pride the world lies torn—

Yet Love still takes the risk of birth.
For this is the time for a Child to be born*

Peace,

Tony

New Year, New Opportunities?

If you would be interested in becoming a member of St Andrew's Church, or being added to the list of adherents, any enquiries can be directed to Tony our Minister, or to Kevin or Steven our Session Clerks.

Freewill Offering envelopes for 2025 will be ordered shortly. If you would like your name to be added to the list, or if you have any enquiries about giving to the Church by Standing Order or using Gift Aid, please get in touch with Michael our Treasurer.

Are you a Volunteer?

If you'd like to get involved in helping in the Church in any way, or with any of our midweek activities, new volunteers are always very welcome. Most of our readers will know that much of the work around the congregation depends on volunteers and this is the time of year when some of the rotas are compiled to ensure the smooth running of events in the coming year.

Traditionally, in West Linton, Door Duties have been done by the Elders. For next year we are widening this to any of our members or regular attenders. Interested? Speak to Colin Herd.

The Welcome and Readings are done by volunteers—sometimes with a bit of encouragement! There are some slots available for 2025. Interested? Speak to Colin Herd.

We all like our cuppa after the morning service. This doesn't just happen it needs volunteers. There is a sheet at the front of the church. Just put your name against a date you can do. Perhaps

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‘shadow’ one of the volunteers to learn the ropes or speak to Kate Dykes.

Have you a way with flowers? The Flower Team would welcome new members. Interested? Speak to Ann Lyon.

Then there is the Tech Team. We have learned a lot since reopening after Covid—and we are still learning. We would really appreciate if some of our younger congregation came on board. Those who are octogenarians do very well! Interested? Speak to Colin Herd.

If you like to work with young children and families there is Baby Brunch on Fridays. Interested? Speak to Mary Turnbull.

How about Guid Blethers on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month. Interested? Speak to Helen Dry.

Have you an interest in caring for our property? The Property Team has been looking for an additional member for some time. Interested? Speak to Steven Whalley.

There is Cosy Café on Friday afternoons hosted by Kate Whalley.

Our work with the children is led by Ann Lyon and Kate Whalley and Messy Church is coordinated by Jean Howat. (01968 660677)

We are blessed by our Worship Leader Team in West Tweeddale. If this is something you would consider joining then please speak to Tony our Minister.

Maybe you fancy being a chorister. Interested Speak to Tony Hoskins.

Outwith the congregation there is the Bethany Care Van which is staffed by West Linton once a month. Speak to Robert Higgins.

There is a task for everyone and if you are no longer able to volunteer, please pray for all the work of the congregation.

If I have missed anyone out, apologies. Speak to Colin.

Contact details on page 15.

Wanderings – gathering to connect life and faith; wondering and wandering together.

Gather – connecting people from across the area, coming from different places.

Connect life and faith – facilitating a connection between our everyday physical lives and that which is bigger than ourselves through nature and spirituality.

Wonder – we will take time to wonder at the seen and unseen world around us, including space for silence and reflection.

Wander – we will be led on a planned walk through the woods. This will be neither fast nor in a straight line, though might be rough and muddy underfoot.

Together – we will ask questions, discuss and journey together with no-one left behind. There will often be time for a cup of tea and extra chat at the end.

Wanderings is a new project being run in partnership with the Church of Scotland parish of Upper Tweeddale. We have an initial plan to meet twice a month, once on a Saturday afternoon and once on Thursday or Wednesday mornings followed by an option to join in a community cuppa. If you would like to join a Wander just turn up at Broughtonknowe woods main carpark with warm, waterproof clothing and stout boots with good grip, some of the routes are a little steep, rough and muddy. We will be back to the car park within an hour and a half. There are composting toilets on site, if you have any additional needs, questions or need a lift (car sharing encouraged) get in touch. Anyone under 18 needs a responsible adult with them.

What3words/// certainty.questions.flown OS grid ref: NT103391

Dates for next meetings

Wed 4th December 9.30am followed by Bite and Blether in Broughton Village Hall

Sat 28th December 10.30am

Thurs 9th January 10.30am followed by lunch at Skirling Village Hall

Sat 25th January 2.30pm

Wed 5th February 9.30am followed by Bite and Blether in Broughton Village Hall

Sat 22nd February 2.30pm

Thurs 6th March 10.30am followed by lunch at Skirling Village Hall

Sat 29th March 2.30pm

There's a chance a walk might get cancelled or changed last minute if the weather would not make the walk safe. This will be e-mailed out and posted on our Facebook page, find this by searching "Wanderings – Scotland".

If you would like to sign up to our emailing list, contact Nicola Campbell nshawcampbell@hotmail.com



Christmas Gifts

Once again it is our intention to facilitate a collection of gifts for children of all ages for distribution through the Salvation Army and SBC Social Services across the wider Borders area. Our Church calendar will include a “gift service” on 15th December when the congregation will be invited to bring along a present for a child. The present may be for a child of any age but must be new and unwrapped. Gifts of wrapping paper are also welcome.

In addition it is proposed to open the Church on Saturday 14th December from 10.00am until noon to allow the wider community to take part.

The Salvation Army has been very grateful for the generosity of our Congregation and Community in the past and the need for the collection of gifts is just as relevant this Year as in the past.

Christmas Lighting

The Kirk Session has once again agreed to the illumination of the Church over the Christmas festive period to coincide with the lighting up of the Christmas lights along the Main Street and Raemartin Square. The switch on this year will be on Thursday 28th November. We have always sought to defray the cost of operating our lights by seeking sponsorship from the congregation and anyone seeking to participate may add their details and amount of contribution on a sheet which, as previously, will be available on the shelf inside the West Door of the Church during November.

Contributions will be collected during December and may be given to Michael Knott, the Kirk Treasurer or Neil Calvert.



Sunday 15 December – Christmas

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

**Skirling Village and the
Parish of Upper Tweeddale**

invite you to

**An Evening of Christmas
Carols and Mince Pies**

... and a quiz or two

**Skirling Village Hall
Thursday 19th December
7pm until 9pm
Everyone welcome**



ST ANDREWS UPCOMING DATES 2024

We look forward to seeing you

**Sunday 27 October - Last date for Blythswood Care
Shoebox donations**

**Sunday 17 November - Last date for Peeblesshire
Youth Trust donations**

**Sunday 10th November - Remembrance Service 10:45am,
2 min silence at 11am and War Memorial afterwards**

Monday 9 December - Blue Christmas Service

**Sunday 15 December - Last date for New and
unwrapped toys for Salvation Army**

**Sunday 15 December - Gift Service including
Sunday Club's Nativity**

**Wednesday 18 December - Garvald's Shepherds
Play**

Tuesday 24 December - Watchnight Service

Wednesday 25 December - Christmas Day Service

www.westtweeddale.org.uk

Coffee Club

at the Old Church Hall,
West Linton



Tuesdays 10am – 12pm, every month!

FREE HOT DRINKS, CAKES and BREAKFAST.

All are welcome and it's an opportunity to meet your friends or have some company and a good blether.

Citizens Advice Bureau will also be there and can help with everything including benefits, money worries, housing, work and family issues.

**Come along on 17th Dec, 21st Jan
and 18th Feb**



Funded by Scottish Ministers in conjunction with Scottish Borders Council, as the Lead Partner for the Local Action Group

A Celebration of Paintings

Following the exhibition of paintings held in the old church hall from 26th July to 9th August, Mary Scott writes: I was able to send a donation of £2000 to "Mary's meals"

I'd like to share with you an excerpt from a letter of thanks from the charity. "to put this gift into context, it means we can provide 20,000 meals and feed 104 children for a full school year"

This excellent result was made possible by the generosity of St Andrew's Church in allowing the use of the Old Church Call for the exhibition, and of course the support of the many people of West Linton and the borders more widely, who came along and joined in my celebration of 60 years of painting, for which you all have my sincere thanks, and best wishes for a very joyful Christmas season.

Mary

Ethical Christmas presents **Buy a bed: Bethany Christian Trust**

Looking for an ethical Christmas present this year? Still searching and confused? Why not support Bethany's **Buy a bed** campaign?

By buying a gift card, you will be helping to provide access to Bethany's Rapid Re-accommodation Welcome Centre at the Haymarket Hub Hotel in Edinburgh for those who would otherwise be sleeping rough on the streets this winter.

Your gift provides ...

- A warm, safe, private room with en-suite facilities
- 24 hour care and support from professional, supportive and loving staff
- Three meals a day including a freshly prepared, hot two course dinner
- A wide range of on-site support services
- Assistance to move rapidly out of the crisis of homelessness

There is no upper or lower limit on donations, which can be made online at the Bethany website www.bethanychristiantrust.com.

Senses

When we are born there is great fuss
But no instructions come with us,
Our mothers must use all their wits
To help us clear the nasty bits.
Each of us is given five senses
To help us cross some nasty fences -
Touch, taste, smelling, hearing, sight
Can save us from a nasty fright.

But as the years come creeping fast,
Our five senses may not last.
Spectacles for your eyes are made -
You'll likely have a hearing aid.
Five years ago, I wrote some lines,
My 90 years condensed in time.
Printed in the kirk newsletter
To me, this sounded even better.

I am still here but not so cheering,
Either my sight or yet my hearing.
The government did not think it cruel -
They stopped our help for winter fuel,
Though for our older lads and lassies
We haven't lost our free bus passes.
I polish up the kirk's brass wares
(My daughter does the same upstairs).
Our minor ailments we all hide
For we still have our sense of pride

David Campbell

Garvald Shepherds Play

For the third year in a row residents and staff from Garvald West Linton will be performing the Shepherds Play at 7pm on Wednesday 18th December in West Linton Parish Church. This year is the 80th Anniversary of the founding of Garvald West Linton in 1944 and it is therefore our 80th year of performing the Shepherds Play

This play is part of a trilogy performed in advent that began in Medieval times. They were first put on in the local tavern by the people of a small Austrian village, on an island in the Danube called Oberufer. The Shepherds play is the story of the birth of Jesus, the journey of Mary and Joseph and the role of the Shepherds. It's a version of the nativity play and like all good nativity plays it has great storytelling, beautiful music and some lighter comedy moments. Its suitable for all ages – children are particularly welcome.

We will end the evening sharing mince pies and hot chocolate together.

The Guild

Advance notice is given of the January meeting of The West Tweeddale Guild.

On Wednesday January 15th at 2pm in Broughton Village Hall Nicola Campbell will be talking about 'Wanderings' which she has been developing as an alternative way of worship as folk enjoy walking in Broughtonknowe Wood. Come and find out more.

As usual, we will begin with a short act of traditional worship, and end with tea and cake.

See the article on pages 3 and 4 for fuller information from Nicola.

Tweed Togs

The Church is the new collection point for Tweed Togs. Tweed Togs a Peebles based charity that collects donated and recycled children's clothes and distributes to those in need. The Church is open during the day and there is a box inside suitably labelled.

If anyone needs to know please tell them. Of course, if you have any spare children's clothes, as the colder weather approaches, we are sure your donations would be appreciated.

Steven

Stamp Appeal

This is the time of year when I remind readers to collect used stamps. Stamps can be placed in the box in church or handed to me

The 2024-2025 collection will go to support

Firmly Planted: Agroforestry for Sustainability

Firmly Planted is a community-based agroforestry initiative with the ambition of making a sustainable impact across Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe. It is spearheaded by our partners in the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP), and built around the church's community structures. The initiative will resource individual groups to respond to the various challenges affecting Malawi today.

Colin

West Tweeddale Web Site

This is the QR code for the West Tweeddale Churches Web Site. Simply scan with your phone to access the site for all the information on current events.



Contacts

Minister: Rev Dr Tony Foley

Telephone: 01968 660221 email: tfoley@churchofscotland.org.uk

Mobile: 07793 294000

Linkage Administrator: Kate Whalley

Office: 01968 733112 email: cos1560.tweed@outlook.com

Telephone: 07973 501665 email: kate@westlinton.com

(Most of the time Kate will be working from home therefore use the contact details immediately above)

Joint Session Clerk: Kevin Scott

Telephone: 01968 661744 email: kevin.scott@energrow.co.uk

Joint Session Clerk: Steven Whalley

Telephone: 07525 378187 email: stevenwhalley.westlinton@gmail.com

Treasurer: Michael Knott

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Newsletter Editor: Colin Herd

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Sunday Club: Kate Whalley, Ann Lyon

Telephone: 07973 501665 01968 661347

Flowers: Ann Lyon

Telephone: 07702 984185 email: annlyon@live.co.uk

Cosy Café: Kate Whalley Telephone: 07973 501665

Guid Blethers: Helen Dry Telephone: 01968 660506

Baby Brunch: Mary Turnbull Telephone 01968 661737

Sunday Club 1st December

On the first Sunday of each month during School Term Time
for children in P1 to P7

And pre-school children by arrangement

Contact Kate Whalley or Ann Lyon

07973 501665 or 07702 984185

Services December

	West Linton 11.30 am	Carlops 10.00 am	Newlands 10.00 am
1st	Kevin Scott	Kevin Scott	Murray Campbell
8th	Rev Dr Tony Foley	Rev Dr Tony Foley	Isobel Hunter
15th	Peter Worthington	Sheena Livingstone	Rev Dr Tony Foley
22nd	Rev Chris Levison	Rev Chris Livingstone	Peter Worthington
29th	Rev Dr Tony Foley	Rev Dr Tony Foley	Isobel Hunter
5/1	Patsy Campbell	Patsy Campbell	Rev Dr Tony Foley

Door Duties

December

C Leith	Choir
K Scott	Main
S Whalley £	Gallery

January

A Lyon	Choir
N Calvert £	Main
TBC	Gallery

Readers

Dec 1st Pat Graham
 8th Pat Graham
 15th Tony Hoskins
 22nd Tony Hoskins
 29th Mary Turnbull

Jan 5th Mary Turnbull
 12th Helen Dry
 19th Helen Dry
 26th Elaine Robinson

Material for the December Newsletter should be submitted to the editor by Friday 27th December 2024. Please include 'Newsletter' in the subject of your email. All submissions should be in MS Word or equivalent. Please do not embed in an email. The January 2025 issue will be available by 5th January 2025.