

West Linton St Andrew's Parish Church

November 2024

Scottish Charity No SC003938

Minister: Rev Dr Tony Foley

God put faith in a body!

It 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.

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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

Peebles Youth Trust

The Trust has again asked for our help to supply an anticipated 120 Hampers for families across the county this Christmas. Families are identified by schools, health visitors and social work. They rely on the generosity of church members and this year have asked if we can help by donating soap, shampoo, shower gel and jam.

The last date for donations to be brought to church is

Sunday 17 November.

Your Kirk Session

The Kirk Session met on 12 September 2024. The main matters discussed are covered in this article.

There was some discussion of the arrangements for the Gathering which has subsequently taken place. At the General Kirk Session, it was announced property reviews do not have to be undertaken annually. More information is being sought.

All the arrangements for the many services for the rest of the year were discussed. Along with the usual services (harvest, gift, watchnight etc), it was agreed to have a Blue Christmas service again this year. Announcement will be made as they approach.

There were no significant finance matters to arise and a property report covered work done including the repair to the door of the Old Church Hall was presented. Some work is required on the Manse. The activities of the Sunday Club were reported on.

If you need any more detail on any of these points please speak to your Elder.

Guid Blethers

November 13th

100 Years of Girl Guiding in West Linton

November 27th

Christmas Pot Pourri

Meetings are normally held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month from **2.00 pm to 3.30 pm** In the Old Church Hall.

Following a talk on an interesting subject or an activity (non strenuous!) we enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and some wonderful tasty nibbles

Further information from Helen Dry 660506

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 10.00Hrs 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.



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

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

Church Flowers

As the beautiful shades of the autumn colours surround us, we marvel at God's creation and our wonderful natural surroundings. This season is quite spectacular, especially when bathed in sunshine. I am sure you will agree with me when I say how splendid the flower arrangements were for the Harvest Thanksgiving Service on 13th October. Sincere thanks to Nancy Porteous, Helen Bruce, Kate Dykes and Sheila Forsyth. It is lovely to see such beautiful colours brighten our church for those who are able to attend, those who join us on Zoom or those who pop in for a short visit seeking quiet reflection during a busy week.

Again, we would like to express thanks to all who continue to donate to the Flower Fund, all contributions are very much appreciated.

Our flower arranger for November is Sheila Forsyth, whom I am sure you are no doubt aware, always arranges the Remembrance flowers in St Andrews.

Ann

Community Cosy Coffee Afternoon

Our hours are 2pm to 4pm on Fridays, at the Old Church Hall. Come along for a chat, cuppa, company and cake! Everyone very welcome, although under 16s need to be accompanied by an adult. Free of charge although donations welcome but not expected. More information from **Kate Whalley**.

Parish of Upper Tweeddale
presents a programme of

Films That Make You Think!



next showing

Broughton Village Hall

Friday 15th 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



for more information scan the QR code or go to
www.uppertweeddale.org.uk/films_that_make_you_think.asp

Free Admission
Light Refreshments

On **Friday 15th November** in **Broughton Village Hall** the Parish of Upper Tweeddale is showing the second of a pilot programme of three films that have been chosen to provoke thought and discussion. This is a family friendly film starting at **7.00pm** and lasting about 100 minutes, and it will be followed by an opportunity to share our thoughts and feelings about the film in a facilitated discussion lasting about 30 minutes.

The licence we have to show this film prevents us from publishing the name of the film in our advertising outside of the venue. You can go to **www.uppertweeddale.org.uk/films_that_make_you_think.asp** to find out more about the program and there are links within that page which allow you to e-mail members of the organising team to find out more about the film itself. Or you can e-mail Neil Robinson (neil@glenholm.co.uk).

Everyone is welcome, the evening is **FREE** (donations are welcome) and **light refreshments** will be provided at the beginning.

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 the drought that 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 11th December 2024 at 630pm

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

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)

Session Clerk: Kevin Scott

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

Assistant Session Clerk: Steven Whalley

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

Treasurer: Michael Knott

Telephone: 01968 660977 email: michael.knott@talk21.com

Property Convener: Steven Whalley

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

Weekly Linkage News: Christine Leith

Telephone: 01968 660800 email: intimations@standrews-westlinton.org

Newsletter Editor: Colin Herd

Telephone: 07792 815953 email: newsletter@standrews-westlinton.org

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 3rd November

**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 November

	West Linton 11.30 am	Carlops 10.00 am	Newlands 10.00 am
3rd	Steven Whalley	Steven Whalley	Isobel Hunter
10th	Kevin Scott Steven Whalley	Murray Campbell	Rev Dr Tony Foley
17th	Rev Dr Tony Foley	Rev Dr Tony Foley	Fiona Burnett
24th	Fiona Burnett	Fiona Burnett	Rev Dr Tony Foley Communion
1/12	TBC	TBC	Murray Campbell

Door Duties

November

Ann Lyon	Choir
Neil Calvert	Main
Mary Turnbull	Gallery

December

C Leith	Choir
K Scott	Main
S Whalley	Gallery

Readers

Nov 3rd Kirsty Crick
 10th Kirsty Crick
 17th Fiona Hessey
 24th Fiona Hessey

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

Material for the December Newsletter should be submitted to the editor by Monday 18th November 2024. Please include 'Newsletter' in the subject of your email.

The December 2024 issue will be available by 24th November 2024.