

*Parish of
West Linton
St Andrew's*

April 2018

Church of Scotland

Scottish Charity No SC003938

Interim Moderator: Very Rev Dr Finlay Macdonald

Locum Minister: Rev Nancy Norman



From our Interim Moderator ...

Dorothy Wordsworth was a diligent diarist. An entry for 15 April 1802 records a walk with brother William from their Lake District home. The morning had been 'threatening, misty but mild' and they set off, accompanied by a friend who, after a short way turned back. Dorothy records that 'the wind was furious' so much so that she and William also thought of turning back; but they kept going, even though 'the wind seized our breath' and 'the lake was rough'. There are references to primroses, wood sorrel, hawthorns, anemones, violets. Then she mentions 'a few daffodils close to the waterside', adding: 'but as we went along there were more and yet more... a long belt of them along the shore, about the breadth of a country turnpike road.....I never saw daffodils so beautiful....they tossed and reeled and danced and seemed as if they verily laughed with the wind that blew upon them over the lake'.

Reading this I found myself thinking: what if the weather had forced the Wordsworths back? Would we have been deprived of one the best loved poems in the English language? I also wonder if there is an Easter parable here. What if the disciples had turned back after storms of Holy Week and quietly resumed their former lives? What if Good Friday had been the end of the story of Jesus?

But it wasn't, for the Lord is risen and 'Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green'; or as William (or maybe Dorothy?) put it:

And then my heart with pleasure fills
And dances with the daffodils.

Easter Grace and Joy be with us all

Finlay

Christian Aid Week 12th – 19th May ...

CA Week is the key event for CA to promote its message across the UK asking us to stand in solidarity with and support our poorest global neighbours. This year our focus is on displacement illustrated by personal stories from Haiti, a country which has struggled with repeated and often relentless natural disasters. When Vilia's home was destroyed by the earthquake in 2010, she lost her mother and other family members. CA's partner KORAL built her a robust new house which not only helped her re-establish her life but also proved a safe haven for 54 of her neighbours when Hurricane Matthew struck the island in 2017. The building survived virtually unscathed despite the ferocity of the storm which destroyed most of her neighbours' homes. Although these villagers survived they unfortunately had to join the ranks of the "internally displaced".

Did you know that there are at least 40 million such people worldwide forced to leave their homes because of climate change and natural disasters? This contrasts with refugees who are much more visible to the international community. Displaced people are incredibly vulnerable to poverty and exploitation. Even if they subsequently find temporary accommodation with host families, they rarely receive any support such as food, clean water or assistance to earn money. The UN is presently working on new agreements for refugees and migrants but these measures will fail if the internally displaced continue to be largely ignored by Governments.

CA Week Local Events ...

Coffee Morning Saturday 12th May – Graham Institute West Linton, 10am to noon. Raffle, home baking and plant stalls, Fairtrade produce.

CA Service, St. Andrew's church Sunday 13TH May 11.15am.

Door to Door Collection throughout linkage 13-19th May.

Focus on CrossReach ...

The Church of Scotland delivers and supports a range of social care programmes in Scotland through its Social Care Council, which operates under the name CrossReach. CrossReach is one of the country's largest providers of social services encompassing care for older people, help with dependence on alcohol and drugs, mental health problems, assistance for homeless people and those with special learning needs.

Although part of the Church of Scotland, CrossReach's range of services are available to all. The Social Care Council's remit is to offer services in Christ's name and specialist resources to further the caring work of the Church to people in need, such as the elderly, children, families and those with learning difficulties. It also helps to identify areas of need and to guide the Church in pioneering new approaches to relevant problems in society and to make responses on issues arising in the council's areas of concern.

CrossReach, launched in June 2005, was previously known as the Church of Scotland Board of Social Responsibility. It continues the Church of Scotland's long tradition of providing care and support which

started back in 1869. CrossReach employs more than 2,000 staff and supports some of the most vulnerable people in Scotland. In addition to the paid staff around 500 volunteers assist with a wide variety of tasks. With an annual expenditure of £51 million just over one per cent of its funding comes directly from the Church of Scotland, with most of the rest coming from local authorities. Donations and legacies are also essential to help continue its vital care work.

CrossReach reports each year to the General Assembly and has the following remit:

- To offer services in Christ's name to people in need as part of the Church's mission
- To provide specialist resources to further the caring work of the Church
- To identify existing and emerging areas of need, to guide the Church in pioneering new approaches to relevant problems and to make responses on issues arising within the areas of the Council's concern through appropriate channels.

Please pray for the work of Crossreach.

Prayer – An Introduction ...

One of the most difficult things that many of us find in our Christian life is prayer. The disciples of Jesus felt this too. In Luke ch11, v 1 we read, “*Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.”*” Jesus responded and gave them what we now call The Lords’ Prayer.

Our Father in heaven Hallowed be your name

Your kingdom come your will be done on earth as it is in heaven

Give us today our daily bread

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us

Keep us from the time of trial but deliver us from the evil one.

For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

We see from this that there are different parts to prayer. It starts with worship (praise, adoration – ‘*Hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come*’). Then there is intercession (praying for ourselves and others) – ‘*give us today our daily bread*’, confession – ‘*forgive us our sins*’, more intercession – ‘*keep us from the time of trial*’ and it closes with more worship – ‘*yours is the Kingdom*’. All these elements should form part of our prayers. There are many other places in the bible where we get help to pray. The Psalms, in particular, are a rich source of material giving examples of worship, confession, thanksgiving and intercession. Then too, we have the example of Paul in praying for the churches and individuals to whom he wrote.

Over the coming months we will seek to explore the different elements that make up our prayers. We will also offer a short prayer, but the emphasis will always be to give pointers which will help us to pray ourselves.

Financial Report Summary for 2017 ...

The accounts for 2017 are now available and show a fairly robust position, with a surplus from ordinary activities of around £1,400. This compares favourably with the deficit of around £11,500 which was incurred in the previous year.

Income held up well during 2017 with a 5% increase in Freewill Offerings, including weekly envelopes, standing orders and open plate donations. A very generous response to the Stewardship campaign held during the Spring was reflected in an increased level of giving during the second half of the year, particularly by monthly standing orders. Elsewhere, tax recovered on Gift-Aided donations and income from hire of the church halls were both higher than in 2016. Overall income from regular sources was up by more than 9% year on year.

The church's reserves were also strengthened by a very generous legacy of around £14,600 which was left to the congregation by the late Mrs Ina Russell.

While expenditure in 2017 was less than in the previous year, we can expect to see this increase again during 2018, particularly with some remaining work due to be completed on the fabric of the Church building.

We also must be alert to the possibility of further unexpected costs associated with maintaining not just the Church but also the two halls. We therefore should not be complacent but instead seek to further build on this improved financial position.

Thanks are due to all who have contributed to Church funds over the year and please do continue to support the Church in this way during 2018.

If you have any questions, or if you are interested in receiving any of the following:

- weekly Freewill Offering envelopes
- a Standing Order instruction for (to complete and send to your bank)
- details of the Church's bank account (to arrange contributions by internet banking) or
- a Gift Aid declaration form (if you are a tax-payer, this allows the Church to recover a further 25p for every £1 you give, at no extra cost to you)

then please get in touch either by speaking to an elder or, if you prefer, by sending an email to treasurer@standrews-westlinton.org

Michael Knott

What's on this Month ...

Cosy Café

April 6th

April 20th

May 4th

New Church Hall

2.00pm to 4.00pm

Fair Trade Stall



FAIRTRADE
FOUNDATION

Guid Blethers

April 11th

April 25th

May 9th

Old Church Hall

2.00pm to 3.30pm

Prayer Focus Group

April 4th

May 2nd

Old Church Hall

9.15am to 9.45am

The Boys Brigade

Tuesday Evenings

New Church Hall

from 6.30 pm

For boys from P1 to S6



The Guild

April 18th

AGM - Newlands 2.00 pm

April 28th

Borders Spring Rally

Baby Brunch

Every Friday

9.00am to 12.00noon

Old Church Hall

For Parents, Grandparents and Carers
with their pre-school children

Table Tennis

Every Friday 7.00 to 9.00pm

New Church Hall

For all ages and abilities

Services			
	West Linton 11.15 am	Carlops 10.00 am	Newlands 10.00 am
April 1st	Rev Chris Levison	Rev Nancy Norman	Rev Chris Levison
April 8th	Rev Nancy Norman	Patsy Campbell	Rev Nancy Norman
April 15th	Rev Nancy Norman	David Howat	Rev Nancy Norman
April 22nd	Rev Nancy Norman	Rev Nancy Norman	David Howat
April 29th	Rev Nancy Norman	Mary McElroy	Rev Nancy Norman
May 6th	Rev Jim Wallace	Very Rev F J Macdonald	Rev Jim Wallace

Drivers

April **Driver 1** Robert Higgins
01968 660629
Driver 2 Kate Dykes
01968 660247

May **Driver 1** Neil Calvert
01968 660807
Driver 2 Steven Whalley
01968 661158

Door Duties

April Tony Hoskins £ Choir
Pat Graham Main
Jimmy Dripps Gallery

May Kate Dykes Choir
Ann Lyon Main
Michael Knott £ Gallery

Welcome and Readers

April 1st Mary Turnbull
 8th Mary Turnbull
 15th Steven Whalley
 22nd Steven Whalley
 29th Helen Dry

May 6th Helen Dry
 13th Robert Higgins
 20th Robert Higgins

Flower Donations April

Anna Gibson
Julie Jackson
Chris Whittemore
Margaret Ramsay/Flower Fund
Flower Fund

Flowers arranged by Flower Team

Flower Donations May

Mrs N Gordon & Mrs M Gray
Mrs Audrey McIntosh
Flower Fund
Flowers arranged by Susan Scott

Material for the May Newsletter should be submitted to the editor by Friday 27th April 2018. The May issue will be available on 6th May.

Copy to Colin Herd: email: herd.carradale@btinternet.com

Please include the word Newsletter in the subject line of your email.