

West Linton St Andrew's Parish Church

April 2019

Scottish Charity No SC003938

Interim Minister: Rev Stewart McPherson

From our Interim Minister ...

There seems so much uncertainty around just now, though we might wonder 'was it ever so'. I have no idea where we will be regards Europe even by the time this Newsletter is published, and if there is some clarity, we may well all be in a state of shock. Many of us are getting to the point that we simply want a decision even if we don't agree with it so that we know what we are doing ... will we need a Green Card to drive in Italy or not, do we need to stock up on Puy Lentils, and should I sell my French chateau now or wait? It is similar when we go to the doctor with a pain and various test results remain inconclusive, we are still left with the pain but do not know why. Clarity is our desire but is it always possible?

As we approach Easter, we journey through a period of deep uncertainty from the mountain top of Transfiguration through the wilderness of temptation along the road into the city of religious and political upheaval. Along the way people reach out to Jesus for answers but clarity seems elusive and we are not sure if Jesus withholds it on purpose or if he himself was uncertain where the road would end. Perhaps he was sure what the outcome would be of his words and actions and wanted to shield people from the pain until it was all over. For only once it was over would the people receive that clarity. Only through suffering and death comes the rising to new life and without that how could they bear the suffering on its own?

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We are post Easter people holding to a belief that in suffering there is hope and through struggle there is purpose and out of the darkness comes light. So, the Christian faith does not avoid struggle, suffering, conflict, pain, darkness or death ... but it does hold on to hope and is sure there will be new life. There will be clarity though we may not yet see it. As the letter to the Hebrews says (11.1), *“To have faith is to be sure of the things we hope for, to be certain of the things we cannot see”*.

As we continue this journey of Interim Ministry together there have been many signs of hope and reassurance amidst the questions, conversations, difficulties and glimpses of answers even if we do not yet have full clarity. However, we are Easter people living through a Lenten journey in the knowledge that clarity breaks through when that stone is rolled away. As we sit and wait for clarity, perhaps you may be able to help give that stone a push.

Stewart McPherson

Stamp Appeal 2019 ...

The World Mission Stamp Appeal of 2019 will support the Chigodi Women Centre in Blantyre Malawi who are also celebrating their 50th anniversary.

Through providing training in tailoring, fashion design and chicken farming the Centre will improve the women’s skills in marketing and entrepreneurship. The aim is that the women’s socio-economic status is improved and their chances of future employment increase. By selling the produce made at the Centre the plan is that when the funding finishes the project will be self-sustainable – able to continue to improve the lives of women in Malawi.

Stamps can be left at the front of the church or handed to Colin Herd.

Heart Soul

Heart and Soul is a programme of the Assembly Arrangements Committee of the Church of Scotland.

In 2011, it was decided that not enough was being done to celebrate the life and work of the church, with those who very much keep it strong and vibrant in communities everywhere – the members, volunteers, ministers, and congregations alike! It was then that there was the first public celebration in Princes Street Gardens, called "Roll Away the Stone".

With live music, arts, exhibitions, and a massed open-air service in the gardens' Ross Theatre, the event proved itself successful in bringing our church family together for an afternoon of entertainment and praise.

It was in 2012 that Heart and Soul became the new incarnation of Roll Away the Stone, and has stuck each year since – building on the joyous and active atmosphere every time.

Heart and Soul will be returning on Sunday 19th May 2019.

Further details will appear in the May Newsletter.

Our Church - a quiet place ...

Following discussion between Stewart and some of the Prayer Focus Group, some material has been placed in the church to encourage people to spend some time in quiet reflection in the church. It was felt that since the church is open daily more could be done to facilitate the experience for visitors.

Finance Update for 2018 ...

The congregational accounts for 2018 have now been completed and it is encouraging to report that income from Weekly Freewill Offerings, Standing Orders and Gift Aid donations saw a modest increase of around 2.5% compared to the previous year. This was the first full financial year following the stewardship campaign which was held in mid-2017.

Elsewhere, income from hall rental increased by about 16% but we saw a decline in other donations and in fund raising income, with the latter reflecting the decision to hold a Summer fair in place of the Spring and Christmas fairs of recent years.

Overall adjusted income was down slightly at £51,400, and expenditure of £55,800 was higher, than in 2017. The resulting net overspend (or deficit) for the year of around £4,400 was largely explained by an increase in property maintenance expenditure, with the Fabric Fund bearing the cost of repairs to the wooden louvres in the Church bell tower and the treatment of the external stonework, particularly around the East window.

This deficit leads to a reduction in the Church's cash reserves, which remain healthy at around £51,000, equivalent to one year's normal expected income.

We should, however, be careful not to become complacent. Your continued financial support of the Church is important. If you would like to have Weekly Freewill Offering envelopes, or details of how to give to the Church by Standing Order, please speak to me or to Robert Wilson (or send an email to treasurer@standrews-westlinton.org).

St Andrew's Church is a registered charity and Gift Aid continues to be a very important source of additional income. In 2018 this enabled us to claim back almost £7,500 from HMRC. If you pay tax on your income from earnings or pension, and you haven't already signed up for Gift Aid, then please give some thought to whether you might be able to – it won't cost you anything extra.

Michael Knott

Treasurer

Christian Aid Week 12-18th May 2019 ...

Christian Aid is a charity whose aim is to change the world to one where everybody can live a full life, free from poverty. It works closely with local organisations around the world. No one better understands the issues that affect their deprived communities, and no one is better placed to address them. It does NOT give to Governments or fund individuals. Your donations make a real impact directly where it's needed.

The funds raised are used in three main ways:

EMERGENCY RELIEF when disaster strikes, e.g. providing food, water and shelter to people in desperate need.

LONGTERM DEVELOPMENT WORK with our partner organisations helping communities lift themselves out of poverty.

CAMPAIGNING to tackle the issues which keep people poor e.g. climate change and tax injustice.

Fundraising for those in need has always been at the heart of Christian life, reflecting the vision and work of that tiny first community of Christians we read about in Acts, where resources were shared to ensure all had enough.

This year, CA Week focuses on Sierra Leone. It is statistically the most dangerous country in the world to become a mum. Ten women die every day during childbirth. The storyline features Jebbeh Konneh who is eight months pregnant. As her baby grows, it's not joy that fills her heart but fear. Her sister Fatmata recently went into labour and had to walk three hours under baking sun to the nearest hospital. She never made it. She died at the side of the road without giving birth. Stories like this are all too common. Money raised during CA Week will help provide new well equipped hygienic health clinics and medical training. This should greatly improve the country's shocking maternal and neonatal infant mortality figures.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK EVENTS for your diary

Saturday 11th May **COFFEE MORNING** at Graham Institute, West Linton
10am-noon.

Sunday 12TH May **CHRISTIAN AID SERVICE** at St. Andrew's Church, 11.15am
Door to Door envelope collection throughout the week in the linkage.

Events during April ...

Thursday 4th April	Lent Study - Old Church Hall at 7.30 pm
Thursday 11th April	Lent Study - Newlands Church at 7.30 pm
Sunday 14 April	Palm Sunday Donkey Walk of Witness at 11.00 am from the Health Centre followed by morning service
Thursday 18th April	Lent Study and Communion - Newlands Church at 7.30 pm
Friday 19th April	Tenebrae Service - Carlops Church at 8.30 pm
Sunday 21st April	Easter Day Easter Breakfast at Carlops at 9.00 am Morning Worship at usual times Easter Songs of Praise at 7.00 pm - St Andrew's West Linton

CrossReach @ 150 ...

This year marks 150 years of the Church of Scotland providing social care in Scotland. Celebrations will be launched at Heart and Soul 2019 where the 150th anniversary exhibition will be debuted and on display at St Cuthbert's Church of Scotland. Join CrossReach in thanks and celebration with more opportunities to get involved being promoted throughout 2019.

150th anniversary exhibition ...

In celebration of 150 years of the Church of Scotland providing social care in Scotland, CrossReach will be showcasing a very special exhibition.

What's on this month ...

CoSY Café

New Church Hall

2.00pm to 4.00pm

12th April

26th April

10th May

24th May

The Guild

April 24th

Guild AGM

Newlands Church at 2.00 pm

Guid Blethers

Old Church Hall

2.00pm to 3.30pm

11th April

25th April

9th May

Prayer Focus Group

Old Church Hall

9.30am to 10.00am

(Note change of time)

3rd April

1st May

7.30pm to 8.00pm

17th April

Baby Brunch

Old Church Hall

Fridays

9.30am to 12.00 noon

(During school term time)

Services April			
	West Linton 11.15 am	Carlops 10.00 am	Newlands 10.00 am
7th	Rev Stewart McPherson	Rev Stewart McPherson	Kevin Scott
14th	Rev Stewart McPherson	Kevin Scott	Rev Stewart McPherson
21st	Rev Stewart McPherson	Rev Stewart McPherson	Rev Chris Levison
28th	Rev Rachel Dobie	Patsy Campbell	David Henderson-Howat
5th May	Rev Stewart McPherson	Rev Stewart McPherson	Kevin Scott

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	J Dripps (£) Choir
	A Lyon Main
	M Jack Gallery
May	K Dykes Choir
	P Graham Main
	M Knott Gallery (£)

Welcome and Readers		
April	7th	Mary Turnbull
	14th	Steven Whalley
	21st	Steven Whaley
	28th	Robert Higgins
May	5th	Pat Graham
	12th	Helen Dry
	19th	Helen Dry
	26th	John Dykes
June	2nd	John Dykes

Flower Donations - April	
	Julie Jackson
	Chris Whittemore
	Margaret Ramsay
	Flower Fund
Flowers arranged by the Flower Team	
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Flower Donations - May	
	Mrs N Gordon & Mrs M Gray
	Mrs Audrey McIntosh
	Flower Fund
Flowers arranged by Susan Scott	

Material for the May Magazine should be submitted to the editor by Friday 20th April 2019. The May issue will be available on 28th April.
Copy to Colin Herd: email: herd.carradale@btinternet.com. Please include 'Newsletter' in the subject of your email.