

West Linton St Andrew's Parish Church

April 2022

Scottish Charity No SC003938

Minister: Rev Dr Tony Foley



12 reasons why I don't go to 'football games' anymore ...

- 1 Every time I went, they asked me for money.
- 2 The people sitting in my row didn't seem very friendly.
- 3 The seats were very hard.
- 4 The manager never came to speak to me.
- 5 The referees made decisions I didn't agree with.
- 6 I was sitting with the 'plastic fans' who only came to complain about the scarfs other people were wearing!
- 7 Sometimes the games went into overtime, and I was late getting home.
- 8 They sang songs I had never heard before.
- 9 The games are scheduled on the only day I get to sleep in or run errands.
- 10 My parents took me to too many games when I was growing up.
- 11 I read a book on football, and I now feel that I think know more than the managers and players.
- 12 I don't want to take my children because when they are older, I want them to be able to choose for themselves what sport they like best.

Do any of these reasons sound vaguely familiar to you?

Tony Foley

The Nail ...

Our Holy Week services this year follow the narrative of The Nail by Stephen Cottrell.

Key witnesses describe Christ's crucifixion from their points of view. Each character considers the part he or she played in hammering the nails into Jesus.



The disciple Peter who believes it is all over;
The Roman centurion just following orders;
Pontius Pilate, the Roman Governor merely obeying the wishes of the majority;

The chief priest Caiaphas afraid of upsetting the status quo;
Judas for whom Jesus was not the Messiah that was needed.

Or was it all of us who make up the crowd, who make up the world all looking for someone else to blame, looking the other way?

In our new pilgrimage around five churches in West Tweeddale from Monday the 11th of April to Good Friday on the 15th April we will be replaying the story of the Passion with reflections, hymns and prayers.

Rev Tony Foley and the Worship Workshop Team invite you to any or all of our services in Holy Week.

Monday 11th at 7pm in Broughton Church

Tuesday 12th at 7pm in Carlops church

Wednesday 13th at 7pm in Tweedsmuir Church

Maundy Thursday 14th at 7pm in Newlands Church including the Sacrament of Communion

Good Friday 15th at 7pm in Skirling Church

Palm Sunday Donkey Walk ...

Now that most of the Covid restrictions have been lifted it is possible for us to organise the Donkey Walk again.

This will be on Sunday 10th April, meeting at the Health Centre for an 11.00 am start to walk to the church via the Clock and The Lower Green.

All are welcome whether you intend to attend church or not.

If you are available to help with stewarding please speak to Sandy Pollock.

Thank You ...

Thank you so much for the lovely but very unexpected card and gift given to me at the end of the Congregational Service. It was such a kind thought.

I started helping with Church flowers when we first moved here fifty years ago and have enjoyed meeting lots of people along the way, not least all the people who have helped arrange flowers week by week.

There have also been lots of meetings and phone calls with people to plan for special occasions. I've also met lots of people who just wander into the Church to admire the carvings and ended up sitting chatting whilst I continued with the flowers!

It's great that Ann is going to take over all the arrangements now, and I can still come and arrange a few flowers from time to time.

With many, many thanks.

Jill Green

Thank You ...

Thank you so much for the very kind card and gift I received at the Stated Annual Meeting following my stepping down as Session Clerk at the start of the year. It was all so very kind and I was grateful too for the lovely words expressed by Mary Turnbull. It has certainly been an eventful five years and a successful period as we moved through the stages of Interim Ministry and then became part of a larger linking spanning West Tweeddale. I'd like to express deep thanks for the support of the Session Clerk team as well as the Kirk Session and wider Church community. I wish Mary and Pat well and offer my full support and many blessings.

Tony Hoskins

Church Activities ...

It is now 2 years since we had to stop all our activities due to Covid. Now that most of the restrictions have been lifted we are able to begin to think about what activities we can restart.

One of the major obstacles to restarting activities is the availability of volunteers to organise and run them. In the first instance we need to consider Baby Brunch, Guid Blethers and Cosy Café.

If you feel that you would be able to help with any of these activities on a regular or occasional basis, please send an email to sessionclerk@standrews-westlinton.org or speak to Mary Turnbull.

Broadband Connections to Church and Halls ...

We are in the process of installing a broadband connection to the church and halls in order to improve the streaming of our services. We will also be installing 2 fixed cameras in the church and making improvements to the audio reception for those joining us online.

With the cameras in place, there are privacy implications that we need to make known to all who may attend services. Not everyone wishes to have their image transmitted over the internet. Not everyone wishes to have their image potentially visible to those joining over Zoom. If anyone has concerns about this, be assured that there will always be areas in the church which are not covered by the cameras. If you have a concern, ask those on door duty to direct you to an area of seating not covered by the cameras.

Those of you who have already seen what we have been doing may have realised that we need a technical team to run this each week. If you are interested in helping please speak to Tony Hoskins, Kevin Scott or Colin Herd. We have all had to learn over these past few months and we will be glad to help with any training required.

Sunday 3rd April ...

On Sunday 3rd April our morning service will be by **Zoom only**. This is to facilitate the **Memorial Service for Barbara Jackson** which will take place at 2.00 pm in the church.

With certain Covid restrictions still likely to be in place the Kirk Session did not feel that there would be sufficient time after morning service to clean the church before the Memorial service.

The Jackson family would love to see a good turnout from the congregation and village at the Memorial Service.

Finance Report for 2021 ...

The congregational accounts for 2021 have been approved by the Kirk Session and were presented at the Stated Annual Meeting on 6 March. Copies are available on request. Thanks go to Jean Macnab for acting as independent examiner once again.

The Kirk Session was grateful to learn of a generous legacy of almost £27,000 from the estate of the late Mrs Joy Houps who was an elder at St Andrew's for many years. This, together with a significant individual donation of £4,000 from a parishioner, has significantly improved the overall financial position.

Regular income from offerings increased by around 2% on the previous year but is still below pre-pandemic levels. It is hoped that, with services now being held in the Church every Sunday and more people starting to attend again, weekly offerings will also start to show some recovery. More parishioners now give by regular standing order, which helps with meeting fixed expenditure, in particular our contribution to ministry costs which are payable to the wider Church of Scotland.

The last two years have also seen a fall in overall expenditure, as activities have been curtailed and particularly as some planned property expenditure has been subject to delay. The overall position for 2021 showed a surplus of around £37,500, much of which is accounted for by the two amounts noted above.

Of concern however, is the quinquennial property inspection carried out by an independent surveyor last year which has highlighted a number of issues, particularly in relation to the external condition of the Church building. These will require potentially significant expenditure over the next couple of years, which is likely go some way beyond our present means, and which would require additional fundraising and application for grant funding.

So, pleasing as the current financial position may be, there are undoubtedly financial challenges on the horizon which will require continued financial support from the congregation and careful stewardship of the resources available to us. Against the backdrop of inflationary pressures on daily living costs which appear set to affect us all, please continue to support the work of the Church as best you can.

Michael Knott

Lasting Generosity –

a guide to leaving a gift to the Church in your Will ...

This is the title of a leaflet which has been produced by the Stewardship Team in the Church of Scotland, highlighting that a gift in your Will to the Church is one of the most valuable and lasting ways you can continue to support its mission and its ministry.

As the St Andrew's congregation has seen the beneficial effect of this over the last year, it is perhaps a timely reminder of something to which we should all give due consideration.

The leaflet explains that a gift to your local Church will help sustain and encourage your congregation's engagement with the communities it serves, and gives examples of the following different types of gift:

A pecuniary legacy is a gift of a fixed sum of money of your choosing. This type of gift will decrease in value over time owing to inflation.

A specific legacy is a gift of a specific item e.g. land or property or other assets.

A residuary legacy is a gift of what is left (or part of what is left) after all other bequests and debts have been paid. This can be more beneficial to charities as the gift will not decrease in value due to inflation.

No matter how large or small, these gifts make a lasting difference and enable new opportunities for mission. The leaflet provides more details, and a good deal of food for thought.

If this is something you would like to consider further, or even if you would just like more information at this stage, please get in touch and I will be pleased to provide a copy of the leaflet in pdf format by email, or in hardcopy (paper) format.

Michael Knott
Treasurer

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EASTER OFFER

- Print: 12 issues for the price of 10 offer price £30 - enter promotion code EAST22 to receive £6 discount. UK delivery address and new subscribers only.

- Digital: 12 issues for £14.99 (normally £20.99) no code required – simply select the introductory offer option.

Anyone wishing to take advantage of the savings should visit the Life and Work website www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe. The offer is valid until 30.04.22.

Subscribers to Life and Work support the vital and vibrant work of our Church while keeping connected with the Christian community in Scotland, and further afield.

We hope there is an opportunity for you to share news of this promotion with others and we thank you in advance for your support.

Best wishes The Life and Work Team

Services April			
	West Linton 11.30 am	Carlops 10.00 am	Newlands 10.00 am
3rd	Colin Herd Zoom Only	Colin Herd	Rev Dr Tony Foley
10th	Kevin Scott	Fiona Burnett	Kevin Scott
17th	Rev Dr Tony Foley	Rev Dr Tony Foley	To be confirmed
24th	Mary McElroy	Mary McElroy	Rev Dr Tony Foley

All services are now in church. Carlops and St Andrew's services will also be available on Zoom.

Door Duties			
April		May	
Kevin Scott £	Choir	Kate Dykes	Choir
Ann Lyon	Main	Pat Graham	Main
Christine Leith	Gallery	Michael Knott £	Gallery

Readers		Readers	
April		May	
3rd	Mary Turnbull	1st	Helen Dry
10th	Steven Whalley	8th	Robert Higgins
17th	Steven Whalley	15th	Robert Higgins
24th	Helen Dry	22nd	John Dykes
		29th	John Dykes

Material for the May Newsletter should be submitted to the editor by Monday 24th April 2022. The May issue will be available by 1st May.

Copy to Colin Herd: email: newsletter@standrews-westlinton.org.

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