

West Linton St Andrew's Parish Church

August 2021

Scottish Charity No SC003938

Interim Moderator: Rev Calum Macdougall

Locum Minister: Rev Nancy Norman

From our Interim Moderator ...

Isn't it wonderful what a good spell of weather can do? It can lift our spirits and lighten our mood. It can give us a fresh appreciation of the spectacular beauty of our Borders countryside. It can make the lush greens of the hedgerows and rich hews of the gardens seem prettier than ever. It can renew our awareness of the variety of bird and animal life sharing our outdoor space. In short, the warm, sunny summer days heighten our recognition and enjoyment of the natural world.

When our day's work is done and even for those of us who have retired, the heat drains our energy and provides ample justification for relaxation. Salads dominate the mealtime menus and minimise effort in the kitchen. In our house we seem to have experimented with just about every salad combination this year and there have been visible health benefits: last weekend I discovered that I had lost nearly 3lb (I'm sorry I can't calculate in kilos) over the previous fortnight.

There is, however, a downside to all of this. Despite lying on top of the bed, rather than under the duvet, and even with windows open to create a through draught, I cannot sleep well in the heat. Much more seriously, among many who have underlying health problems a prolonged period of hot weather – and two weeks is a prolonged period in our context – can so easily aggravate already painful and debilitating symptoms. I used to visit a lady in my first parish who dreaded warm summer days because of the effect they had on a skin condition she had suffered from since her teenage years.

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I think too of an elderly couple who would pull all the blinds and curtains in their tenement flat in an effort to shut out the heat, and even then one or both would sometimes be hospitalised, suffering from the effects of heat exhaustion.

I have done a lot of sitting in the garden during the lazy, hazy days of this summer and I have loved every moment, but I have found myself reflecting on how easy it is to enthuse about what many of us consider to be perfect summer days, without being sensitive to the pain and discomfort that such days bring to others of us. As the threat of heavy showers and even scattered thunderstorms loom, we should be as grateful for the rain as we are for sunshine.

In our seedtime and harvest praise we give thanks for the sun and rain that God sends to ripen the crops that feed us and nourish us. They are blessings indeed. A lady I know well, who moved to Scotland from South Africa some years ago, often tells of how much she loves the Scottish climate, not least the fact that the weather is so changeable.

As we contemplate the disastrous wildfires that have been sweeping across Oregon and California, or the horrific floods in Germany and Belgium that brought tragic loss of life, or the forecasts of famine in parts of Africa and Asia, we have so much for which to be thankful.

Our climate is a blessing. Seldom do we suffer from anything like the extremes experienced elsewhere. As we open the curtains tomorrow and each new tomorrow, what better way to start the day, than to take a few minutes to give thanks to God for the new day, whatever the weather, and to commit to God's care those to whom climatic extremes bring fear, suffering and loss.

With every blessing and best wishes,

Calum

Interim Moderator

Message from Session Clerk ...

As we sat in church in years past on the final Sunday of the school year I have such fond memories of us singing together: 'Summer suns are glowing over land and sea; happy light is flowing bountiful and free'. The text doesn't particularly mark an ending, or even a new beginning, but rather a perspective on God's loving-kindness expressed as pure abundant radiance and light. It also reminded me of the end of my own school year and holidays stretching ahead with light, clarity, and possibility. So in the absence of an opportunity to sing this at the start of the Summer holidays, I am sharing Bishop William Walsham How's words here which you may too want to reflect on:

1 Summer suns are glowing
over land and sea;
happy light is flowing
bountiful and free.
Everything rejoices
in the mellow rays;
all earth's thousand voices
swell the psalm of praise.

2 See God's mercy streaming
over all the world,
and his banner gleaming
everywhere unfurled.
Broad and deep and glorious
as the heaven above,
shines in might victorious
his eternal love.

3 Lord, upon our blindness
your pure radiance pour;
for your loving-kindness
make us love you more.
And, when clouds are drifting
dark across the sky,
then, the veil uplifting,
Father, still be nigh.

4 We will never doubt you,
though you veil your light;
life is dark without you,
death with you is bright.
Light of light, shine o'er us
on our pilgrim way;
still go on before us
to the endless day.

Words: Bishop William Walsham How (1823 – 1897)

Tune: Ruth Music: Samuel Smith (1821 – 1917)

We've already enjoyed many long days of Summer sunshine and the opportunity where possible to be outdoors in great comfort and long may that continue as we move into August.

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Zoom Church has continued as the best way to keep us safe and connected and whilst there has been an opening up of church buildings we have been cautious and will remain so over the coming weeks. We experimented in July with a blended service with the congregation split evenly between attending in person and from home over Zoom. This worked well, particularly in the absence of broadband in church, taking full advantage of village 4G to achieve decent connectivity, and it worked!

As the Summer progresses we will look at opportunities to have further blended services more regularly whilst also keeping them simple and safe for the participants.

Whilst we wait patiently for the Nominating Committee to steadily work through their process of attracting a new minister we hope that there will be opportunities to meet with our new friends from across the Linking of 6 churches. Some will have heard or noticed that a Communion Service has been arranged for Sunday 22nd August in the area adjacent to Newlands Church. This service will begin at 3pm and all are invited to be there. Please keep an eye open for more details in Linkage News and in verbal intimations.

Meanwhile I would like to thank all those involved in making our weekly services possible and successful, from the Worship Leaders to those leading prayer and readings. You will also notice the efforts of volunteers on decorating and maintenance duties in church and we express gratitude to all those able to help.

However you are planning to spend your Summer weeks this year, look after yourselves and each other, enjoy the warmth and energy of the sun's rays... and the refreshing rain that will inevitably follow, hopefully not, though, on the afternoon of Sunday 22nd!

Tony Hoskins, Session Clerk

Tel: 01968 682385

Email: ajohoskins@btconnect.com

Finance – mid year 2021

The first half of the 2021 financial year has seen a reduction in regular offerings compared to the second half of 2020, although regular income has been broadly sufficient to cover routine expenditure during this time.

The loss of Sunday morning offerings is still being felt, as well as the absence of hall rental income with Early Learners being closed for the school holidays. It would be really helpful if weekly Freewill Offering (FWO) payments could be brought up to date over the next few months - it is all too easy to overlook these as the weeks go by.

As a reminder, standing orders are a convenient means of regular giving to the Church – details are below or please get in touch if you would prefer a form to complete. Cheques (payable to 'St Andrews Kirk Session') and/or weekly FWO envelopes can be collected from you by arrangement - please speak to any elder. If you prefer, cheques can be posted to the address below.

While we've not ordered new sets of FWO envelopes for the year starting April 2021, any unused envelopes for 2020/21 can still be used. Some spare sets from last year are still available if required.

Account details for online banking are given below and can be used for both one-off amounts or regular standing orders:

BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS
Account name: St Andrews Kirk Session
Sort Code: 80-09-39
Account number: 00817827

For further information please call 660977,
email treasurer@standrews-westlinton.org
or write to 9 Tarfhaugh Brae, West Linton EH46 7DP.

Michael Knott

Treasurer

Home Group ...

We have all no doubt been enjoying this glorious summer weather. As I write the forecast is for it to change! And as the weather changes some are beginning to look towards the new term—nursery, school and even university. This means too that our Home Group will soon be restarting after our summer break. As yet we have not decided on our next study but one suggestion is a series in the book of Daniel entitled 'Brave by Faith'. The lectionary concentrates on the Gospels and we do not often take a look in depth at some of the Old Testament and what we can learn from it.

If anyone would like to join the Home Group—even on a trial basis—please contact Colin Herd for further details. There is no obligation to participate in the discussion. Please feel free just to join in and listen. We have found that Zoom is a good medium for the Home Group and especially in the colder darker weather we do not have to go our to a meeting.

Email: carradale42@btinternet.com

Tel: 07792 815953

Editor's note ...

Those of you who rely on the delivery of a printed copy of the Newsletter may wonder why there was no July Issue. Unfortunately, the photocopier decided to misbehave and that coincided with the engineer's holiday so we were unable to remedy the problem timeously.

The Editor extends his apologies and trusts that the photocopier will now print as it should.

A Fly

This Sunday, as we do each week,
We joined our friends, the most of whom
 At 11:30 all took a seat
And tuned in to St Andrew's Zoom.
 When Tony read the intimations
 I was distracted from his words,
Something upset my concentration
 A little thing and quite absurd.
 A fly had come into the room
 And started doing his fly capers
 Attracted by the Sunday Zoom,
He had no fear he'd meet fly papers.
 He walked across the TV screen,
 He tried to crawl into my ear
Made sure that he was always seen -
 Of being squashed he had no fear.
Next week when Colin says 'Let us pray'
 Behind my back I'll hide a spray!

David Campbell

Zoom Services August			
	West Linton 11.30 am	Carlops 10.00 am	Newlands 10.00 am
1st	Colin Herd	Colin Herd	Rev Nancy Norman
8th	Rev Nancy Norman	Rev Nancy Norman	Colin Herd
15th	David Henderson-Howat	Mary McElroy	David Henderson-Howat
22nd	Steven Whalley	Steven Whalley	Rev Nancy Norman
29th	Rev Nancy Norman	Rev Nancy Norman	Colin Herd

Readers		Readers	
August	1st Neil Calvert	September	5th Jimmy Dripps
	8th Neil Calvert		12th Michael Knott
	15th Morag Kerr		19th Michael Knott
	22nd Morag Kerr		26th Kevin Scott
	29th Jimmy Dripps		3 Oct Kevin Scott

Material for the September Newsletter should be submitted to the editor by Monday 23rd August 2021. The September issue will be available by 29th August.

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

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