

West Linton St Andrew's Parish Church

February 2023

Scottish Charity No SC003938

Minister: Rev Dr Tony Foley

'Be still'

(What happens to time - happens to us.)

Sometime around in 1995, human society began to change because human interaction changed. The change started out subtle and unnoticed. The fact that it was unnoticed does not make it any less disturbing. When I think about the time before the Internet and mobile phones, it seems like remembering another age, an age when letters came once a day, at set times, by the hands and feet of the postman. The 'News' came in three forms — radio, television, print — and usually at 6-hour intervals or in the case of the newspaper once a day.

Those mail and newspaper deliveries punctuated the day like church bells. You could read about news events in your newspaper or savour a letter from a friend over breakfast with your tea and toast. If there were developments during the day you would hear about them on the evening news or the next day's newspaper. You listened to or watched the news when it was broadcast, since there was no other way to see or hear it. Everybody you knew relied on the same sources of news, so when they talked about current events they did so in terms of a shared reality. Time passed in what now seem like large units, of days and hours and not in milliseconds that are constantly filled with endless updates. Before the Internet and mobile phones a few hours were not such a long time to go between moments of contact with your work or your friends. But after 1995 letters morphed into emails, and for a time emails had all the depth and complexity of letters.

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They were a beautiful new form that spliced together the intimacy of what you might write from the heart with the speed the telephone. Then emails deteriorated into something more like text messages and text messages were reduced to emojis.

Ironically despite the rapid advances in contemporary technology even phone calls on our shiny new mobile phones are prone to poor sound quality, "*you're breaking up*" has become the anthem of our age. "*You're breaking up*", aptly describes what has happened to human connectedness. Our written communication has dwindled to phrases and fragments, while spelling, grammar, and punctuation are fly tipped in favour of speed.

Slowly and surely a restlessness has seized hold of us, a sense that we should be doing something else. There is this inescapable sense we should be doing at least two things at once, like talking to a friend on the phone and at the same time texting another friend on the same phone while putting the person in the room with us *'on hold'*. We are now captive to a collective free-floating anxiety about keeping up, of knowing for the sake of knowing, of not being left out or getting behind. Our lives now have ratings measured by how many likes, hearts, or retweets we get on Facebook and Twitter. In an age when our time is being constantly swallowed and our relationships desiccated by a multitude of 'communication' technologies that are deliberately designed to distract our attention and vaporise our life's time the greatest gift you and I can give another this year is the gift of total, uninterrupted, undistracted presence. Did you know that in the Bible it is God who always encourages human beings to stop – to *'Be still'*, *'Consider the lilies'*, *'Come aside and rest'*.

His presence is the gift that God most wants to give to you today. That is what the Christmas we recently celebrated was really all about – "*Emmanuel, which means God with us*". So do yourself a favour this week, put your phone down, turn off your computer and accept the invitation.

Peace,

Tony

Cosy Café

Wednesdays 5–8 pm

Fridays 2–8 pm

For all ages in

the Old Church Hall

Games for the brave!

Snakes & Ladders

Chess, Bridge, Snap, etc

Home baking &

Soup at 6

Come and bring your friends

Transport available

Contact Kate Whalley

07973 501665

Baby Brunch

every Friday

10.00 to

11.30am

**In the Old
Church Hall**

**For parents
grandparents
and carers
with young
children**

Need some emergency help?

These organisations are nearby Penicuik Foods, Facts & Friends 42 John St Penicuik EH26 8AB www.foodfactsfriends.org.uk

Peeblesshire Foodbank 1 Silverbirch Studios, Cavalry Park, Peebles EH45 9BU 07413 484174 peeblesshire.foodbank.org.uk

Crisis Assistance from the Minister's Barnabas Fund 07943 509906 emergencyfoodbank@standrewswestlinton.org.uk

For further information about West Tweeddale Winter Warmers please contact the church office on 01968 733112



Who are we? We are a group set up by West Tweeddale Parishes in response to the current economic and fuel problems to offer help and support to the whole community

What are we doing? We're signposting 'warm events' across the 6 parishes where a warm welcome, refreshments and a chance to meet friends is offered. We're also organising a few fun and informative events to help everyone save a bit of cash over the winter. Look out for further posters advertising these events with the Winter Warmer logo. A monthly timetable is posted around the villages and can also be viewed on the West Tweeddale website (westtweeddale.org.uk)

Messy Church has started again this winter.

The next sessions are:

Sunday 19 February – Jesus the Healer

Sunday 12 March – The Feeding of the 5000. Messy Church goes Wild outside!!

Sessions are from 4-6pm in the New Church Hall at West Linton.

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.



Contacts

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Treasurer: Michael Knott email: michael.knott@talk21.com

Telephone: 01968 660977

Guid Blethers

**Wednesday 8th February
Pharmacy—then and now
with Colin Herd**

**Wednesday 22nd February
Gentle exercise from a chair
with Naomi Ambrose**

2.00pm - 3.30pm
Old Church Hall, West Linton

Guid Blethers is about enjoying the company of old and new friends by sharing interests and skills together. Our programme has varying topics of local interest with speakers and other activities.

West Tweeddale Guild

The February meeting will be held on 15th Feb at 2.30pm in Carlops Church.

The Carlops Eco Group will be organising this meeting, with an invited speaker passing on home energy saving advice.

All are welcome.

Margaret Habeshaw

Material for the March Newsletter should be submitted to the editor by Monday 27th February 2023. Please include 'Newsletter' in the subject of your email.

The March 2023 issue will be available by 6th March 2023.

You're here to be light!

Matthew 5: 14 - 16 (The Message)

¹⁴⁻¹⁶ "Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colours in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.

As we move through the season of Epiphany, shrouded as we are in the darkness that this time of year brings, there's a comforting irony that light is the pre-eminent symbol of this season. Since I started my new job in Musselburgh in October my working day has been wrapped tightly at both ends by inky black darkness, and while I'm starting to see some light at the end of the day, the morning is still pretty black. That said, the promise of the coming light chasing away the physical darkness in my day is really exciting.

And if we move from the physical darkness of the world around us to the more symbolic, this irony can take on further emphasis. Our wider society is fragmented and fragmenting. People cry out for fairness, for work, for justice, for security, for hope. It's not difficult to look around and again to feel shrouded in a darkness.

But we know that the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out (John 1:5, GNT) and that we are called here, both individually and corporately, to be light. And, if we are light-bearers, which we are, we're not to hide ourselves and God's light under a bucket! We've been put on a light stand on a hilltop, to shine! For all to see!

Epiphany calls us to come again to the light of Jesus Christ. To fill ourselves again with the glory of that light and then step out into a dark

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and weary world as women and men from whom the light and love of Jesus shines forth. To embrace the opportunities that our daily lives present us to be bringers of light. Whether individually or collectively, whether doing what seems like a little thing or maybe what seems like a bigger thing, whether through a kind word or through a helping hand.

This time, and these times, call each of us to remember who we truly are, to remember who is in each of us, to remember who is the source of the light but most of all, to remember to shine!

We are here to be light!

Kevin Scott

Your new Session Clerk

It is my privilege to introduce myself to you as St Andrew's new Session Clerk.

While I appreciate that I'm quite well known to some of you I recognise that not all of you know me. I'm married to Susan, with two grown up daughters (Hannah and Sara), and we've lived in West Linton for just over 20 years now. I grew up in St Boswells and while I attended Sunday School in the village it wasn't until I was in my mid 30s that Jesus became part of my life. This after attending an Alpha Course held at St Catherine's Argyle Church in Marchmont, which became our place of worship for a few years. Susan and I then became members of a small independent Christian fellowship in Edinburgh before joining the congregation here at St Andrew's in 2017.

I have for some time been part of the Worship Leaders' team, leading services across our Linkage, again another amazing privilege. I enjoy running, particularly in the hills above Baddingsill, playing table tennis on a Friday night in the New Church Hall and watching Newcastle United when they're on the television (this has become a much more pleasant activity this season!).

I'd like to record my thanks here to our recent Session Clerk incumbents, Mary Turnbull, Pat Graham and Tony Hoskins for all their hard work and for the support of all the existing Elders. I'm really excited about what the future has in store for us as Church and I'm looking forward to both working with and supporting Tony in his ministry here in West Linton and across our Linkage.

Kevin

Services December

	West Linton 11.30 am	Carlops 10.00 am	Newlands 10.00 am
5th	Kevin Scott	Kevin Scott	Rev Dr Tony Foley
12th	Colin Herd	Colin Herd	Steven Whalley
19th	Rev Dr Tony Foley	Rev Dr Tony Foley	David Henderson-Howat
26th	Rev Chris Levison	Rev Chris Levison	Rev Dr Tony Foley
5.3.23	Murray Campbell	Murray Campbell	Mary McElroy

Door Duties

February

Tony Hoskins Choir
Helen Bruce £ Main
Pat Graham Gallery

March

Kate Dykes Choir
Mary Turnbull Main
Colin Herd Gallery

Readers

Feb 5th Elaine Robinson
12th Morag Kerr
19th Morag Kerr
26th Christine Leith

Readers

Mar 5th Christine Leith
12th Jean McNab
19th Jean McNab
26th Helen Bruce

Sunday Club

**On the second Sunday in February, thereafter
on the first Sunday, for children in P1 to P5**

Contact Kate Whalley or Ann Lyon

01968 661158 or 01968 661347