

West Linton St Andrew's Parish Church

July 2021

Scottish Charity No SC003938

Interim Moderator: Rev Calum Macdougall

Locum Minister: Rev Nancy Norman

Thoughts from the Locum ...

To the newly formed parish the river will lend its name.

From its source to its confluence with the sea, the Tweed follows its winding way, sometimes as if it had all the time in the world to reach its destination, sometimes with greater haste, bubbling and splashing over its stony bed, rushing round the curve and sweep of the valley floor. To see the water burnished silver by full moonlight is to see it at its highest visibility.

The water was there first, centuries before us, shaping the valley – and still shaping it – to its liking, slowly wearing away the land to the contours we recognise. And life continues to follow the water's course – if not within earshot of its voice then subconsciously aware of the nearness of its life-giving force, the road matching its meanderings at a respectful distance.

The Tweed is a wise and patient teacher. It reminds us that the shortest distance between two points may be a straight line but rarely is that line either the more intriguing or the more fruitful way (does nature, in fact, have straight lines?) Consequently, the value of a journey is to be found as much in the journey itself – in all the stoppings and startings, windings and turnings and turnings aside – as in the destination. And it reminds us that, when the destination is reached, the water, having been joined by countless tributaries along

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the way, is far stronger than when it first set out.

'Mark! How all things swerve from their known course, or vanish like a dream...', William Wordsworth observed. The river's meandering, re-shaping the banks and devising new and wider, deeper channels; the good sailor learning to make headway by tacking in zigzags; the pebble that is smoothed and washed at the water's edge suddenly finding itself moved for miles; the person who appears to do something entirely out of character who might be acting in character for the first time: just so does the freedom of the Spirit of God draw things aside from their accustomed way, which might make all the difference.

Rarely are our paths and destinations and decisions clear and straightforward, whether we are acting individually or collectively. We see through a glass darkly, not yet face to face. And the vision we have been given is peripheral as well as straight ahead, and there is much more, I suspect, that is off the beaten track that not only is worthy of our attention, but crucial to our nourishment. Had Moses not turned aside in the desert he would have missed the miracle of the lit bush.

For life's abundance and complexity, then, let us give thanks. For meanderings and zigzags, for unexpected sights and insights in surprising places and people, for everything that calls forth the best in us and in others, for things on the periphery and for whatever prompts us to stop and turn aside to discover them, let us give thanks. And to God who holds all this astonishing diversity – including us – in balance, whose immutable love is the fountain of life and the source of all our being, let us give thanks.

Nancy Norman

Midsummer Day 2021

Message from Session Clerk ...

Many thanks to everyone who offered to serve on the Nominating Committee for our linked parishes of West Tweeddale. The role of the NC is to oversee the process of attracting a new minister, engaging in selection and then bringing a proposed sole nominee to the congregations. Thank you also to those in our congregations who participated in the voting process; the group now charged with this responsibility is as follows:

Lynne Smith and Peter Worthington (Broughton)

Julie Gamble and Murray Campbell (Carlops)

Jean Howat and Jim Brown (Kirkurd and Newlands)

Andrew Fraser and Neil Robinson (Skirling)

Rob Orr and James Welch (Tweedsmuir)

Mark McDavid, Kevin Scott and Mary Turnbull (West Linton: St Andrew's)

The group have now met and agreed the officer bearers as follows:

Convener: Kevin Scott

Vice-Convener: Jean Howat

Clerk: Neil Robinson

Alongside this, the Kirk Sessions are required to provide a Parish Profile to give the necessary guidance to the Nominating Committee. A group from across the 6 linked churches has been working on this and it was approved by the Kirk Sessions in late June. It can be found by visiting www.westtweeddale.org.uk. If you know of anyone who may be interested in applying please direct them to this site which includes contact details that they should use when enquiring formally or informally, or when making an application.

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Blended Services

We hear the expression but what does it mean? There are plans afoot to start the process of opening our doors at St Andrew's whilst, at the same time, continuing to hold our services over Zoom, hence the word 'blended'. The first of these services will be on July 11th with contributions to the service coming from the combined church and Zoom congregation. The intention is to keep it simple and safe. We'll see how that goes, however if successful, it may be the model we will sometimes follow until doors can be reopened permanently. With the gradual easing of lockdown and successful vaccination programme we hope that this will come sooner rather than later.

Places are still limited by Government guidelines so if you are interested in attending church on 11th July you will need to book a place. Please contact me on the contact details below to book your place.

Meanwhile we have certainly seen warmer days as we have moved from early to mid-Summer. Alas, there was again no Whipman Week held in June, however we were able to enjoy a joint Whipman Service with our friends at St Mungo's Episcopal Church, led by Rev Nick Bowry and Rev Nancy Norman. Now with the school year at an end, we do hope there is time to reflect, as well as gain a new perspective on the future. For those able to manage some family time over the holidays, and others too, enjoy this most special time of the year.

Tony Hoskins, Session Clerk

Tel: 01968 682385

Email: ajohoskins@btconnect.com

Thank you ...

Jack and Ivy Stafford
you for the generous
celebrations for their 70th

70

send a heartfelt thank
greetings and congrat-
Wedding Anniversary.

The many cards and gifts
and all contributed to
even more special and memorable.

are really appreciated
making the occasion

Thank you

Church Maintenance ...

And another thank you to all those who over the last 3 weeks have helped with a number of tasks in and outside the Church and the Old Hall.



The church should look fresh for our first blended worship service on 11th July.

Colin Herd

Finance – mid year 2021

30 June marks the end of the first half of the 2021 financial year and I will be preparing an update for the Kirk Session shortly. We have now gone over 15 months without offerings being made at Sunday services, including the loss of donations that in normal times would have been made by occasional attenders at church, by visiting friends and relatives or by the passing stranger.

The summer months usually see a drop in income through holiday absences and, with Early Learners being closed for the school holidays, we won't have the benefit of any hall rental income for the next few months.

While the church benefits greatly from having regular income from monthly standing orders, there has been a decline recently in 'catch-up' payments for weekly Freewill Offering (FWO) envelopes. It is easy to overlook these - as the weeks go by and the amounts add up – but it would be really helpful if they could be brought up to date as far as possible over the course of the next few months. 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. We still have some spare sets from last year, so just get in touch if you would like one.

As a reminder, cheques payable to 'St Andrews Kirk Session' and/or weekly FWO envelopes can be collected from you by arrangement (please speak to any elder) or cheques can be posted to the address below.

Alternatively, donations can be made by online banking – account details below - either as a one-off amount or by monthly standing order.

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Standing order forms are available for completion if desired.

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

Zoom Services July			
	West Linton 11.30 am	Carlops 10.00 am	Newlands 10.00 am
4th	Mary McElroy	Rev Nancy Norman	Mary McElroy
11th	Kevin Scott (Church)	Patsy Campbell	Kevin Scott (Church)
18th	Murray Campbell	Murray Campbell	Steven Whalley
25th	Rev Nancy Norman	Rev Nancy Norman	Rev Pamela Strachan
1/8	Colin Herd	Colin Herd	Rev Nancy Norman

Readers		Readers	
July	4th Tony Hoskins	August	1st Neil Calvert
	11th Tony Hoskins		8th Neil Calvert
	18th Margaret Benington		15th Morag Kerr
	25th Margaret Benington		22nd Morag Kerr
			29th Jimmy Dripps

Material for the August Newsletter should be submitted to the editor by Monday 26th July 2021. The June issue will be available by 1st August.

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

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newsletter@standrews-westlinton.org with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.