

West Linton St Andrew's Parish Church

July / August 2022

Scottish Charity No SC003938

Minister: Rev Dr Tony Foley

Restaurant church versus Potluck church...

When my family lived in Asia one of our favourite things to do was to attend and sometimes host a *Potluck lunch*. A *Potluck lunch* involves inviting people to eat with your family with the proviso that they too bring along a dish or a drink to share with us in the eating and drinking. I have often wondered what it might be like if we thought of church not as a set of structures, programming, goods, and services, but more like a meal? Of course, thinking of our church experience as a meal raises the question would our 'church as a meal experience' be like going to a *Restaurant* for a meal or more like sharing a *Potluck* meal?

If it is a *Restaurant* experience, we are looking for then of course our tastes matter. We can choose from the menu and whether we would like our salad dressing to be served "on the side." We would take note of the pace, and delivery of the 'Restaurant service.' We would consider the ambience and the decor and whether our needs were met in accordance with our expectations. If we liked our "Restaurant experience," we would of course

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

leave a generous tip on the plate.

A *Potluck* experience, however, is hugely different to a *Restaurant* experience. If church were like a *Potluck* experience, we would arrive with different expectations. For example, we would know to arrive with an offering, and we would come prepared to serve and be served. We would naturally demonstrate gratitude to all those others who have come equally prepared to contribute to our shared a feast.

How we would eat at a *Potluck* would of course be different to how we would do so at a *Restaurant*. At a *Potluck* we would eat together in an environment in which we gave and received were we served and were served. Unlike a *Restaurant* experience where, oddly, we seek to eat privately in a public space. *Potlucks* on the other hand are always communal affairs. They invite us to sit and commune with others. At a *Potluck* we get to hear one another's stories. We experience together what it is like to celebrate good news and mourn the sad news. In a *Potluck* experience the soul food is freshly baked by the diners. It is an eating experience where the diners and the chefs, and the waiters are all involved in creating a meal for each and all, together. So let me leave you with a question:

What kind of church experience do you prefer, a *Restaurant* experience where you consume privately in a public space or a *Potluck* experience where you get to create a meal for all, with others?

Tony Foley

Lights Camera Action...

After 2 years of Zoom worship, we are now back in the swing of “in church” Sunday Services at St Andrew’s each week, once more enjoying the fellowship of being together in our lovely building. Tea and coffee after the service has restarted and there is the opportunity to enjoy some conversation face to face, all of which has been welcomed by all.

Looking back, it seems that the Zoom services were extremely popular and successful for us and kept our church community together over a very difficult time. We also knew that even with easing restrictions, getting to church would remain difficult for some and that we needed to offer an opportunity to choose to come along, or continue to connect from home.

However, there was a need to upgrade the technology to provide a better experience! Many will now have noticed that we have installed two adjustable cameras which can pick up lovely clear live video of the front of the church. Also improved is the sound, picked up directly from the church’s different microphones. The system will allow us to offer truly blended services, allowing the possibility for those on Zoom to participate in the service, or the option to play streamed or recorded sound to those in church as well as online, if required.

Grateful thanks go to our colleague, Craig and his team at Mediascape who supplied the equipment, and to Marty and his team from Borders Online who helped us get the broadband in church. Also to Kevin and Colin who have helped with the project and Colin for his work in overseeing our process of live streaming each week. Thanks also to those volunteers who are helping on a Sunday morning. If you’d like to help occasionally, please get in touch with Colin and he’ll show you what’s involved on a Sunday morning.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

We are also extremely grateful to the Orcome Trust which helped us financially with the full funding of the church broadband, cameras, audio mixer and hidden cabling installation. This most generous gift has helped the project become a reality.

The facility now allows anyone in our community to join us on a Sunday, from elsewhere in the village, from across our linkage in West Tweeddale, when on holiday elsewhere in the country or indeed from anywhere in the world where they have an internet connection. The Zoom link is published in Linkage news and is opened each week at 11:15 ahead of the 11:30 start. A local phone number is published for audio only access, if you don't have access to the internet. All will be given the warmest of welcomes.

We do indeed live in changing times!

Tony Hoskins

Technology Volunteers...

Following up on Tony's note above regarding volunteers for the Sunday morning Zoom hosting, we really could do with more volunteers for the rota. If anyone would like to see what is involved without making a commitment, then please come and sit with us in the 'co-pilot's' seat as an observer. We are very happy to give training and then to supervise until you feel confident to 'go solo'.

Colin

Manse..

The manse in West Linton has recently become vacant again and preparations are being made for Rev Dr Tony Foley and his wife Yvonne to move into their new home in mid July. From mid-July their telephone number will be 01968 660221.

Guid Blethers...

After a gap of 2 years the members of Guid Blethers were invited to an Afternoon Tea in the Old Church Hall on 22nd June. The Hall was decorated with colourful bunting and the tables covered with tablecloths and cake stands filled with a mouth watering array of sandwiches, pancakes, scones and a selection of cakes.

The room was bright and airy and filled with a continuous hum of chatter as members, old and new, made up for not seeing each other for 2 years. It was so good to see so many members enjoying themselves.

Thanks must go to the helpers for their hard work in setting tables, hanging the bunting and serving the tea and replenishing the cake stands. The Afternoon Tea was a great success and we are all looking forward to starting up in September with a new programme of events.

New members and volunteers are always welcome.

Helen Dry

Sunday School...

It has been a few years since we had Sunday School at Church and because two young children are regularly joining us on a Sunday, we feel it is perhaps time to pursue the possibilities of getting things started again. If you would like to become involved or have any suggestions of how we can move this forward we would love to hear from you.

Kate Whalley 01968 661158

Ann Lyon 01968 661347 or 07702 984185



The Church of Scotland

STAMP APPEAL 2022

Collect
stamps now
to support
pastors in
Lebanon



National Evangelical Synod
of Syria and Lebanon

During the 2021 financial crisis pastors in Syria and Lebanon donated half of one month's salary to start a fund to support the neediest families.

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE:

Place your used stamps in the box at the front of the church or hand to Colin Herd

Scottish Charity Number: SC011353

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From the Editor's scrapbook...

The Computer Swallowed Grandma

The *computer* swallowed Grandma
Yes, honestly it's true
She pressed 'control' and 'enter'
And disappeared from view.

It devoured her completely
The thought just makes me squirm.
She must have caught a *virus*
Or been eaten by a *worm*.

I've searched through the *recycle bin*
And *files* of every kind:
I've even asked the *Internet*,
But nothing did I find.

In desperation, I asked *Google*
My searches to refine.
The reply from him was negative,
Not a thing was found 'online'
So if inside your 'Inbox',
My Grandma you should see,
Please 'Copy', 'Scan' and 'Paste' her
And send her back to me.

This is a tribute to all the Grandmas who have been fearless and
learned to use the Computer.....

They are the greatest!!

We do not stop playing because we grow old:

We grow old because we stop playing

NEVER be the first to get old!

Services July/August			
	West Linton 11.30 am	Carlops 10.00 am	Newlands 10.00 am
3rd	Rev Tony Foley	Isobel Hunter	Rev Tony Foley
10th	David Henderson-Howat	Rev Tony Foley	David Henderson-Howat
17th	Murray Campbell	Mary McElroy	Murray Campbell
24th	Colin Herd	Fiona Burnett	Colin Herd
31st	Rev Tony Foley	Kevin Scott	Rev Tony Foley
7th	Patsy Campbell	Rev Tony Foley	Patsty Campbell
14th	Isobel Hunter	David Henderson-Howat	Isobel Hunter
21st	Rev Tony Foley	Peter Worthington	Rev Tony Foley
28th	Peter Worthington	Rev Tony Foley	Peter Worthington

Door Duties			
July		August	
Christine Leith	£ Choir	Daryll Green	£ Choir
Helen Bruce	Main	Kevin Scott	Main
Kate Dykes	Gallery	Marion Moore	Gallery

Readers		Readers	
July	3rd Tony Hoskins	August	7th Neil Calvert
	10th Tony Hoskins		14th Steven Whalley
	17th Elaine Robinson		21st Steven Whalley
	24th Elaine Robinson		28th Robert Higgins
	31st Neil Calvert		

Material for the Septmber Newsletter should be submitted to the editor by Monday 22nd August 2022. The September issue will be available by 28th August.

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

Please include 'Newsletter' in the subject of your email.