

# *West Linton St Andrew's Parish Church*

**July/August 2019**

**Scottish Charity No SC003938**

**Interim Minister: Rev Stewart McPherson**

## ***From our Interim Minister ...***

Rabbi Harold Kushner, in his book, *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*, tells the story of a little boy whose mum sends him on an errand, and it takes him a long time to get back. When he finally returns, his worried mother says to him, 'Where were you? I was fearful for you.' And the boy says, 'There's a kid down the street whose bike broke and he was crying 'cause he couldn't fix it. And I felt sorry for him so I stopped to help him.' His mother says, 'Are you trying to tell me you know how to fix a bicycle?' The wee boy replies, 'No, of course not. But I sat down beside him on the pavement, and I helped him cry.'

Kushner goes on, *"When you cannot fix what is broken, you can help very profoundly by sitting down and helping someone cry. A person who is suffering does not want explanation: the person wants consolation. Not reasons, but reassurance."*

Although Kushner is speaking in the context of suffering, his notion impacts on a broader canvas of human emotion and circumstance.

It seems very natural and instinctive to want to fix things, and the quicker the fix then all the better. It seems wise and desirable to repair that which is broken and get it working again. However, sometimes healing takes a longer time, and begins when we sit down with others and listen to each other. When we do that, then we hear how the other feels, understand difference, recognise shared pain, affirm similar joys, and discover what actually requires to be healed. We know it is not enough in the long term to patch over a puncture as that is only temporary, nor may it be to make

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a repair which restores what once was, because the way things were may have caused or exacerbated the damage. It is more about being able to bring a reconciliation which creates something new. A new way of listening, of being present to one another, of living with a new respect for the person with whom we sit.

The way of reconciliation is not just about fixing things, but about a way of living together through which we discover there is a better way of being community as sisters and brothers in Christ through whom we are reconciled to God and to one another. It is not enough to believe that someone will fix things or bring reconciliation for it cannot be imparted or imposed. Reconciliation must be desired and lived out in order to be experienced as a reflection of the deep reconciling love of God. God reconciled the world to himself by coming down beside us in Jesus and sharing our pain, so we become reconcilers by sitting down on the pavement with someone in their hurt, and listening.

***Stewart McPherson***

### ***Presbytery visit to Zomba Presbytery, Malawi ...***

Members of our Presbytery will visit our Twinned Presbytery in Zomba, Malawi in October 2019. There is funding available for two more people to go with this group which will be led by Denis Robson from Innerleithen. Should you be interested please contact Helen Bruce 01968 601603 for further information. Malawi s a very heart warming country to visit.

## ***Summer Fair Saturday 17th August ...***

The Summer Fair will be in the afternoon of **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August** from 2.00 pm to 4.30 pm; on The Green if the weather is favourable or in the Church halls and the Graham Institute if not. Note the date and we look forward to seeing you there.

This year we are planning the following stalls: baking and home produce, garden produce, tombola, prize draw, treasure hunt, guess the weight of the cake, duck race, books DVDs, computer games and Traidcraft. Donations for any of these stalls will be most welcome and can be brought to Church in the lead up to the day, to the Graham Institute on the day or collected by arrangement with one of the organising team.

We have prepared a quiz – ***“How well do you know your village”***, with a number of unusual photos taken recently around the village for you to find the location and answer a question. This will be a fun activity for all the family. Quiz sheets will be on sale after Church on Sundays from Mary Turnbull and Colin Herd or can be bought in the Post Office. We encourage you to buy 2 or 3, one for yourself and some to pass or sell on to neighbours family and friends. (£1 per sheet).

**Remember your ducks** can be “bought” in the pharmacy in advance of the Fair.

As with previous years we will also be offering sales tables to people in the community for a donation to the Church so there will be other stalls as well. If you know someone you think might be interested please let them know.

We hope to have some children’s entertainment and maybe a fun activity for the adults.

After reviewing the last few years we have decided **NOT** to have a bric-a-brac stall and we can’t take old videos.

We look forward to your support in contributing to the stalls above, and of course volunteers to help on the day will be welcomed.

**Contact** for the Fair: **Mary Turnbull 01968 661737**

## ***Christian Aid Week 2019 ...***

Thanks to all who contributed to another successful CA Week.

The traditional coffee morning in the Graham Institute was well attended and raised £464.

The dedicated Sunday service on the theme of appalling childbirth risks in Sierra Leone delivered by Stewart McPherson was thought provoking for the congregation.

The door to door collection within the linkage produced £3799 which was very rewarding. Thanks to all our volunteer collectors who gave up their spare time to help better the lives of less fortunate people overseas struggling with poverty. CA is now the only national charity continuing with this method of collection.

The CA committee much appreciates the generous support from our congregation each year particularly in CA Week. This year's grand total of £4263 is something to be proud of for a relatively small rural community.

If anyone is still scratching their heads about the cryptic paper quiz on book titles, I can provide the answers!

***Robert Higgins***, CA chairperson 01968 660629

## ***Bethany Care Van News ...***

The new Care van has materialised! The existing vehicle was showing its age and had become increasingly unreliable mechanically necessitating major repairs. One of the Bethany Trust's corporate sponsors agreed to start fund raising in May 2018 and was so successful that a new van was bought earlier this year. It was commissioned on 16th June (see photo) and is now on the road.

The Care van service is a partnership with Edinburgh City Mission and local churches. It goes out every night and four lunchtimes a week to give food, fresh soup, hot drinks and clothing to homeless people in the centre of Edinburgh. Statistics for 2018 are impressive:

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21829 customers

9800 lunches provided

33000 cups of tea and coffee

750 volunteers in 50 teams

Our local West Linton churches team usually goes out on the third Sunday of the month, leaving the village at 7.30 pm and returning about midnight. An equally important group of volunteers make flasks of homemade soup to serve. Donations of warm serviceable clothing for both men and ladies are always necessary and welcome to keep our stocks up during the colder months.

If you would like to help and join the team, contact Robert Higgins, 01968 660629 for more information.

Thanks

**Robert Higgins**

## **From the Editor's Scrapbook**

### I CANNOT UNDERSTAND

I cannot understand  
The why and the wherefore of a thousand things,  
The crosses, the annoyances, the daily stings;  
I cannot understand,  
But I can trust;  
And perfect trusting perfect comfort brings.

*I cannot clearly see  
Why life to one brings joy, unlooked-for gain,  
While to another bitter heart-aches come, and pain  
I cannot clearly see,  
But I can trust;  
And by-and-by my Father will explain.*

I cannot see the end,  
The hidden meaning by each trial sent,  
The pattern into which each tangled thread is bent  
I cannot see the end  
But I can trust;  
And in His changeless love I am content.

*I cannot grasp the whole  
Of life's great symphony, nor find the key  
To these strange minor cadences perplexing me,  
I cannot grasp the whole,  
But I can trust  
In Him whose ways are perfect harmony.*

And knowing Thee when trial and sorrow press,  
When nerves are weary and the body weak,  
I neither try to think, nor try to pray,  
But REST in Thee with love that need not speak.

## ***What's on this month ...***

### **CoSY Café**

**Restarts on 30th August**

### **Prayer Focus Group**

**Old Church Hall**

**9.30am to 10.00am**

3rd July

7th August

### **Guid Blethers**

Guid Blethers is taking a break until September.

We meet on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month.

### **Baby Brunch**

**Old Church Hall**

**Fridays**

9.30am to 12.00 noon

*(During school term time)*

## ***The Open Gate ...***

Good news! The Open Gate Project started on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June, aided by funding from the Church of Scotland's Go For It Fund. This will be available every Friday afternoon from 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm in the Newlands Centre, Romanno Bridge, offering confidential Solution-Focussed Brief Therapy to anyone who asks for help.

**Phone or text 07535 898 244** to ask for an appointment or leave a message. You can phone on any day of the week, and will get a reply as soon as possible.

This resource is available to all in the community, old or young, and is free of charge.

***Margaret Habeshaw***

<b>Services July</b>			
	West Linton 11.15 am	Carlops 10.00 am	Newlands 10.00 am
7th	Rev Stewart McPherson	Patsy Campbell	Rev Stewart McPherson
14th	Murray Campbell	Mary McElroy	Murray Campbell
21st	Kevin Scott	David Henderson-Howat	Kevin Scott
28th	Rev Stewart McPherson	Rev Stewart McPherson	Patsy Campbell

<b>Drivers</b>	
<b>July</b>	<b>Driver 1</b> Anne McDiarmid 01968 660495
	<b>Driver 2</b> Daryll Green 01968 660415
<b>August</b>	<b>Driver 1</b> Mary Turnbull 01968 661737
	<b>Driver 2</b> Robert Higgins 01968 660629

<b>Door Duties</b>		
<b>July</b>	J Dripps	Choir (£)
	H Bruce	Main
	K Dykes	Gallery
<b>August</b>	D Green	Choir
	R Wilson	Main
	M Moore	Gallery

<b>Welcome and Readers</b>		
<b>July</b>	7th	Tony Hoskins
	14th	Tony Hoskins
	21st	Susan Scott
	28th	Susan Scott
<b>August</b>	4th	Neil Calvert
	11th	Neil Calvert
	18th	Ruth Herd
	25th	Ruth Herd

<b>Flower Donations - July</b>	
Flower Fund	
Mrs V Fair	
Mrs Una Franssen	
Myra Pollock	
<b>Arranged by Kate Dykes</b>	
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<b>Flower Donations - August</b>	
Jill Green	
Evelyn Barnett	
Flower Fund	
Doreen Calvert	
<b>Arranged by Jill Green</b>	

**Material for the September Magazine should be submitted to the editor by Monday 19th August 2019. The September issue will be available on 25th August.**

**Copy to Colin Herd: email: [herd.carradale@btinternet.com](mailto:herd.carradale@btinternet.com). Please include 'Newsletter' in the subject of your email.**