

Parish of West Linton St Andrew's

March 2018
Church of Scotland



Scottish Charity No SC003938

Interim Moderator: Very Rev Dr Finlay Macdonald

Locum Minister: Rev Nancy Norman

From our Interim Moderator

At risk of giving my age away, something happened recently which last occurred in the year of my birth. Wednesday 14th February was simultaneously Ash Wednesday and St Valentine's Day. The coincidence called for creative thinking. Within the Roman Catholic Church the preferred solution was to combine Valentine flowers and chocolates with Shrove Tuesday pancakes and observe the traditional imposition of ashes and fasting on Ash Wednesday.

While the two days have very different moods each expresses the theme of love in its own way. St Valentine offers joyful celebration; Ash Wednesday reminds us that love has a more sombre face, with mourning as an expression of that love which is stronger than death. As the bard put it: 'Had we never loved sae kindly, had we never loved sae blindly; never met and never parted, we had ne'er been broken hearted.'

2018 sees another calendrical coincidence with Easter Day falling on 1st April – All Fools' Day.

In the first chapter of 1st Corinthians St Paul appears to verge on blasphemy, when he talks of 'the foolishness of God.' The context is a reflection on preaching Christ crucified, which to the Jews is a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness. However, to the faithful it is given to understand that this 'foolishness' of God is wiser than human wisdom and this 'weakness' of God is stronger than human strength. The passage provides us with a challenging reminder as we journey towards the Cross, namely that 'God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise...and what is weak in the world to shame the strong.'

Grace and Peace be with us all,

Finlay

Hellos and goodbyes ...

I've often wondered whether it would be possible to express both greetings and farewells whatever our language. Wherever we come from in this world, it would be fair to assume we could find the words. Surprisingly though, I read recently that this is not the case and, whilst I'm guessing there might be other instances, in the Cheyenne language they have no such standard words and they express themselves in different ways.

On 4th February we had the pleasure of meeting the Very Rev Finlay Macdonald for the first time as he took a service at St Andrew's and used Candlemas as his theme as well as wonderfully weaving in the poetry of Robert Burns into our intercessory prayers. We had the chance after the service to express our welcomes to him and of course we look forward to having Finlay join us as he takes up the role of Interim Moderator for our Linkage. We are grateful to have him with us at this time, with such a wealth of experience in Parish Ministry and as Principal Clerk to the General Assembly for many years.

As people arrived in church that day, the choir sang the Nunc Dimittis, traditional for Candlemas and we were delighted to be joined in the choir by Rev Rachel Dobie and Kirkpatrick. The service was our

chance to find the words to express our deepest thanks to Rachel as she hands over the role of Interim Moderator to Finlay. We know that some of the events of the past year have been complex and remain so. Over that time Rachel has offered support, wisdom and counsel to all she has been in contact with, across the Session Clerks, Kirk Session members, the congregation at large and across our community. We are so grateful for this and for all the pastoral work with individuals and families. So many have appreciated her tireless work and energy, none of which feels like one's normal vision of retirement! After the service we were able to express ourselves in our different ways as we each looked back over the past year and also looked forward to the future. We all know that if called upon Rachel will always be there to help in whatever way she can. We are grateful for that as we are for the wonderful support of her husband Kirk. We enjoyed a very special celebratory cake with our teas and coffees that Sunday morning after an emotional presentation, and probably like the Cheyenne folk said our thanks and farewells in many personal ways. I read that their way is a direct English translation of "I will see you again later".

Tony Hoskins

From Rachel Dobie

How do I say "thank you" to three congregations with whom it has been my privilege to serve, in what have turned out to be such challenging times for you all? Just to get through and continue the worship, the mission, and the daily life of the charge meant that with God's help, **everyone** had to pull together, and it is I who should be thanking you. But I have been hugely moved by the warmth and the generosity and the kindness shown to me by all of you when I felt I had to step back from the post of Interim Moderator. It was hard to say au revoir, but I was helped in no small measure by knowing that Finlay Macdonald was free and willing to take over from me. So, thank you, all of you, for the gifts, and for the friendship and best wishes. You remain in our thoughts and prayers.



Rachel

N.B. au revoir!

Mothering Sunday ...

Mothering Sunday, sometimes known as Mother's Day, is held on the fourth Sunday of Lent. It is exactly three weeks before Easter Sunday. Mothering Sunday was originally a time when people returned to the church, in which they were baptized or where they attended services when they were children. This meant that families were reunited as adults returned to the towns and villages where they grew up. In time, it became customary for young people who were working as servants in large houses, to be given a holiday on

Mothering Sunday. They could use this day to visit their own mother and often took a gift of food or hand-me-down clothing from their employers to her. In turn, this moved towards the modern holiday, on which people still visit and take gifts to their mothers.

Traditionally, people observed a fast during Lent. Lent is the period from Ash Wednesday until Good Friday. However, the fast was lifted slightly on Mothering Sunday and many people prepared a Simnel cake to eat with their family on this day.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday 2nd March 2018

‘All God’s creation is very good’

Written by Christian women of Suriname

(Suriname is located on the NE Coast of S America between
Guyana and French Guyana)

Every year on, or near, the first Friday in March, Christians around the world (Protestants, Roman Catholics, Orthodox, Evangelicals) of all ages (women, men, young people and children) gather in small groups and large congregations using the same basic form of worship, written by women of a different country each year in a theme chosen by the World Day of Prayer International Committee.

‘Lord teach us to pray’

This year we pray with the women of Suriname for

- Single women who have to provide for many children
- Areas of concern: rivers poisoned by mercury: high suicide rate: domestic violence: child sexual abuse
- Adequate, appropriate support and provision for the disabled and those with mental health issues

In services throughout the world on 2nd March people were
thinking and praying about creation,

‘All God’s creation is very good’

*What can we do to care more effectively for our amazing
beautiful planet?*

CHRISTIAN AID UPDATE

Extracts from the Christian Aid Scotland Annual Review 2017

Churches in Scotland raised the amazing sum of £25,334 for Community Partnerships in Malawi, South Asia, Ethiopia, El Salvador and Honduras. With match-funding from the EU and the Scottish Government, these donations will be worth in excess of £100,000. Thanks to all our supporters who have made this possible.

Work with the Scottish Government on long term development projects and in response to humanitarian emergencies continued and expanded. In Balaka, Malawi, we support communities to demand quality maternal and child health services with funding from the Malawi Development Fund. As a result, there has been increased government spending on health in the region, improvement in services and reduced mortality rates. Support from the Climate Justice Fund for the project in Nsanje, Malawi which introduced innovative solar irrigation schemes to farmers came to a successful end after 3 years. Households in this project now expect significantly larger harvests and are better prepared for erratic weather.

In October we received funding for a new project in Central Province, Zambia working with small-scale farmers, mainly women and young people, to develop profitable businesses and to advocate for better business conditions. It will run until March 2022.

Christian Aid is now receiving money from the Scottish Government's

Humanitarian Emergency Fund to support Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. This will provide shelter, clean water, sanitation and hygiene facilities and health services to those fleeing persecution in Myanmar. Since 2016, the Church of Scotland Guild has generously supported a project to provide solar ovens to communities living in the Bolivian Amazon. The impact of the project has been profound: improving the lives of local women, safeguarding precious natural resources and sparking international interest.

FUTURE AIMS

Change isn't only possible, it is happening. Christian Aid and its supporters are sensing a growing solidarity and a greater determination to expose the scandal of poverty which is an outrage against humanity. Poverty robs people of dignity, freedom and hope, of power over their own lives. Transformation needs us all to play our part: to raise money, yes: but also to raise our voices and to act. We must continue to speak up to stop the climate chaos that robs the poorest of their present and everyone of their future, to challenge gender inequality that stifles the right to become equal, and tax injustice that unfairly burdens developing countries. Together we are more than a charity.

DIARY DATES

Christian Aid Week 13-19th MAY 2018
- Door to door collection.

West Linton Coffee Morning - Graham Institute, Saturday 12th May 10am.

Robert Higgins, CA Chair

Easter Events

- March 25th Palm Sunday
Walk of Witness
Health Centre at 10.50 am
- March 30th Tenebrae Service
Carlops at 8.00 pm
- April 1st Easter Sunday
Dawn Service Penicuik
With St James the Less
Easter Breakfast
Carlops at 9.00 am
Family Service WL at 11.15
Easter Songs of Praise
West Linton at 6.00 pm
- April 3rd Broomlee Court Easter
Service at 2.00 pm

Stated Annual Meeting

March 11th 12.15pm
After morning worship
All members are encouraged to
attend this important meeting
of our congregation
This is the confirmed date

The Guild

Wednesday 21 March
Newlands Church Hall
Video of Guild Annual Meeting in Dundee
Talk "Go in Love"



From the Editor's Keyboard ...

The Editor is grateful to all those who have made comments about his first attempt at producing the Newsletter. So far everything seems to have gone smoothly with contributors sending in copy well before the deadline. Work begins on the next issue very soon after this issue is printed. At one stage it looked as though there might be too much copy and there was the distinct possibility that I would actually have to 'edit'. However all is well and there is space for all the articles.

For the future, there has been a suggestion that we might include a section on prayer. The Prayer Focus Group will discuss this with a view to actioning the suggestion.

A note for those who organise the different groups: please submit a report of your activities.

What's on this Month ...

Cosy Café

March 9th

March 23rd

April 6th

New Church Hall

2.00pm to 4.00pm

Fair Trade Stall



FAIRTRADE
FOUNDATION

Guid Blethers

March 14th

March 28th

April 11th

Old Church Hall

2.00pm to 3.30pm

Prayer Focus Group

March 7th

April 4th

Old Church Hall

9.15am to 9.45am

Messy Church

March 4th

New Church Hall

4.00pm to 6.00pm



The Boys Brigade

Tuesday Evenings

New Church Hall

from 6.30 pm

For boys from P1 to S6

THE BOYS'
BRIGADE
> the adventure begins here



Baby Brunch

Every Friday

9.00am to 12.00noon

Old Church Hall

For Parents, Grandparents and Carers
with their pre-school children

Table Tennis

Every Friday 7.00 to 9.00pm

New Church Hall

For all ages and abilities

Not Good Friday

Services			
	West Linton 11.15 am	Carlops 10.00 am	Newlands 10.00 am
4th Mar	Rev Nancy Norman	Rev Nancy Norman Eve - Murray Campbell	Very Rev F J Macdonald
11th Mar	Very Rev F J Macdonald	Sheena Livingstone	Rev Nancy Norman
18th Mar	Rev Nancy Norman	Very Rev F J Macdonald	Rev Nancy Norman
25th Mar	Rev Nancy Norman	Rev Nancy Norman	David Howat
1st April	Rev Nancy Norman Eve - Songs of Praise	Rev Nancy Norman	Rev Chris Levison

Drivers

March **Driver 1** Robert Wilson
01968 660121
Driver 2 Michael Knott
01968 660977

April **Driver 1** Robert Higgins
01968 660629
Driver 2 Kate Dykes
01968 660247

Door Duties

March Daryll Green Choir
Marianne Jack Main
Helen Bruce £ Gallery

April Tony Hoskins £ Choir
Pat Graham Main
Jimmy Dripps Gallery

Welcome and Readers

March 4th Helen Whalley
11th Helen Whalley
18th Jean Macnab
25th Jean Macnab

April 1st Mary Turnbull
8th Mary Turnbull
15th Steven Whalley
22nd Steven Whalley

Flower Donations March

Jack & Ivy Stafford
Margaret Benington
Flower Fund
Jill Green

Flower Arranger Jill Green

Flower Donations April

Anna Gibson
Julie Jackson
Chris Whittamore
Margaret Ramsay/Flower Fund
Flower Fund

Flowers arranged by Flower Team

Material for the April Magazine should be submitted to the editor by Friday 23rd March 2018. The April issue will be available on 1st April.

Copy to Colin Herd: email: herd.carradale@btinternet.com

Please include the word Newsletter in the subject line of your email.