

West Linton St Andrew's Parish Church

March 2019

Scottish Charity No SC003938

Interim Minister: Rev Stewart McPherson

From our Interim Minister ...

At the recent baptism of little baby Zara in Carlops Church the congregation continued their tradition of giving the little one the gift of a tree. A small tree about 18 inches tall with a few brown leaves, which looked on first sight a rather colourless and lifeless gift. Of course, it is a beautiful gift, full of potential and colour with fruit to bear in season reflecting the gift of a child and the gifts the little one has the potential to gift to the world.

Trees are such powerful symbols, evidenced in the bible from the beginnings in the garden of creation and the tree of knowledge through to the leaves of the trees for the healing of the nations in the closing book of Revelation. The people of God were a wandering people who knew life in the scrubland of the desert, and then rejoiced when they could live in more fertile plains, knew the value of the sight of a treeline that promised water or strong trees from which to build security. The oaks of Mamre, the cedars of Lebanon, the trees under which prophets sat to think and where plans were hatched by kings; the tree of faith in which all the birds of the air will come and nest; Jesus parable of the fig tree and the church as the branches of the vine; the tree on which Zacchaeus first encountered Jesus, and of course, the cross hewn from a tree and the spring trees in the garden in which resurrection was witnessed.

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The life of a tree comes from its roots. Or rather, where its roots are planted. A tree, as symbol of faith, asks that our roots be planted in that which gives us life, refreshment, strength, in order that we realise our potential and bear fruit - rooted in God.

As our churches locally and nationally enter a phase of pruning that which is past, identifying the buds that are being revealed, and tending the saplings that are growing, it is necessary to ensure that our roots are planted in that which feeds and refreshes and nourishes us. Whatever form our prayer life, or regular our worship engagement, can we ensure our faith is rooted in that which gives us life? A faith that digs down and spreads out towards the living streams of our faith tradition, of our scriptures, of prayer, of attending to the words and life of Jesus and being part of a worshipping, caring, compassionate community. And as we do, we each can reflect on where our faith is rooted, the gift we are to the world, and the potential fruit we might bear.

Yours in the name of the God of life,

Stewart McPherson

The Guild ...

The Guild will meet on Tuesday 19th March at 7 pm in Newlands Annexe when we will be joined by members of our local BB Company. We hope to spend the evening getting to know more about each other's activities, and generally to develop some friendships.

Boys Brigade Scotland is one of the 6 chosen projects which will be supported financially by the National Guild over the next 3 years - aimed at helping the growth of leadership, community partnership, and personal growth for BB boys across Scotland.

Margaret Habeshaw

Interim Ministry Update: February 2019

Carlops, Kirkurd & Newlands & St Andrew's West Linton

Where We Are & Where We Are Going ...



The main focus for our Interim Ministry is:

- ◆ *Coming to terms with our history*
- ◆ *Discovering our new identity*
- ◆ *Planning for our Future*

What's been happening ...

In order to explore these areas, there have been many one-to-one conversations, a gathering of the elders from the three congregations, Listening Spaces for small groups to share their feelings about past events, and a gathering of all congregations on 12th January. From all of this, the Transition Support Group (TSG) has identified with the Interim Minister certain areas of focus and created some objectives for us to achieve based on the results of all our conversations.

The main Aim is to create a church ready to call a new minister at the end of the period of Interim Ministry. However, we want to use that as a springboard for looking beyond that time and the shape and life of our congregations and linkage.

Main Objectives ...

- ⇒ Continue offering Listening Spaces for people to be heard.
- ⇒ Identify ways through which the linkage can build relationships, and respect diversity.
- ⇒ Improve communication in all areas of church life and beyond.
- ⇒ Identify ways of improving joint working especially between Kirk Sessions.
- ⇒ Review variety of worship experiences and identify changes to aid our congregational life and mission.
- ⇒ Better equip and resource our worship leaders and add to their number.
- ⇒ Build on the good pastoral care carried out by the minister, elders, and others, and how that experience might be shared and developed.
- ⇒ Build on the outreach work carried out in each of the three parishes.
- ⇒ Undertake an audit of gifts and needs in the linkage congregations and parishes.
- ⇒ Engage with the Presbytery Plan process and the wider Church's vision for its future shape and life.

A number of ideas have arisen in our conversations and In order to continue this process , and identify specific intentions, a series of events has been planned.



Come along to any one, two or more of the evenings where YOU can help shape our future ...

“Worship the Lord!”

Thursday 14th March
7.30pm
Carlops Church

Why do we worship, and how do we grow our worshipping life?

“Every word!”

Thursday 21st March
7.30pm
Carlops Church

Why & what we communicate is important, but how do we do it in our life together?

“They will hold you up!”

Thursday 28th March
7.30pm
Old Church Hall,
West Linton

Christian community is about living in relationship, so how do we respect, celebrate, and affirm our diversity?

“Angels about you!”

Thursday 4th April
7.30pm
Old Church Hall
West Linton

How do we understand mission and our engagement with those who live in our communities, and do we open doors to get people in or to let us out?

“And angels helped him!”

Thursday 11th April
7.30pm
Newlands Church

How do we care for one another and why do we bother? What is Pastoral Care?

“Jesus was hungry”

Thursday 18th April
7.30pm
Newlands Church

We are fed and nourished by the one who was nourished by God. We share Communion together in Holy Week as Jesus did with his friends.

John Bunyan - the man who wrote Pilgrim's Progress

After the Bible, John Bunyan's wonderful Christian allegory, the Pilgrim's Progress, is one of the most celebrated and widely-read books in the English language. It has been translated into more than one hundred languages around the world and keeps its place as a Christian classic. Names of people and places from its pages have been commonplace wherever English is spoken. We need only recall Mr Great-Heart, Mr Valiant-for-Truth, Giant Despair, Madame Bubble, the Slough of Despond, Vanity Fair, the Delectable Mountains, the Hill Difficulty and the Celestial City. Bunyan was born on the 28 November 1628 at Elstow, near Bedford, England, of a poor family. He had little formal education and his father taught him to be a metal worker. His first wife died young. His second wife, Elizabeth, helped him considerably with his blossoming literary career. His conversion was the result of reading the Bible and the witness of local Christians. From that time the Bible became the great inspiration of his life. He wrote more than fifty books on Christianity. A Baptist by conviction he had little time for the established Church. Bunyan became a popular preacher, but because of his opposition to the Church and because he did not have a Church of England preaching licence, he was imprisoned in 1661. It was in prison that he wrote Pilgrim's Progress. It was not only Bunyan's greatest book but was destined to become one of the most popular Christian books in the world. Pilgrim's Progress is an allegory, using the names of people and places from the Bible to teach spiritual lessons. The vivid and unforgettable imagery in Pilgrim's Progress covers the whole Christian gospel from sin and condemnation all the way through faith, repentance, grace, justification, sanctification and perseverance to heaven itself. Bunyan died on 31 August 1688. His portrayal of the death of Mr Valiant-for-Truth is Bunyan at his allegorical best. This brave old soldier of Jesus Christ had received his summons to 'go home'. Calling his friends together he says, "My sword I give to him who shall succeed me in my pilgrimage. My marks and scars I carry with me, to be a witness for me, that I have fought His battles, who will now be my rewarder". So he passed over, and all the trumpets sounded for him on the other side.



The next session of Messy Church is on:

Sunday 3 March – Messy Pancake Day

It runs 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! All children **MUST** be accompanied by an adult.

After a game to start the children participate in a range of craft activities, then have a song and a story and finish off with a meal together. For more information contact Jean Howat (01968 660677) howatjean@gmail.com

Prayer Focus Group ...

The Prayer Group now meets twice per month. On the first Wednesday at 9.30am and on the 3rd Wednesday at 7.30pm. All are welcome to join us as we pray together - for our congregation and its people, for our local community, for our national church and nation and for our broken and fractured world. Prayer is the engine room of the church. As we pray, we grow in our sense of God being alive and active in our lives and all around us.

Maybe you have never been to such a gathering before? It's never too late to start. Come and join us and take part in our shared prayer life.

What's on this month ...

CoSY Café

New Church Hall

2.00pm to 4.00pm

1st March

15th March

29th March

12th April

The Guild

4th March

2.30 pm Glencorse Church

19th March

7.00pm in Newlands Annexe

Guid Blethers

Old Church Hall

2.00pm to 3.30pm

13th March

27th March

Prayer Focus Group

Old Church Hall

9.30am to 10.00am

(Note change of time)

6th March

3rd April

7.30pm to 8.00pm

20th March

Stated Annual Meeting

March 10th at 12.15pm

After morning worship

All members are encouraged
to attend this important
meeting of our congregation

Baby Brunch

Old Church Hall

Fridays

9.30am to 12.00 noon

(During school term time)

Services February			
	West Linton 11.15 am	Carlops 10.00 am	Newlands 10.00 am
3rd	Mary McElroy	Rev Stewart McPherson	Mary McElroy
10th	Rev Stewart McPherson	Mary McElroy	Rev Stewart McPherson
17th	Rev Chris Levison	Rev Chris Levison	Rev Stewart McPherson
24th	David Henderson-Howat	Rev Stewart McPherson	David Henderson-Howat
31st	Rev Stewart McPherson	Mary McElroy	Rev Stewart McPherson

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 D Green Choir
C Herd Main
H Bruce (£) Gallery
April J Dripps (£) Choir
A Lyon Main
M Jack Gallery

Welcome and Readers

March 3rd Christine Leith
10th Christine Leith
17th Jean McNab
24th Jean McNab
31st Mary Turnbull
April 7th Mary Turnbull
14th Steven Whalley
21st Steven Whaley
28th Robert Higgins

Flower Donations - March

Margaret Benington
Ruth Herd
Flower Fund

Flowers arranged by Ruth Herd

Flower Donations - April

Julie Jackson
Chris Whittemore
Margaret Ramsay
Flower Fund

Flowers arranged by the Flower Team

Material for the April Magazine should be submitted to the editor by Friday 22nd March 2019. The April issue will be available on 31st March.

Copy to Colin Herd: email: herd.carradale@btinternet.com. Please include 'Newsletter' in the subject of your email.