

*Parish of  
West Linton  
St Andrew's*  
October 2018

Church of Scotland



Interim Minister: Rev Stewart McPherson

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

I write this amidst boxes and clutter. Boxes temporary but clutter possibly not.

As we finalise packing up and moving into the manse at West Linton it has been and remains for now a busy and an anxious time as we fill boxes while preparing for meetings and make decisions about what comes with us, what is stored, what goes to the charity shop, and what ends up at the dump. It is a recent trend to speak of the importance of 'decluttering', but we all have to do it some time, or we choose to never move house and leave all our stuff for the children to throw in a skip after we've gone. My brother spent his career in the army and said the best way to keep your garage and loft tidy is to move every three years as that certainly reduces the amount of clutter in your life. Living in a manse for a time, however, means there is often always a spare corner or a cupboard to put something in for the meantime – in case it comes in handy, which of course it rarely does. There is always a reluctance to throw something away that was useful for a while, was a gift from someone, or is of sentimental value. And the other difficulty is that what I might call clutter, my wife may well consider sacrosanct,

*(Continued on page 2)*

*(Continued from page 1)*

and vice versa.

It is so obvious to relate all this to life and the memories and thoughts we carry around with us. Things of sentiment and value that we treasure and carry gladly and lightly, while we also trail with us the memories that are heavier and burdensome that we are often reluctant or find difficult to let go. Although it appears the storage capacity of the human mind and heart are limitless, some things just seem to take up so much room and can avoid us getting into the smaller boxes where the treasures are. Some difficult or bitter memories can dominate our thinking and cause us to forget the good and more beautiful things that end up gathering dust and can become forgotten.

Decluttering is not just about rushing to the dump or indeed handing some things on to others, but about choosing to relinquish and let go of the things that have become a burden and even wear us out with their weight. It can be exhausting, stressful, and even painful. Other things require to be acknowledged for what they once meant to us and then need to be blessed, wrapped up and laid down.

I, of course, may not see it as clutter or a burden, while to others it may obviously be so. As I wrap somethings up to keep for even longer, sometimes it takes someone else to ask me why I am hanging on to it. Then I can think it through and realise I have been given permission to let it go. And decluttering brings a welcome release, a greater freedom, and a much lighter step.

***Stewart McPherson***

## ***Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal 2018 ...***

### **Celebrating 25 years**

With Christmas fast approaching it is time to think about filling our shoe boxes to bring hope and joy to many in eastern Europe who have so much less than we have. Blythswood will be sending boxes to Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine.

Leaflets with instructions and the list of recommended contents are available at each door of the church. If the thought of filling a box is too daunting, please feel free to donate toiletries, hats, scarves and gloves, if preferred. The cost of sending the containers to eastern Europe is considerable - £3,500 to £4,000 per container. It may be that you are unable to fill a box, but could you give a small cash gift to help with the transport costs?

Boxes should be left at the front of the church. **The final date this year is Sunday 28 October.**

## ***World Mission Stamp Appeal 2018 ...***

The Reformed Church in Ukraine helps to run a number of day care centres which provide educational, emotional and physical support for children and young people with disabilities. The World Mission Council's Stamp Appeal will support the young people to live life in all its fulness, and to enjoy opportunities to participate in society and family life.

Stamps can be left at the front of the church to be forwarded to the coordinator of the appeal.

## ***Baby Brunch ...***

Baby Brunch takes place every Friday morning between 9 am and 12 noon in the Old Church Hall during school term time. It started in 2014 with a small band of volunteers who were there nearly every week. We welcome mums, dads, grandparents, childminders with their babies and young toddlers. It has become a popular place to be, with volunteers more than ready to cuddle a baby while the parents/carers have a cup of tea or coffee.

We now have 8 regular volunteers from the Church and wider community, with 3 on duty each week. Last year we had over 35 families attending and this school session we have already had 29 families. The morning runs as a drop-in activity and all are welcome to come and go as suits their needs.

There is lots of chatting, playing and coffee drinking. We have 2 volunteers who take it in turns to provide wonderful home baked scones.

We run as a **not** for profit group but there is a small charge to cover expenses. Last year Baby Brunch contributed to the Church famine relief fund and the new kitchen in the hall. We will contribute to Macmillan Cancer from takings on Friday 28 September – “The Macmillan Cancer Big Coffee Morning”.

We have, over the years, had warm and very positive feedback from those who have attended Baby Brunch; the welcome, friendship and support available have been valued by many.

***Mary Turnbull***

## ***National Day of Prayer ...***

The General Assembly of The Church of Scotland has called for a Day of Prayer on Saturday 3 November. The information has just been received. The Prayer Focus Group will coordinate the programme and details will appear in the weekly intimations.

## ***Messy Church ...***

**Sunday 4 November – Remembrance and Poppies**

New Church Hall, West Linton, 4 to 6 pm.

All children from toddlers to P7 are most welcome to come and join in the fun!

After a game to start, the children do a range of craft activities, then have a song and a story.

The afternoon finishes with a meal together. All children **MUST** be accompanied by an adult.



## ***The Guild ...***

The next meeting of the Guild is on Wednesday 31 October in the Old Church Hall, West Linton. Rev Nancy Norman will share some of her experiences of being a minister. We expect this to be a happy and entertaining afternoon, so please join us if you can. We begin with a short act of worship, and end with a cup of tea and biscuits.

Members and friends are reminded that at our meeting on 28 November we hope to hand over some knitted beanies for seamen to our speaker from the Sailors' Society.

***Margaret Habeshaw***

## ***Talk at Newlands Church ...***

**Thursday 8 November at 7.30pm**

James Ogilvie will give an illustrated talk about climbing the highest summits of the five continents of the world.

## **Harvest Festival – Sunday 7 October ...**

*“You shall keep the Feast of Harvest, of the firstfruits of your labour, of what you sow in the field. You shall keep the Feast of Ingathering at the end of the year, when you gather in from the field the fruit of your labour”. Exodus 23, v16.*

*“May the peoples praise you, God; may all the peoples praise you. The land yields its harvest; God our God blesses us”. Psalm 67, vv5,6.*

As the farmers around us end their crop harvesting and fruit and vegetables are stored, we come again to a time of thanks; a time to come together to give thanks for God’s abundance to us.

At Harvest Thanksgiving on Sunday 7 October we will have the opportunity to give a portion of our abundance to the 2 projects chosen by the Kirk Session.

**Christian Aid’s Harvest Appeal.** For every £1.00 donated the EU will add £4.00. This will be used to support Christian Aid’s Solar Panel project. Further information can be found on the Christian Aid website under Harvest Appeal.

**Donations of non-perishable food items.** In recent years these donations have gone to Bethany Trust. We understand that they are no longer accepting food donations. In light of the increasing use of foodbanks it has been decided that this year the donations will be given to local foodbanks which provide an essential service to many people in need in the community.



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

### **CoSY Café**

**New Church Hall**

**2.00pm to 4.00pm**

5th October

19th October

2nd November

### **Prayer Focus Group**

**Old Church Hall**

**9.15am to 9.45am**

3rd October

7th November

### **Guid Blethers**

**Old Church Hall**

**2.00pm to 3.30pm**

10th October

24th October

14th November

### **The Guild**

**Old Church Hall**

Wednesday 31st October

### **Baby Brunch**

**Old Church Hall**

**Fridays**

9.30am to 12.00 noon

## ***Have you a spare Wheelie Bin ... ?***

We have a request for an additional bin for garden waste at the Manse. If anyone has a spare or redundant green lidded bin, please contact Daryll Green.



## ***Advertise your group here ...***

<b>Services</b>			
	West Linton 11.15 am	Carlops 10.00 am	Newlands 10.00 am
07 Oct	Rev Stewart McPherson	Rev Stewart McPherson	Kevin Scott
14 Oct	Mary McElroy	Rev Chris Levison	Patsy Campbell
21 Oct	Murray Campbell	Murray Campbell	Rev Chris Levison
28 Oct	Rev Stewart McPherson	ECO	Rev Stewart McPherson
04 Nov			

### **Drivers**

October **Driver 1** Anne McDiarmid  
01968 660495  
**Driver 2** Colin Herd  
01968 661785

November **Driver 1** Mary Turnbull  
01968 661737  
**Driver 2** Steven Whalley  
01968 661158

### **Door Duties**

October Tony Hoskins Choir  
Pat Graham Main  
Mary Turnbull £ Gallery

November J Dripps Choir  
M Knott Main  
R Wilson (£) Gallery

### **Welcome and Readers**

October 7th Colin Herd  
14th Kevin Scott  
21st Colin Herd  
28th Helen Bruce

November 4th Helen Bruce  
11th Kirsty Crick  
18th Kirsty Crick  
25th Oliver Hoskins

### **Flower Donations - October**

Harvest  
Flower Fund  
Anne McDiarmid

### **Flowers arranged by Nancy Porteous**

.....

### **Flower Donations - November**

Flower Fund  
Flowers in memory of Mr & Mrs Adair  
Mrs P Graham  
Forsyth Family

### **Flowers arranged by Sheila Forsyth**

**Material for the November Magazine should be submitted to the editor by Friday 20th October 2018. The November issue will be available on 28th October. Copy to Colin Herd: email: [herd.carradale@btinternet.com](mailto:herd.carradale@btinternet.com) Please include the word Newsletter in the subject line of your email.**