

West Linton St Andrew's Parish Church

October 2021

Scottish Charity No SC003938

Interim Moderator: Rev Calum Macdougall

Locum Minister: Rev Nancy Norman

From our Interim Moderator ...

In this, my final minister's letter before the induction of Dr Tony Foley towards the end of the month, I want to offer my warmest good wishes and to assure you of my continuing thoughts and prayers, as you look forward to the next stage in your faith journey together.

The transition from having been part of a three-way linking, now to being in a charge of six congregations, can seem a daunting prospect. It will take time to adjust. In some respects things will be different, not least the need to get used to having a reduced 'share' of the minister. That very fact, however, may have very positive consequences, for it should help to release more gifts for shared ministry among the folk of the congregations. The priesthood of all believers will become an increasingly vital reality in all six congregations, for, even in churches where talents abound and levels of commitment are high, there will always be scope for the discerning of experiences and skills that can be used in the service of the Church.

The nature of parish ministry is changing rapidly, due both to the alarming shortage of ministers and to the continuing decline in membership. We could so easily be tempted to move towards a siege mentality, allowing the main focus of our efforts to be concentrated merely on preserving what we have. That would be so wrong and it

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would be a betrayal of our historic and traditional understanding of parish church and parish ministry. Tony Foley comes to us, not as chaplain to our members but as minister to our congregations and parishes. As such, much of his time and effort will be concentrated in the wider parish communities, including, of course, in our local schools. Please encourage and support him in that essential element of ministry.

In all my years in parish ministry I continually marvelled that not only had I been given a people to love, but that that love was more than reciprocated, all in in the name of Jesus Christ. I know your welcome to Tony, as he takes up his charge, will be enthusiastic and sincere. Support him, care for Yvonne and him and, in Christ's name, love him dearly.

May God's richest blessing always be with you.

Calum Macdougall

Interim Moderator

Editor's Note ...

The Editor wants to record his thanks to our Interim Moderator and Locum Minister for their unfailing willingness to give a contribution for the Newsletter over the past number of months. It is no easy task to produce something fresh and relevant each month. We look forward to meeting them at various events in the future.

Colin Herd

From our Locum Minister ...

Thoughts from the Locum...

From the un-curtained kitchen window at the back of the house, a broad channel of light streamed out into the dimness of the evening and across the gravelled path to the back door. As my feet crunched into the brightness, heads bent over the kitchen table inside turned and looked up – smiles, a quick wave, the back door flung wide releasing mouth-watering aromas of fresh baking and warmth, hands and arms extended in the virtual welcome necessitated by these covid days, my coat damp from the rain whisked off and hung to dry and in a twinkling I was seated at the table amidst all the signs of life there: newly baked bread cooling on a wire rack; an open cookery book; a brightly coloured teapot on its stand; pen and notepad and a hand-written letter in progress; a willow basket awaiting use; balls of wool and knitting needles and the beginnings of a jumper, laid down momentarily; slices of a date and walnut loaf already on a plate; a little candle alight, its flame still dancing in the current of air from the open door and settling down now to the gentle flow of conversation around the table.

Every kitchen table tells its story. Every kitchen table weaves its spell of magic, of hospitality, of on-going life. Around them, in one way or another, are concerns shared, items of news exchanged, joys exclaimed, sorrows poured out, plans made, ideas inspired. I have never met an ordinary kitchen table; always there is around them the vibrancy of life in all its mixture and mystery and abundance and intricacy.

I learn, to my horror, that in some places in America, new houses are being built with no kitchens – perhaps because convenience food needs only to be microwaved in minutes, or because meals are taken more

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frequently in restaurants, or worse, perhaps because there is so little time taken to stop and sit and talk.

May kitchen tables everywhere be blessed with good things. May everyone have the privilege of being welcomed in the circle of warmth and generosity which kitchen tables offer in their own particular way. And may we find our own kitchens to be places of thoughtfulness and delight, nourishment and open welcome, laughter and bright hopes and love.

Nancy Norman

Locum Minister

Grounds Maintenance ...

At this time of year there is always a need to carry out some maintenance around the church and halls. Between now and the middle of November we need to clear the leaves and take them to Eshiel. Listen out for an intimation for when this will be taking place. All volunteers will be welcome.

Colin Herd

Message from Session Clerk ...

With the late publication of the last issue of our newsletter and the early publication of this one I find myself thoughtful of the season change I referred to last month and the changes underway in the past 2/3 weeks. In many senses it has felt like an extension to the Summer with warm days and much sunshine. And yet today, in the light breeze the dry leaves are falling and clattering as they land. Autumn is certainly here and as we move into October we can expect shorter hours of daylight, the loss of an hour as we return to GMT and still, an opportunity to enjoy cosy attire when outdoors in the beautiful Scottish countryside.

Looking to October we now expect to see a return to attended church, most likely this will be on the second and fourth week of the month with the services simply streamed live over Zoom. Zoom church, in the way we have experienced it in the past 18 months, will continue in the remaining weeks, so for those unable to get to church there always will be a Zoom option and the links will be circulated in Linkage News. The Kirk Session will revisit this in December. Meanwhile, we look forward very much to our new minister joining us. It is planned that the Rev Dr Tony Foley will be inducted at St Andrew's on 25th October. We look forward to welcoming him and expressing our full support for his ministry here in West Linton and in the other linked Parishes.

Social distancing in church premises has now been removed and so the duty of care falls to the Kirk Session to choose how best to resume attended services in a way that is safe for everyone. Sensitivities remain, particularly with high numbers of Covid cases in the community at large. The wearing of masks, does remain compulsory in church premises, throughout the services, and not just when singing. Those attending will also notice that St Andrew's has registered for the Check In Scotland QR Code and are asked to use it when attending church. Our numbers are such that there will not be a requirement to reserve places, although this may be required for special services which take us

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close to a safe capacity. Due to the need to register, either by using the QR code or signing the attendance sheet, worshippers are requested to arrive early for every service. Please note too that you must provide a contact telephone number.

Please keep a close eye on weekly Linkage News for updates regarding forthcoming services and also listen out for those pink-footed geese arriving at Westwater Reservoir and their twice-daily encouraging conversation overhead! The new season is upon us...

Tony Hoskins, Session Clerk

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Thank You to the customers of
West Linton Co-Op
for your generous donations

Items needed are:

- Coffee
- Jam
- Sponge puddings
- Tinned vegetables (peas etc)
- Instant mash
- Lentils
- Snacks (crisps/sweets/cereal bars)
- Toiletries

Peeblesshire
foodbank

Midlothian
foodbank

**HELPING LOCAL
PEOPLE IN CRISIS**

Shoe Box Appeal 2021 ...

Last year in spite of all the difficulties, 75,218 boxes and gym bags were distributed in Eastern Europe, including 38 from West Linton, as well as welcome donations of money.

This year deliveries will again be made to countries including Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Serbia and Ukraine.

Drawstring gym bags can be used instead of shoe boxes and leaflets are available in the Post Office and the Church.

Definite dates for uplift are still to be finalized but 24 October will be the last date for the boxes to be brought to church.

Pat Graham

Church Flowers ...

I am looking for someone to take over the flower list by the end of the year, along with the organising of various activities connected with Church Flowers. This mainly involves paperwork and phone calls, but you do not necessarily need to help with arranging flowers. We are, however always looking for new helpers with this too, so if you feel you can help in any way, please contact me and I can explain further.

Jill Green 660415

Services October			
	West Linton 11.30 am	Carlops 10.00 am	Newlands 10.00 am
3rd	Rev Nancy Norman Zoom	Rev Chris Levison Harvest	David Henderson-Howat In church—Harvest
10th	Mary McElroy In Church	Rev Nancy Norman	Mary McElroy In church
17th	Rev Nancy Norman Zoom	Patsy Campbell	Rev Nancy Norman In church
24th	Rev Nancy Norman In Church	Rev Nancy Norman	Colin Herd In church
31st	TBC Zoom	TBC	TBC In church

We are planning to resume some services in **West Linton** during October. Those attending should aim to arrive early so that the procedures for Test and Protect can be completed before the service starts.

Services at **Newlands** are now in church every Sunday at 10.00 am with socially distancing and other mitigation measures in place. They will welcome anyone who wishes to attend in person.

Readers		Readers	
October	3rd Kevin Scott	November	7th Kirsty Crick
	10th Colin Herd		14th Kirsty Crick
	17th Colin Herd		21st Elaine Robinson
	24th Helen Bruce		28th Elaine Robinson
	31st Helen Bruce		

Material for the November Newsletter should be submitted to the editor by Monday 25th October 2021. The November issue will be available by 31st October. Copy to Colin Herd: email: newsletter@standrews-westlinton.org. Please include 'Newsletter' in the subject of your email.

To stop receiving the Newsletter by email please send an email to : newsletter@standrews-westlinton.org with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.