

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

Church of Scotland



Scottish Charity No SC003938

Interim Minister: Rev Stewart McPherson

From our Interim Minister ...

I would like to begin my first letter to you with a sincere 'Thank You' for the warmth of the welcome you have offered me at the Service of Introduction, Sunday worship, and in the homes of the people I have met so far. This means much to me, as well as my family. I imagine there has also been a little anxiety around as you wondered who this person was and what he might be like. After all, one of the major differences, if not THE major difference, between an Interim Minister and a Parish Minister is that you did not call me here. Where a minister is "called" to a parish, there's been a process of interviews and hearing the minister in action, whereas with Interim Ministry, someone lands in the community, journeys with you for 18 months, and then disappears before a new minister is properly called and inducted! Although behind my appointment there have been many conversations, meetings, votes, and wondering about the right fit for the congregations, there has also, I am pleased to say, been much prayer. I can assure you I have prayed much about this ministry and this new journey we make together.

There is, of course, an element of risk involved in all of this, and most of us are often hesitant of risk and uncertainty. But sometimes, in faith we find ourselves stepping on to a new path believing we are following

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the assuring sound of Jesus' voice and feel that call is stronger than any fears we may have. And sometimes God likes to take risks, as his story tells us time and again. I felt a growing and strengthening call to Interim Ministry, a recognition of my gifts, and the affirmation of that by the church through interview and conversations with other Interim Ministers. At the same time, you have been journeying through discussion, question, hesitancy, and faith towards this point where we both now meet. Maybe you have not 'called' me here, but as we both have journeyed seeking to respond to Jesus' voice, perhaps he has called us together. It is in that faith and discernment that we walk together now. And may we always remember whose call we each follow.

With every blessing,

Stewart McPherson



Stewart and Marjory McPherson

CoSY Café ...

The café was started by Shona and Robert Trench who were raising funds to support the Youth programme within our church. The café ran in the afternoon with a youth group meeting in the evening. When the Trench family moved overseas, the evening programme ceased but the afternoon café continued.

Some years ago, due to less involvement with young people, the clientele were asked to rename the café but declined, stating they liked the name as it was. So, CoSY continues. The logo, originating with the national church, stands for Church of Scotland Youth. Incidentally there is another café of the same name in Christ Church, New Zealand.

The backbone of the café is of course the Volunteers (Margaret, Pat, Margaret, Helen and Kirsty) who faithfully set up, serve and clear up. Fiona, a Duke of Edinburgh Award student, helps intermittently. Margaret and Pat, our main home bakers delight with the favourite cheese scones, pancakes and a variety of goodies. The other volunteers baking as needed.

A Fair Trade stall is part of the set up and has items for sale and Traid Craft catalogues for viewing and ordering.

The monies made from the Café in the last year have gone to Church Funds, Bethany Christian Trust, Shelter Box Trust and to our Presbytery World Mission Committee. Collected tips have gone towards the Presbytery Sponsorship of midwifery training in Zomba Malawi.

The café would not run if there were no customers. To those who faithfully visit, thank you for your support. We hope to continue serving a cuppa, a cake and a blether in the year ahead. See page 7 for dates in September.

Helen Bruce

Church Fair ...

The church fair took place on Saturday 18 August. There was a buzz in the air as folk wandered round the stalls in the halls. Unfortunately the weather did not smile on us and everything had to be indoors - except of course the duck race. The sum raised for church funds was £1040.73 (less the cost of hiring the Graham Institute). Thanks are expressed to all those who contributed in any way to make the event such a success - with a special thanks to Mary and her team for coordinating all the organisation.

Presbytery Planning Conference - 1st September ...

The second Presbytery Planning Conference for Melrose and Peebles Presbytery will take place on Saturday 1 September 2018 in Innerleithen Parish Church. Tea and coffee will be served from 9.30am with the conference starting at 10.00am. Rev Jayne Scott, Secretary to the Ministries Council, and Mr Kenneth Fleming, Co-ordinator for New and Emerging Ministries, will be our speakers. They will address the questions that have been asked about Hub ministry and other imaginative possibilities as we look to the future and re-structure our Presbytery Plan.

Representatives from every congregation are encouraged to come along and take part.

There is no cost but to help keep track of numbers and who is attending please register with Eventbrite using this link -

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/presbytery-planning-conference-tickets-48692795462>

The Guild ...

Newlands Guild begins its new session in September and we will be following the agreed theme of the year - 'Seeking the Way'.

On Saturday 1st September there is the Dundee Annual Gathering which is always an impressive and enjoyable day. For those who would have liked to attend but can't, there will likely be the chance to watch the DVD of the occasion at some later date.

Next is our Presbyterial Guild Council's meeting for all the Guilds in our Presbytery. This will be held in St Paul's Old Church in Galashiels on Wed 12th September at 2.30pm. The speaker will be Dr Pam Cairns who helped to set up Seema's Project which is one of the 6 new projects being supported by the Church of Scotland Guild over the next 3 years. This project is involved in helping the children of prostitutes in Poona, India.

The first meeting of our local Guild will be on Wed 26th September in the Old Church Hall at 7.30pm. Rev Stewart McPherson, our new interim minister, will speak on our theme of 'Seeking the Way'. To this, as to every meeting, everyone is very welcome to attend - no need to be a Guild member. There is worship to start and a cup of tea to finish - with something interesting between.

Margaret Habeshaw

White Stones ...

Many of you know that I recently spent time in Malawi accompanying a friend whose church has several projects in the south of the country. We also ventured north to visit Livingstonia. Sitting 4,000 feet above sea level Livingstonia perches on part of the Rift Valley Escarpment overlooking Lake Malawi. The views of the Lake and the forested escarpment were breath-taking but it was not the views which attracted nineteenth century Scottish Missionaries to this area. It was hoped that the cooler height would allow escape from the malaria carrying mosquitoes which had caused so many deaths. And it was a wise move. Today a school, a hospital and of course a church all stand serving the community as witness to their work. The school became Malawi's first university and still has an enrolment of 500 students. The hospital is recognised as having the best standards in the area and the church is packed with up to 1000 worshipers at services. The first ever Post Office in Malawi still functions there.

But it was the white stones we found on the lawn of a mission house that held my attention. In February 1959 when the struggle for Independence from British rule was at its most intense the Colonial

Government was anxious for the safety of the Europeans in Livingstonia. Travel by road was extremely difficult - it still is today, so the government flew a plane over, dropping a canister with the message; "If you need rescuing, form a Roman 1 in white stones on the lawn. If you feel safe, form a Roman 5. The plane will photograph the reply tomorrow". Imagine the pilot's amazement when the next day he saw Ephesians 2/14 marked out on the lawn. He took the picture and hunted for his Bible. "For He Himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility". The missionaries wanted to show there was harmony and peace in Christ within their community. Indeed they believed that Nyasaland, now known as Malawi, should have Independence which finally happened on 6th July 1964.

Leaving Livingstonia I said a silent prayer of thanksgiving for the work of those missionaries from long ago and found those white stone words staying with me on the remainder of my travels - they are still so relevant to our daily living in Christ.

Helen Bruce

From The Editor's Keyboard ...

Those of you who walk past the Old Church Hall may have noticed some of the maintenance work that Neil and his team of volunteers have done over the summer months. This has included some tidying up of the border along the front of the building. It has been suggested that there may be some in the congregation who might like to volunteer to take some responsibility for maintaining the church grounds and perhaps arranging for some suitable plants to be planted. Comments, suggestions and the names of volunteers to the Editor.

Work has also been done in the church round the east and west windows.

Do you ever walk past the church or halls and say to yourself, "I wonder who does that?" Or even, "Why has that not been done?" Perhaps that could be you! If you have a query, ask a member of the property committee or your elder. Volunteers are always welcome.

One of the seasonal tasks will soon be upon us - leaf clearing. In a good year we have a gale which

blows most of them away. In a bad year there is no wind and the leaves just fall and gather under the trees. We may arrange some work parties on Saturday mornings in October and November. Watch out in the weekly notices for further information. I wonder how many readers are aware of the 'Borders Alert' service provided by Scottish Borders Council and partner agencies. This is a telephone, text and email service whereby important safety and public information is disseminated. The following are some of the topics covered when relevant: severe weather warnings; emergency school closures; advice about, and warnings of, telephone and email scams circulating in the area. This is a very worthwhile service and can be customised by the user. To register go to: www.sbalert.co.uk.

Thanks to those who have submitted articles for this month's edition. If anyone else would like to submit an article for a future issue, please speak to me.

The Editor

What's on this month ...

CoSY Café

New Church Hall

2.00pm to 4.00pm

7th September

21st September

5th October

Prayer Focus Group

Old Church Hall

9.15am to 9.45am

5th September

3rd October

Guid Blethers

Old Church Hall

2.00pm to 3.30pm

12th September

26th September

10th October

The Guild

1st September - Dundee

12th September - Galashiels

26th September

Guild Meeting

Old Church Hall at 7.30pm

Baby Brunch

Fridays

(During Term Time)

9.30am to 12.00 noon

Old Church Hall

Advertise your group here ...

Services			
	West Linton 11.15 am	Carlops 10.00 am	Newlands 10.00 am
2 Sep	Mary McElroy	Rev Stewart McPherson	Mary McElroy
9 Sep	Rev Stewart McPherson	Rev Stewart McPherson	David Henderson-Howat
16 Sep	Kevin Scott	Kevin Scott	Rev Stewart McPherson
23 Sep	Rev Stewart McPherson	Rev Stewart McPherson	David Henderson-Howat
30 Sep	Rev Stewart McPherson	Mary McElroy	Rev Stewart McPherson

Drivers

September **Driver 1** Michael Knott
01968 660977
Driver 2 Helen Bruce
01968 661603
October **Driver 1** Anne McDiarmid
01968 660495
Driver 2 Robert Wilson
01968 660121

Door Duties

September Ann Lyon Choir
Kate Dykes Main
Neil Calvert £ Gallery
October Tony Hoskins Choir
Pat Graham Main
Mary Turnbull £ Gallery

Welcome and Readers

September 2nd Jimmy Dripps
9th Jimmy Dripps
16th Michael Knott
23rd Michael Knott
30th Kevin Scott
October 7th Kevin Scott
14th Colin Herd
21st Colin Herd
28th Helen Bruce

Flower Donations - September

Anna Gibson
Margaret Smith
Margaret Pratt
Flower Fund

Flowers arranged by Helen Bruce

Flower Donations - October

Harvest
Flower Fund
Anne McDiarmid

Flowers arranged by Nancy Porteous

Material for the October Magazine should be submitted to the editor by Friday 21st September 2018. The October issue will be available on 30th September. Copy to Colin Herd: email: herd.carradale@btinternet.com Please include the word Newsletter in the subject line of your email.