

***Parish of West Linton
(StAndrew's)***



April 2017

Dear Friends,

There has been rather more turmoil in and around our lives than usual his last winter. Since early December, there has been grave concern and uncertainty about the ministry here, concern which have been borne in the parish with great fortitude and resilience. Political voices at home and abroad have been more strident than usual with new issues unravelling even as I type this. And of course the tragic attack on democracy which took place last week in London leaves us bewildered and ever more vulnerable. How are we to deal with such disturbing matters?

I am always very grateful that in the northern hemisphere, we celebrate Easter at the time of year we do. After winter storms and short darker days, after having to wrap up at all times against the elements, comes more light, signs of new growth everywhere, and people enjoying the sun and feeling free to loosen up and stop to talk to each other in the street instead of hurrying on by.

I have been grateful and hugely impressed by how the three congregations have, each in their own ways, dealt with the present situation. It would have been so easy for things to grind to a halt, but the gospel imperative is stronger than that, and you have kept the life and the witness of the churches alive, in your three very different parishes. People are gathering for worship and fellowship every Sunday. Some new ideas are being put forward and tested. Initiatives have been grasped and taken forward. Newlands is looking back with some quiet pride and satisfaction to the last 700 years, but is also looking to the future prayerfully and with confidence. West Linton is tackling stewardship, and Carlops its patio garden project.

In the bleakness and sadness of the day after Good Friday, Jesus' disciples must have found it hard to envisage any way forward at all as the momentum which had built up during his ministry seemed to vanish in an unforgettable nightmare 24 hours. Saturday was their dark night of despair. But the events of Easter morning wiped away that despair, and their faith became a joyful resurrection faith. It is that same faith which should sustain us, inspire us, give us hope. never forget that or lose sight of it. That is God's gift and promise to us all.

With every blessing on you all, Rachel

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 14-20th MAY 2017

Today, 65 million innocent people across the globe have fled their homes because of disasters and war. Many have endured years of insecurity. This Christian Aid Week, our church support is more vital than ever.

Christian Aid Week started 60 years ago, helping refugees in Europe after the Second World War. The situation then seemed every bit as challenging as the current refugee crisis. CA remains an active movement today uniting 20,000 churches to demonstrate Jesus' justice. Thanks to supporters like you, we've remained unwavering in our efforts to bring security and comfort to people who have fled their homes around the world, advocating for policies that protect them and helping them on the ground. Christian Aid has been a rock for those in need and far from home.

We are not going to turn away from refugees who need us now. In Christian Aid Week, let's help relieve suffering and build a world where everyone has a safe place to call home.

Saturday 13th May COFFEE MORNING Graham Institute, West Linton, 10am onwards. Quality raffle. Stalls for home baking, Fairtrade produce and bedding plants.

Sunday 14th May CA Service at St. Andrew's church, West Linton, 11.15am.

Door to Door collection throughout Linkage 14-20th May by our dedicated team of volunteer collectors. New recruits are always welcome- please contact your local church representative if interested.

This CA Week, our church support is more vital than ever. The Linkage raised nearly £4000 in 2016. Let's try to match or beat that total this year. Make a note of the dates in your diary/calendar.

Robert Higgins, CA Chair 01968 660629



Spring Fair Saturday the 20th May

It is time for thoughts to turn to our Spring Fair again! We look forward to your support to make this year another great success.

Dust off your bric-a-brac. Plant some seedlings. Put aside tombola prizes. All the usual stalls and donations for any of them will be gratefully received.

Offers of help will on the day will also be gratefully received.

Put the date in your diaries – 2.00 to 4.00 on the green if the sun is shining in the Graham Institute and Church halls if it is wet.

Enquiries / suggestions contact Mary Turnbull 01968661737

Extra Events at Easter

Thursday 13th April Maundy Thursday meal West Linton

Sunday 16th April Evening Songs of Praise

Wednesday 19th April Broomlee Court Service

	West Linton	Carlops	Newlands
Apr 2	Rachel Dobie	Jim Wallace 6pm Communion Rachel Dobie	David Henderson Howat
Apr 9	Jim Wallace	Rachel Dobie Baptism	Jim Wallace
Apr 16 Easter	Rachel Dobie	Barry Hughes	Rachel Dobie
Apr 23	Rachel Dobie	David Henderson Howat	Rachel Dobie
Apr 30	Rachel Dobie Communion	Rachel Dobie	Jim Wallace

	April	May
Door Duty	Tony Hoskins £ Anne Lyon Jimmy Dripps	Kate Dykes Pat Graham Michael Knott
Readings & Welcome	Mary Turnbull 2 nd Steven Whalley 9 th & 16 th Helen Dry 23 rd & 30 th	Robert Higgins 7 th & 14 th John Dykes 21 st & 28 th
Flower Arranger	The Flower Team	Glenys Guthrie
Flower Donations	Chris Whittemore Julie Jackson Margaret Ramsay Flower Fund Glenys Guthrie	Mrs N. Gordon and Mrs N. Gray Mrs Audrey McIntosh Guid Blethers Marianne Jack
Driver 1 Driver 2	Robert Higgins 660629 Kate Dykes 660247	Anne McDiarmid 660495 Steven Whalley 661158

The deadline for the May Magazine is Sunday 30th April. The May Magazine will be available on Sunday 7th May.

to Jimmy Dripps, email: jimmydripps@btinternet.com