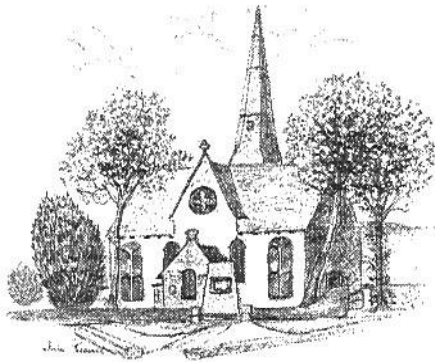


***Parish of West Linton
(St Andrew's)***



November 2017

Thoughts from the Locum

Had it not been a wet autumn day my recollection would have been very different.

On a bus from Rome to Florence; next stop the medieval hill town of Orvieto, its magnificent fourteenth century cathedral the real object of our visit; our tour guide Stefano extolling the fine qualities of Umbrian olive oil especially when compared with oil from neighbouring Tuscany; rain-drenched Italian countryside and autumn colours blurred through steamy bus windows.

Arrival at an Umbrian hill town is not always a straightforward matter. In the case of Orvieto a funicular railway shunted us from the level of the plain up through the cloud to the precipitous edge of the rocky bluff on which the town was built centuries ago. On foot from there, we negotiated a tree-lined steeply winding cobbled street, slippery with rain and fallen leaves, and rounded the curve into the town's main square.

The sudden impact of the mediaeval was stunning -- narrow lanes disappearing off the square in all directions, wonderfully irregular buildings, weathered pan-tile roofs at odd levels and angles to each other, the complexity of chequerboard mouldings side by side with the simplicity of semi-circular arches and graceful balconies. Even the trees seemed original, and the rain too, gathering in ancient puddles and gushing from stone spouts.

Everything was ancient -- with one exception. The cathedral we had come to see, renowned for its façade of superbly crafted and colourful mosaics, was covered completely -- not by cloud and rain but by scaffolding and tarpaulin.

Strange, though, that my recollection of Orvieto is not of disappointment at not seeing the mosaics. My recollection is of the

square, itself the most natural mosaic of glistening wet autumn leaves, gold, scarlet, deep green, soft brown, chestnut, brilliant yellows, auburn, purple, as if those leaves in the square reflected back the mosaics that we couldn't see, hidden as they were behind their canvas mask -- but more than that, that it was in fact more beautiful than ever the cathedral's mosaics could have been. It was as if we had wandered suddenly into the artist's workshop, our feet shuffling the brilliance of colour and pattern.

Had it not been a wet autumn day my recollection would have been very different.

I suppose I'm saying that however beautiful a thing might be that human beings are able to create, and however inspired the skill and the talent and the eye and hand that coordinate to shape or paint or mould that thing, the real beauty is found in the mixed jumble of assorted colours, shapes, patterns and textures of nature itself, not contrived according to our liking but just there in all their glory.

I suppose I'm also saying that in our own assorted jumble of humanity, too, we reflect the original beauty of the divine image that is within us all.

We are stewards of both -- of nature's and of humanity's beauty. An awesome responsibility and privilege.

Nancy Norman

Locum Minister

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Christmas Fair

Saturday 18th November 2.00 – 4.00 in the Graham Institute and new Church Hall

Your support is vital to making this event another success, we would welcome donations for the stalls and volunteers to help on the day. There will be the usual **Christmas hamper** draw and for this it would be really helpful to have **donations in by Monday the 13th** November to give us time to make up the hampers.

The other stalls will include, baking and home produce, tombola, general prize draw, children's lucky dip.

We would particularly welcome donations for the Christmas craft stall – an opportunity for purchasing “that special Christmas stocking filler gift”! So please put you artistic / creative skills to test over the next few weeks.

Please no **bric-a-brac** this time, we still have enough from the spring fair.

Contacts for the Fair are; Kate Dykes, Steven Whalley, Mary Turnbull and Doreen Calvert both of who are going to be away most of October.

Mary Turnbull

The Guild

Our new season has now started, and we are following on in our 3-year strategy of 'Be Bold, Be Strong' with this year's theme of 'Go in Love'. We've already had a gathering with the other guilds in our Presbytery where we enjoyed some useful conversations around the theme of loving, and went on to loving a very nice afternoon tea.

We are now hoping that we will have lots of visitors to join us at our own meeting in Newlands Church on **Wednesday 29th November at 2pm**. Other guilds have been invited from the surrounding area, but we would be happy to welcome anyone else interested in hearing the speaker – Margaret Tooth – who will be telling us about the work of **Blythwood Care**.

Blythwood Care is the charity which has been sending off our filled shoe-boxes abroad each Christmas, but this is only one of many other activities organised by them. At the end of the afternoon, there will be a chance to make a retiral donation to Blythwood.

This November meeting is always very popular – with an opportunity to buy from our Christmas gift and home-baking stalls, as well as enjoying tea and cakes, so do join us if you would like to know more about Blythwood and what it does with our shoe-boxes.

Guilds all across Scotland will be using **Guild Week** which falls between 19th and 26th November, to showcase some of the reasons why we are so proud to belong to the Church of Scotland Guild. One of these is the large sums of money raised each year for the selected Projects.

Our Newlands Guild sent money in the last session to Care for The Family, adding to the present total of £84,942, and this year will be raising money to add to the total of £66,588 for Christian Aid in its project of providing solar ovens in Bolivia. (totals at 31st August '17).

An amazing £509,836 has been raised by The Guild over the past 2 years for the 6 chosen projects. It's not surprising that so many applications are submitted to The Guild every 3 years, for consideration to be chosen for the next 6 projects.

Margaret Habeshaw

Holiday Snap

Earlier this week, Hazel and I were sitting at the harbour in Paphos, enjoying the warmth of the autumn Cyprus sunshine. We were watching a three-masted sailing ship manoeuvring out of the harbour, mysteriously, without sails and with pop music "blaring out" from its deck as it set sail with a new load of tourists for a short pleasure cruise on a "sailing" ship.

Despite the lack of authenticity, it did remind me that Paphos harbour was the point of departure from Cyprus for Paul and Barnabas as they continued their first missionary journey. They had landed on the other side of Cyprus and had travelled overland, to Paphos where Paul was able to convert the Roman governor to Christianity, thus making Cyprus the first country to have a Christian leader.

I have two questions (answers in the next issue).

Q1) What is the name of the pillar in the photo below? Clue: It's in Paphos.



Q2) Who was the first Archbishop of Cyprus?

	West Linton	Carlops	Newlands
Nov 5	Chris Levison	Communion Nancy Norman 6pm Nancy Norman	Chris Levison
Nov 11	Saturday 10.45am Broomlee Remembrance		
Nov 12	10.45 Remembrance Nancy Norman	9.45 Remembrance Nancy Norman	Remembrance Jim Watt
Nov 19	Jim Watt	Jim Watt	Communion Nancy Norman
Nov 26	Nancy Norman	Nancy Norman	David Henderson- Howatt
Dec 3 1 st Advent	Cradle Roll Nancy Norman	Mary McElroy 4pm Advent Garden 6pm Communion Chris Levison	Nancy Norman
Dec 9	Saturday 11am Outdoor Nativity		
Dec 10	Gift service Nancy Norman	Gift service Nancy Norman	Gift Service Rachel Dobie

	November	December
Door Duty	Jimmy Dripps Michael Knott Robert Wilson £	Marion Moore Stephen Walley £ Margaret Ramsay
Readings & Welcome	Kirsty Crick 5 th & 12 th Oliver Hoskins 19 th & 26 th	3 rd & 10 th Daryll Green 17 th & 24 th Tony Hoskins
Flower Arranger	Sheila Forsyth	Flower Team
Flower Donations	Jack & Ivy Stafford Flowers in memory of Sybil McMurdo Pat Graham Forsyth Family	Lesley Johnstone Anna Gibson Flowers in memory of Sybil McMurdo Flower Fund
Driver 1 Driver 2	Mary Turnbull 661 737 Steven Whalley 661 158	Robert Higgins 660 629 Pat Graham 01721 752205

The deadline for the next magazine is Tuesday 28th November. The November magazine will be available on Sunday 3rd December.

Please remember that it will be a double December/January issue.
Copy to Jimmy Dripps, email: jimmydripps@btinternet.com