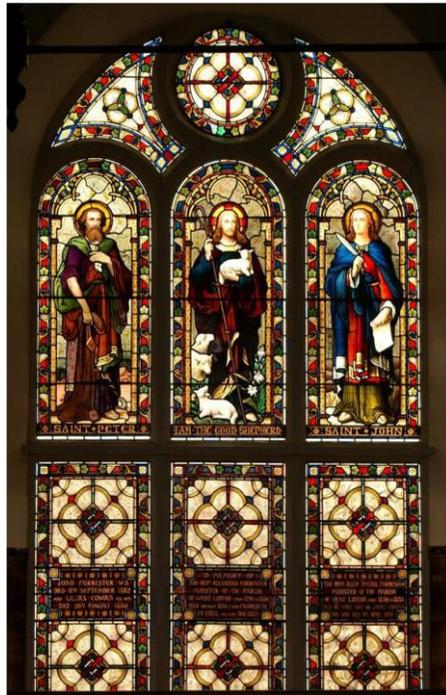


***Parish of West Linton
(StAndrew's)***



July-August 2017

Dear Friends,

Until this year, one of the things I did in my spare time was to teach an introductory course for trainee C of S Readers on how to lead public worship. I enjoyed doing it because worship means a great deal to me. I care about how we approach God, how we express what we feel, about our gratitude for what is given to us, and how we give thanks for all of this as we live out being part of the body of Christ.

But anyone who listens to Sunday morning services on radio or television will know that today there are thousands of ways, legitimate ways, to express how we feel about God, and the way I taught is only one of them. Murray recently took us back to the psalms of the 17th century in the ruins of the old kirk in Newlands. One friend of mine worships in a church which has not one but **FIVE** praise bands who take it in turn to play. Traditional worship in cathedrals is attracting ever greater numbers, but so too is the vibrant singing of Gospel Choirs. And I recently watched worship in the Amish tradition which is offered in the manner of 18th century Dutch settlers, replicated faithfully by 21st century believers.

Is there a right way and a wrong way? Is God more pleased to receive Bach chorales rather than noisy drums and guitars? I hope there is room for all styles, but would concede that one is very blessed to be able to settle with a congregation in which one feels at home. My bottom line at the end of a service is "Was God worshipped?"

It is good that we are being served by a number of varied, very competent leaders, but we should always remember that the opening words of every service are "Let us worship God." and it is what we ourselves bring to it that makes the service complete. In this each congregation has its own identity and is a joy to be with. So do enjoy the privilege of worshipping, and share your enjoyment with those around you.

With every blessing, Rachel

Thoughtful Contribution from Our New Locum Minister

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures: he leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul

Festivity and recovery, industriousness and leisure, duty and relaxation, concentration and repose, energy and quietness: such are the delights that summertime bestows.

Living a balanced life does not necessarily mean taking the middle road between two extremes. Rather it means a willingness to look for a potential for good and growth in everything and in everyone: and it means developing an instinct both for giving and for receiving.

May our responsiveness to life be increased by our awareness of the good that is all around us -- and, for me, that includes the very kind welcome that has been extended to me as Locum, from Rachel and from so many in the three linked parishes.

Receiving so much from our Lord's hand may we be more willing to give and share, for the peace and well-being of all.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. (Psalm 23)

Nancy Norman
Locum Minister

Tel: 01721 721699

Mobile: 07801 058 404

Introducing Our New Locum Minister - Rev Nancy Norman

I am looking forward immensely to our having the Rev Nancy Norman as new locum and therefore part of "the team". Nancy will be with us not only leading worship every Sunday, but also being with us on two weekdays attending to pastoral work in all three parishes. Do please introduce yourself and make her welcome. She can be contacted on 01721 721 699 if you have to let her know of any pastoral needs.

Rachel Dobie

Christian Aid Week May 2017

A GREAT success you will be pleased to read! A cheque for £4666 was recently sent to CA Scotland from our Linkage so a big Thank You from the CA Committee to everyone who helped fund raise during Christian Aid Week which celebrated its 60th birthday this year. This running total was made up from the annual Coffee Morning (£578) and the super return from the Door to Door collection (£4000 plus) beating 2016's effort by over £700. This figure will be further enhanced when the 25% Gift Aid component is added centrally. Our community's generosity in giving is particularly appreciated by our dedicated team of volunteer collectors who give of their valuable free time.

It is anticipated that the cumulative effort of local communities throughout Scotland will raise about £1.5 million enabling CA to significantly improve the lives of less fortunate people in countries affected by poverty, disease, civil war and environmental damage. CA is also at the forefront of relief efforts helping to deal with the worldwide refugee crisis. Together with our global neighbours and in partnership with hundreds of local organisations, we can build a world where everybody has a safe place to call home.

Robert Higgins, CA Chair

Flower Festival

During the Whipman Week the church was decorated by an army of ladies, who deserve enormous thanks for their outstanding displays of flowers which was open to the public from Friday 9th - 11th June. Considering the short notice that was given to the flower team they truly have pulled out all the stops to make it a success. The theme the team chose was "All Things Bright and Beautiful" turned out to be exactly that. The colours, variety and design of the displays was truly magnificent. Many people have commented on how much pleasure it has given them to see the church so beautifully decorated.

We give our grateful thanks to - Jill Green, Sheila Forsyth, Nancy Porteous, Helen Bruce, Lilian Slater, Susan Scott, Chris Whitemore, Colin Herd (props), Daryll Green (sound and heating), Anne McDiarmid (refreshment provider), all those that manned the church over the three days, and not forgetting the co-ordinator of it all Kate Dykes, what a team.

Property - Summer Work Programme

As in recent years, we are planning our Summer maintenance programme for the Church and Halls, when the Halls are used less as the organisations are on holiday and when hopefully the better weather will enable outside tasks to be tackled. Following some years of fairly intensive schedules, it is pleasing to note that there are fewer items needing attention this year. Nevertheless, volunteers who are willing to spare their time and talents to support this work will be very welcome - please contact Neil Calvert or add your name to the sheet on the table at the west door of the Church.

Christian Aid Week 14-20 May 2017

A big thank you from the CA committee to all who helped fund raise during Christian Aid week. The running total is currently £4,632 made up from the successful coffee morning (£578) and the super return from the door to door collection (£4,000 plus) which will be further enhanced when the Gift Aid component is added centrally. This generosity will enable CA to help relieve the terrible plight of refugees and support disadvantaged communities in the poorest third world countries.

Robert Higgins, Chairman

Church Tea Rota

Coffee, tea and squash are served in church after Sunday morning worship - or outside if the weather permits! This is a time of fellowship with other church members and an opportunity to make new friends and to welcome visitors. Drinks are served by volunteers on a rota basis - please think about joining in on the other side of the counter occasionally. If you would like to be a volunteer on this rota, please contact Kate Dykes or fill in your name on the sheet at the door.

Baby Brunch

Baby Brunch is now on its Summer break. It will start up again at the end of August when the schools go back.

Flower Festival

Many thanks to all who supported the Flower Festival held in the Church from Friday 10 to Sunday 12 June during Whipman Week - to the ladies who organised the marvellous displays, to those who volunteered to be 'on duty' in the church to greet visitors and, most importantly, to all those who visited the church to admire (and photograph) the flower displays. Although this was not organised as a fund-raising venture, an added bonus was that donations given by visitors more than covered the costs incurred in running this event.

Congratulations!

Are due to Prof Murray Campbell, Session Clerk at Carlops Church, who has been nominated to be Moderator of the Presbytery of Melrose and Peebles for the 2017/18 session. He will take office at a meeting in Carlops Church in September (date to be confirmed).

And to Rev Barry Hughes who has successfully completed his degree and passed the final review as a candidate in training for the ministry. Barry will be based in a church in Edinburgh during his probationary year.

We wish them both well in the coming year.

Harbour Craig Service

The annual Harbour Craig service will take place near Carlops on Sunday 2 July at 6pm. All are welcome - please meet at Carlops Church at 5:30pm to walk to Harbour Craig.

Carlops Patio-Garden Project

This is a joint project being run by Carlops Church and Carlops Village Centre to develop and enhance the space between the Church and the Village Centre buildings. Much of the cost has already been covered by advance donations, pledges and grant funding but donations are welcome to cover the current shortfall. Leaflets giving further information and details of how to make a contribution are available in St Andrews Church - alternatively please contact Mary McElroy by email at mary.mcelroy2@btinternet.com or telephone 01968 661042.

Date for your Diary - Thursday 3 August

A Dutch Youth Orchestra made up of 45 young people will be visiting us on their Scottish tour this summer. We are pleased to be able to offer them the use of our two halls for overnight accommodation.

They will be delivering free music sessions in the Early Learners summer club and the Village Nursery on the morning of Thursday 3 August, followed by a concert open to the whole community which will be held on the Village Green (with a wet-weather contingency still to be confirmed).

Look out for further details nearer the time. In the meantime, more information on the group can be found at www.ricciotti.nl

1st West Linton Boys Brigade

The Boys Brigade will be taking a break for the Summer but we will resume after the holidays on Tuesday 22 August (Anchor Boys, Junior Section and Company Section. New members will be made very welcome. For further information about any Section please contact Neil Wolfenden on 01968 682607.

The Anchor Boys, for boys in Primaries 1, 2 and 3, meet in the New Church Hall on Tuesday nights, from 6:30pm to 7:30pm. Activities include games, handicrafts, stories and singing.

The Junior Section, for boys in Primaries 4, 5 and 6, meet in the New Church Hall on Tuesday nights, from 6:30pm to 8:00pm. Activities include badge work, games, football and handicrafts.

The Company Section, for boys in Primary 7 to 18 years of age, meet in the New Church Hall on Tuesday nights, from 6:30pm to 8.30pm. Activities include Christian Faith, badge work, physical training, sports, games, camping, outings.

	September
Door Duty	Marion Moore Colin Herd £ Neil Calvert
Readings & Welcome	Jimmy Dripps 3rd Michael Knott 10th & 17th TBA 24th
Flower Arranger	Helen Bruce
Flower Donations	Anna Gibson Margaret Smith Flower Fund Margaret Pratt
Driver 1 Driver 2	Michael Knott 660 977 TBA

	West Linton	Carlops	Newlands
July 2			
July 6	Nancy Norman	Patsy Campbell	Nancy Norman
July 13	Nancy Norman	Nancy Norman	David Henderson Howatt
July 20	Nancy Norman	Mary McElroy	Nancy Norman
July 27	Nancy Norman Communion	Nancy Norman	Mary McElroy

The preacher rota for August has not yet been finalised.

	July	August
Door Duty	Neil Calvert £ Helen Bruce Marianne Jack	Daryll Green £ Mary Turnbull Anne Lyon
Readings & Welcome	Tony Hoskins 2nd & 9th Mary Alexander 16th & 23rd Neil Calvert 30th	Neil Calvert 6th Ruth Herd 13th & 20th Jimmy Dripps 27th
Flower Arranger	Kate Dykes	Jill Green
Flower Donations	Mrs V. Fair Mrs Una Franssen Flower Fund	Evelyn Barnett Marianne Jack Jill Green Doreen Calvert
Driver 1 Driver 2	Mary Turnbull 661737 Daryll Green 660415	Neil Calvert 660 807 Kate Dykes 660 247

The deadline for the September Magazine is Sunday 27th August.
The Magazine will be available on Sunday 3rd September. Copy to
Jimmy Dripps, email: jimmydripps@btinternet.com