

Linkage News

Services Sunday 22 August 2021

Kirkurd & Newland Worship - 10am - Rev. Nancy Norman - Baptism in church

St Andrew's Zoom Worship - 11.30am - Steven Whalley (see email for link)

Carlops Church Zoom Worship - 10am - Steven Whalley (see email for link)



EDICT RE NOTICE OF NOMINATION OF SOLE NOMINEE

At a meeting held on Zoom on 4th August, the Nominating Committee chose the person who they wish to propose to this congregation of *West Linton, St Andrew's and Broughton Glenholm and Kilbucho, Carlops, Kirkurd and Newlands, Skirling and Tweedsmuir* to be our new minister. The name of the person proposed is **The Reverend Dr Thomas Anthony (Tony) Foley**. Arrangements have been made for The Rev Dr Tony Foley, to conduct public worship on Sunday the 29th day of August in this Church at 12 noon and at the following churches and at these times: Broughton at 9.30am; Newlands at 10.30am. The service at West Linton, St Andrew's will also be on Zoom.

Immediately after that service, there will be a vote on whether or not The Rev Dr Tony Foley should be appointed as the new minister of this congregation of *West Linton, St Andrew's and Broughton Glenholm and Kilbucho, Carlops, Kirkurd and Newlands, Skirling and Tweedsmuir*. Anyone whose name appears on the Electoral Register of this congregation of *West Linton, St Andrew's and Broughton Glenholm and Kilbucho, Carlops, Kirkurd and Newlands, Skirling and Tweedsmuir* shall be entitled to vote. No-one else shall be entitled to vote.

Malcolm M. Macdougall (Interim Moderator)

For those planning to attend St Andrew's in person, please get in contact with Tony Hoskins (Session Clerk) to reserve your place(s), so that likely numbers can be monitored. To do so please simply email ajohoskins@btconnect.com. Zoom church on 29th will be in the form of a blended service at 12:00noon, with the link open from 11:30am.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Arrangements have been made for Rev Dr Tony Foley, to conduct public worship on

Sunday 29th
August in the
following churches

Broughton at 9.30am;
Newlands at 10.30am;
St Andrew's West Linton at
12 noon

Linkage wide Outdoor Communion Service - Sunday 22nd Aug.

3pm Communion Service in the graveyard area of Newlands old church. This will involve the ministers from the whole of the new linkage. Everyone from all 6 churches of West Tweeddale is warmly invited to attend Please bring folding chairs or rugs and come warmly dressed as well as bringing a flask of tea and a bun, there is an opportunity for some chat afterwards. If the weather is really horrible we will postpone to Sunday 5th September We will take a cancellation decision by noon on Sunday 22nd.

Shoe Box Appeal 2021 Leaflets now available - see email

Gillian has kindly agreed to display some in the West Linton Post Office and they will be available in the Church. Arrangements for collection to follow but likely date is Sunday 24 October.



FUTURE COMMUNICATIONS

Sharing of News & Information

Anything you would like shared should be emailed to

intimations@standrews-westlinton.org

by *Thursday lunchtime* would be really helpful to allow time to collate and distribute it.

Locum Minister Rev. Nancy Norman

Email nancy.norman1@googlemail.com

Telephone 01721 721699

Interim Moderator Rev. Calum Macdougall

Email MMacdougall@churchofscotland.org.uk

Telephone 01899 830 615 or 07974 031 402

On Reflection

Reflection on 1 Kings 3: 1-14

"I've heard it said it would take the wisdom of Solomon to resolve a particular problem. It's often uttered in a despairing tone, suggesting that a just solution might not be possible.

What is wisdom? Is it just another name for common sense? Or is it a gift from God? Either way it is a gift needed in many different places in our world and our lives.

At its simplest, common sense is defined as, "the basic level of practical **knowledge** and **judgment** that we all need to help us live in a reasonable and safe way".

Wisdom requires complex reasoning and problem solving – pulling together information, life experiences, and a broad understanding of human nature and the ways of the world. Most of all it requires **empathy** for the feelings and emotions of protagonists and how these may influence their behaviour.

Solomon was once required to judge the relative claims of two women for one baby. His judgement relied on his understanding of motherhood in general; he judged that the real mother would give her child away rather than sign its death warrant. The responses of the two women confirmed to all that Solomon's judgement was wise and showed understanding of humankind: competences to be valued in leadership.

At a practical level, wisdom is essentially about human relationships. It flourishes, *or not*, among the beliefs and attitudes of those required to work together, *or not*, in any community, small or large. It depends above all on the ability and willingness of people to **listen** and to **hear** each other. Lacking listening and hearing, messages are easily misunderstood; effective listening underpins all positive human relationships.

Solomon was a very young man when he succeeded his father, David. When God asked him in a dream, "What gift should I give you?" Solomon could have asked for anything: riches, power, victories for his armies – but he chose wisdom alone. He wanted an understanding mind so that he could guide and govern well the people that God entrusted to him.

The understanding mind "able to discern the difference between good and evil" which Solomon asked for represents a challenge we each face daily, whether we are ruling a country, managing employees, looking after children, or trying to live ethically. It is not always easy to work out the right thing to do in any given situation. Evil does not tend to enter stage left wearing horns; and good may not have a halo. The ability to distinguish between the two requires insight from God. Goodness is at the heart of God's identity, so by being able to identify the good in the world, we can identify God at work in any situation.

Wisdom is a gift from God – a gift needed in all aspects of our lives, and all areas of his creation. In the run-up to COP26, when wise decisions are needed to combat climate change and achieve climate justice, we must engage with the social, ethical and political issues of today. How wisely do we, can we, play our part?

What makes wisdom distinct from knowledge? And why is it a gift from God? At the beginning of his leadership, Solomon asked God to make him a wise ruler, so that he could rule in ways that honour God. This is a very different approach to kingship than would have been expected, as we associate kings with power, wealth and prestige. God promised Solomon that he would be richly blessed in other ways because he had chosen to follow God first, rather than pursuing an earthlier approach to his reign.

Wisdom recognises God's character and seeks what is good in every situation. This isn't always easy. Life is complicated, so discerning the right thing to do requires us to pay close attention to God. How do we, both individually and as a community, teach ourselves to recognise the goodness of God in our world?

The way to become wise is to honour the Lord; he gives sound judgement to all who obey his commands. Psalm 111: 10

Mary McElroy