

West Linton St Andrew's Parish Church

June 2026

Scottish Charity No SC003938

Interim Moderator: Rev Graham Astles

From the Editor

I have not managed to get someone to write the main article for this month so I hope you will allow me to offer a reflection as we move into vacancy.

This reflection is based on 2 Chronicles 20, verses 1-26. The time is some 850 years BC – a long time ago. The Israelites were have difficulty with their neighbours. The King, Jehoshaphat, instead of calling a war council ‘resolved to enquire of the Lord’. In front of all the people he stood up and prayed.

Three phrases stand out to me in his prayer: ‘*are you not*’, ‘*did you not*’, and ‘*will you not*’. Present, past and future. Jehoshaphat recognises who God is – **are you not** the God who is in heaven. He recognises what God has done in the past – **did you not** drive out the inhabitants of this land and give it to the descendants of Abraham. But now this settled state is in jeopardy but Jehoshaphat recognises that God still has a part to play as he prays, **will you not** judge them.

After Jehoshaphat had prayed Jahaziel stood up and exhorted the people not to be afraid or discouraged. But the people still had to go

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out to the battle lines; 'go out to face them tomorrow, and the lord will be with you'.

Jehoshaphat and all the people worshipped, then they went out to face the enemy and wonderfully they found that their enemies had turned on themselves. God had given Jehoshaphat the victory before he even reached the battlefield. But note, he had to go out. No staying at home just because God was at work.

We can apply this to ourselves. Jesus is still the God **who** is in heaven. He **has dealt** with our sin on the cross and he **will come** again. Yes, the bible does speak of judgement. But for those who know Jesus there is good news as this chorus tells us:

He did not come to judge the world,
He did not come to blame,
He did not only come to seek,
It was to save He came.
And when we call him Saviour
We call Him by His name.

God has given us the victory but we still need to go out into the battlefield that is the world to bring those who do not know Jesus, to

Guid Blethers

On holiday until September

A Great Day in a Garden – Pentecost Sunday

We held a celebration of Pentecost by showcasing all the Groups who support the community across the linkage. The event was held in the Manse garden in West Linton with stalls from all the Church Groups from across the linkage. There was also a Marquee for tea, coffee and cakes, ice cream, music and singing, competitions and a parachute game which was particularly enjoyed by the children (and some of us adults). We were blessed with terrific weather.

The choice of dates was important as, although there were other events on the day, most notably next door at the fire station and it was a bank holiday, it was important as Pentecost represents the Birthday of the Church, when the disciples left the room and starting to preach the Gospel. What was inside a room went outside into the world. They converted 3,000 people on that day. Our event may have not been as successful, but it did take what is inside our church activities into the community. We pray it will bring people closer to the teaching of Jesus.

We did also ‘launch’ our survey where we are asking how we can make the church more relevant.

We would like to thank all those who helped with setting up, organising stalls, providing refreshments and activities for making it such a memorable day.

Steven *(on behalf of the organising committee)*

Whipman Service

The service in West Linton on 7th June will be the Whipman service, which will be a joint service with St Mungo’s. The service will be in the Whipman Marquee on the Lower Green. Please note the start time is **11.00am.**

Vacancy

It was sad to bid farewell to Tony, our minister. He lead a final linkage service on Sunday 31 May.

Following his departure there will be two Interim Moderators - Graham Astles and John Urquhart from Penicuik - who will guide us through the vacancy process and chair the Kirk Session Meetings. We are also looking for a locum who can take services and help with the work of the linkage. The session clerks are meeting regularly and the worship leaders are stepping up to fill in the gap left by Tony.

Date for your diary

On **24th October** there will be a coffee morning/sale fundraiser in St Mungo's Church in aid of the Breast Cancer Institute in Edinburgh (which carries out research) and Lavender Touch (which brings relief to those living with cancer in the Scottish Borders). There will be a puppet show and the usual stalls and activities.

Help to staff the stalls, serve teas and coffees, baking and making crafts and donations of prizes for the raffle would be appreciated.

For more details please contact Catriona on 07772 788680 or Gill on 07508 202244.

Need some emergency help?

These organisations are nearby: Penicuik Food, Facts & Friends
42 John St Penicuik EH26 8AB www.foodfactsfriends.org.uk
Peeblesshire Foodbank, 1 Silverbirch Studios, Cavalry Park, Peebles
EH45 9BU 07413 484174 www.peeblessshire.foodbank.org.uk
Crisis Assistance from the Minister's Barnabas Fund 07943 509906
emergencyfoodbank@standrewswestlinton.org.uk



Sunday Club in the Manse Garden

Church Flowers

As Spring now is giving way to Summer it is such a joy to see the sunshine and our gardens and countryside bursting with colour. What joy we see in God's amazing creations in our beautiful world.

Sincere thanks to our fantastic team of flower deliverers, Mary Turnbull, Myra Pollock, Margie Stevenson and Ruth Roxburgh who spread joy and fellowship by delivering flowers to people in the community. Also, to Colin Whittemore who designs and produces the beautiful bespoke cards to accompany the flowers. If you know of anyone who would benefit from our flower distribution outreach, please don't hesitate to let me know by email to annlyon@live.co.uk or by calling or texting me on 07702984185

Our flowers in June and July will be arranged by Fiona Hessey and Kate Dykes.

Have a lovely summer everyone and enjoy the beautiful flowers you see on your travels

Ann

Sip and Share — Fridays 2pm to 4pm

Cosy Coffee has restarted under a new name. It will now be known as Sip and Share (slightly less posh than Cake and conversation) but the idea is the same.

Entry is completely free, open to everyone (though under 16s must be accompanied by an adult), dogs welcome if well behaved.

Entry is free although donations are welcome.

Pastoral Group

We are a small group of people who are there to offer a listening ear in confidence. If you know of anyone who might appreciate a visit please do contact our minister The Rev Tony Foley

TFoley@churchofscotland.org.uk or

Jean Howat howatjean@gmail.com

We are not professional counsellors but rather sympathetic listeners.

Got a problem?

Parenting difficulties? Relationship issues? Work problems? Trouble at school/ college? Etc. Whatever the problem - large or small, recent or long-standing - Solution Focussed Brief Therapy can help.

Ask for an appointment at

THE OPEN GATE

Fridays 2pm to 5pm.

Anyone who wants help for their problem is welcome, and will be seen locally and in confidence by arrangement.

PHONE OR TEXT 07535 898 244

The Open Gate uses a counselling approach which is brief, effective and future-orientated, building on your own solutions. All sessions are free and confidential, with no long waiting-list.

Contacts

Interim Moderator: Rev Graham Astles

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Mobile:

Linkage Administrator: Kate Whalley

Office: 01968 733112 email: cos1560.tweed@outlook.com

Telephone: 07973 501665 email: kate@westlinton.com

(Most of the time Kate will be working from home therefore use the contact details immediately above)

Session Clerk: Steven Whalley

Telephone: 07525 378187 email: stevenwhalley.westlinton@gmail.com

Treasurer: Michael Knott

Telephone: 01968 660977 email: michael.knott@talk21.com

Property Convener: Vacant

Weekly Linkage News: Christine Leith

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Flowers: Ann Lyon

Telephone: 07702 984185 email: annlyon@live.co.uk

Sip and Share: Kate Whalley Telephone: 07973 501665

Guid Blethers: Helen Dry Telephone: 01968 660506

Baby Brunch: Mary Turnbull Telephone 01968 661737

Boys Brigade: Emma Lyon Telephone
Email: westlintonbb@gmail.com

June

	West Linton 11.30 am	Carlops 10.00 am	Newlands 10.00 am
7th June	Whipman Service Led by Rev Nick Bowry in the Marquee at 11.00 am	Colin Herd	Julian Birchall
14th	Rev Chris Levison	Rev Chris Levison	Fiona Burnett
21st	Isobel Hunter	Isobel Hunter	Peter Worthington
28th	Steven Whalley	Steven Whalley	Murray Campbell
5/7	Colin Herd	Colin Herd	Isobel Hunter

Door Duties

June

Ann Lyon	Choir
Colin Herd (£)	Main
Marion Moore	Gallery

July

Kate Dykes	Choir
Christine Leith	Main
Michel Knott £	Gallery

Readers

June

7th Whipman Service
 14th Calum Greenhowe
 21st Calum Greenhowe
 28th Neil Calvert

July

5th Neil Calvert
 12th Lisa Towers
 19th Lisa Towers
 26th Tony Hoskins

Material for the July Newsletter should be submitted to the editor by Monday 22nd June 2026. Please include 'Newsletter' in the subject of your email. All submissions should be in MS Word or equivalent. Please do not embed in an email.

The July 2026 issue will be available by 28th June 2026.