

# Linkage News

## Services Sunday 7 December 2025

**Carlops Church Worship** - 10am - David Henderson-Howat in church & on **Zoom** (see email for link)

**St Andrew's Church Worship** - 11:30 - Steven Whalley in church & on **Zoom** (see email for link)

**Kirkurd & Newland Church Worship** - 10am – Rev. Dr. Tony Foley in church

**Skirling Church Worship -  
Tweedsmuir Church Worship -  
Broughton Church Worship -**

{ Upper Tweeddale Christingle Service  
Broughton Village Hall  
11am  
Fiona Burnett



**St Andrew's Christmas Lighting** The Kirk Session has once again agreed to the illumination of the Church over the Christmas festive period to coincide with the lighting up of the Christmas lights along the Main Street and Raemartin Square.

We have always sought to defray the cost of operating our lights by seeking sponsorship from the congregation and anyone seeking to participate may add their details and amount of contribution on a sheet which, as previously, will be available on the shelf inside the West Door of the Church during November.

Contributions will be collected during December and may be given to Michael Knott, the Kirk Treasurer or Neil Calvert.

## St Andrew's Church West Linton

**Sunday 7 December at 11:30am - Children's Nativity Service**

**Monday 8 December at 7:30pm - Blue Christmas Service (at St Mungo's Church)**

**Sunday 14 December at 11:30am - Gift Service**

**Sunday 21 December at 11:30am - Service of Lessons and Carols**

**Christmas Eve at 11:30pm - Watchnight Service**

**Christmas Day at 11:00am - Family Service**

[www.standrews-westlinton.org](http://www.standrews-westlinton.org)

[www.westtweeddale.org.uk](http://www.westtweeddale.org.uk)

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.

**Minister for West Tweeddale - Rev. Dr. Tony Foley**

Email [tfoley@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:tfoley@churchofscotland.org.uk)

Telephone 07793 294 000 or 01968 660 221

**West Tweeddale Church Office**

Tel: 01968 660 221 Email [cos1560.tweed@outlook.com](mailto:cos1560.tweed@outlook.com)

**Sunday Club**  
**St Andrew's Parish Church,**  
**West Linton**  
**Children's Nativity Service**

**All age nativity service**  
**Sunday 7 Dec. 2025 at 11:30am**



Children are encouraged to come dressed up as their favourite nativity character and will be able to take part if they would like to.

A warm welcome is extended to all.

The service will be very relaxed and should last about 45mins.  
*(Princesses and action heroes will made very welcome at the stable too.*



**Carlops Parish Church, Sunday 7th December, 3.45pm.**

THE CARLOPS ADVENT GARDEN, 2025

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVENT (Adults welcome too - you don't need to be accompanied by a child!)

Advent is a special time of year, when we are preparing for Christmas. Once again we will make our magical indoor garden in Carlops Parish Church: a spiral path of moss, with a mound in the centre, holding a large candle, from which, one by one, as we all sing carols, the children will light their own small candles. As they return along the path, the children choose a place in the green moss to plant their candles, which they carry in lovely red cored apples. (Adults or siblings can guide little ones around the path, of course.)

By the time the last child has made the journey, our garden will be blooming with many flame flowers.

PLEASE NOTE: On Sunday, each child should bring her/his own apple, with a candle placed in its cored centre, so that the apple becomes a candle-holder. An ordinary white kitchen candle is ideal. Red apples look lovely placed in the moss garden.

We'd like to be able to start by 4pm, at dusk, so do try to arrive at 3.45pm!

The ceremony will last for about an hour. There will be Christmas biscuits for the children to enjoy with juice, after the ceremony, while Gerda reads a Christmas story. And there'll be some mulled wine for the adults.

Finally, thinking of candles at ground level, it would be best for us to avoid wearing flouncy, flowing garments!

**Sunday 7th December Upper Tweeddale Christingle service 11am Broughton Village Hall**

**Coffee 10:30, Service 11am, followed by soup and sandwich lunch**



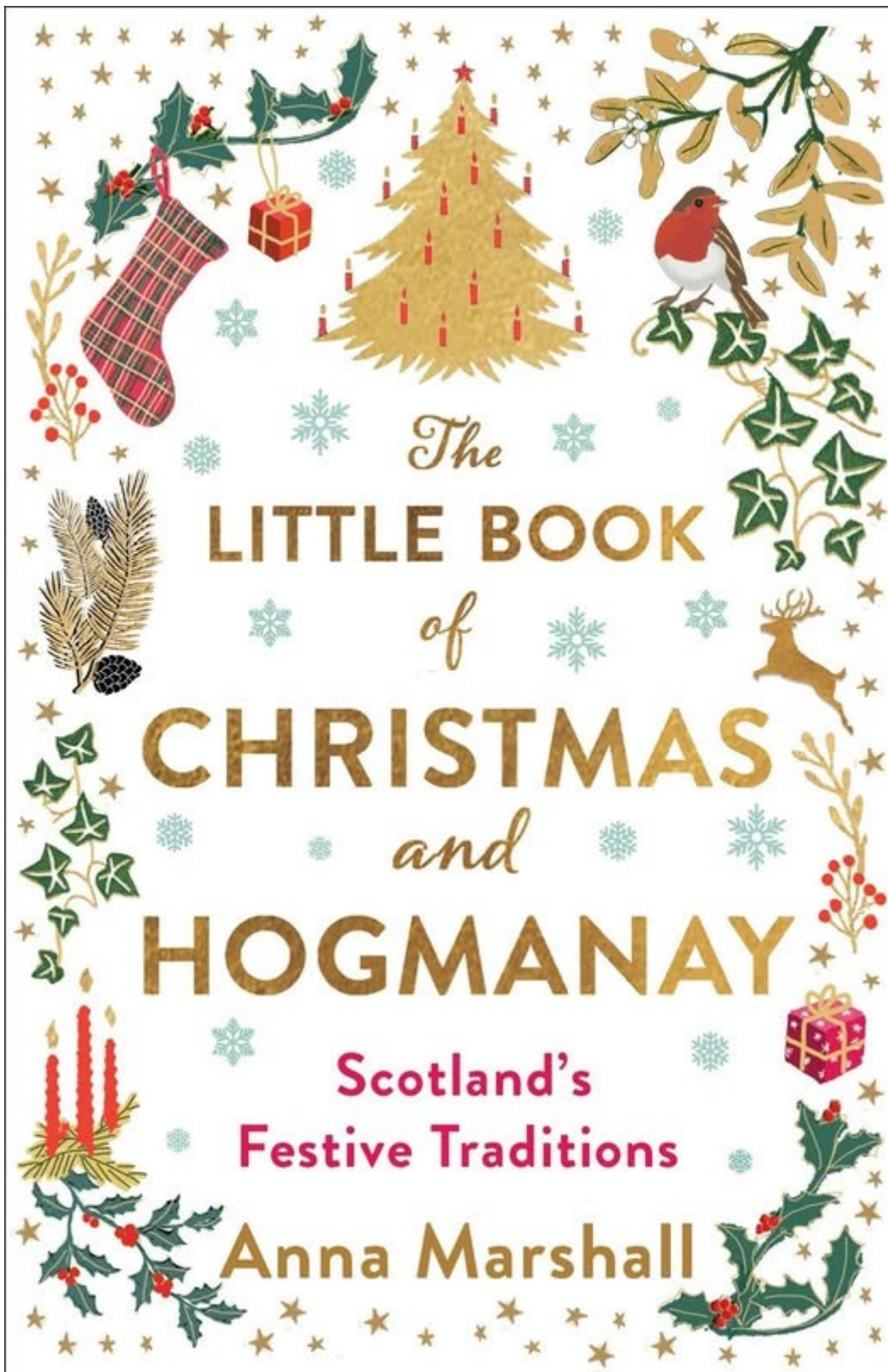
Did you know that Christmas was banned in Scotland for nearly 400 years? Or that first footers in Dundee used to give a gift of a herring in a fish dress at Hogmanay? Do you know the origin of the loony dook, the true meaning of 'Deck the Halls', or how the residents of Biggar kept the Biggar Bonfire burning even during the WWII blackouts?

Come along on **Monday 8th December** and join me in conversation with **Drummond Begg** as we discuss the wonderfully fascinating and eclectic Scottish festive traditions in my new book, *The Little Book of Christmas and Hogmanay*.

Free mulled wine. Books available for sale on the night- ideal stocking fillers.

Pre-booking appreciated. Please use this link to buy your tickets:

<https://bookwhen.com/wlearlylea.../e/ev-s7sna-20251208193000>





A decorative bokeh light effect consisting of numerous out-of-focus blue and white circular lights of varying sizes, creating a festive and ethereal atmosphere. It is positioned on the left side of the poster, extending from the top to the bottom.

# *blue* *Christmas*

**MONDAY 8 DECEMBER**

**7:30PM**

ST MUNGO'S CHURCH  
WEST LINTON

COME OUT, AND JOIN WITH US IN  
SHARING AND HEARING PRAYERS,  
SCRIPTURE, AND MUSIC THAT  
ACKNOWLEDGE THAT GOD'S  
PRESENCE IS FOR THOSE WHO  
MOURN, FOR THOSE WHO STRUGGLE -  
AND THAT GOD'S WORD COMES TO  
SHINE LIGHT INTO OUR DARKNESS..

**Everyone,  
regardless of church  
background (or lack of it)  
is welcome.**

**Next session - Wednesday 26 November**

**Our last meeting for 2025 will be on 9th December** (Christmas Lunch).

A peaceful Christmas to all.

**Our next meeting will be on January 14th 2026.** A wonderful memory from the past

# GUID BLETHERS

**Tea, home baking and chatting with  
friends**

Second and Fourth Wednesday of the month

2 - 4pm

Old Church Hall West Linton



Guid Blethers Is about enjoying the company of old and new friends by sharing interests and skills together. Our programme has varying topics of local interest with speakers and other activities.

If you have any questions get in touch with our co-Ordinator

**Co-Ordinator** Helen Dry 01968 660 506



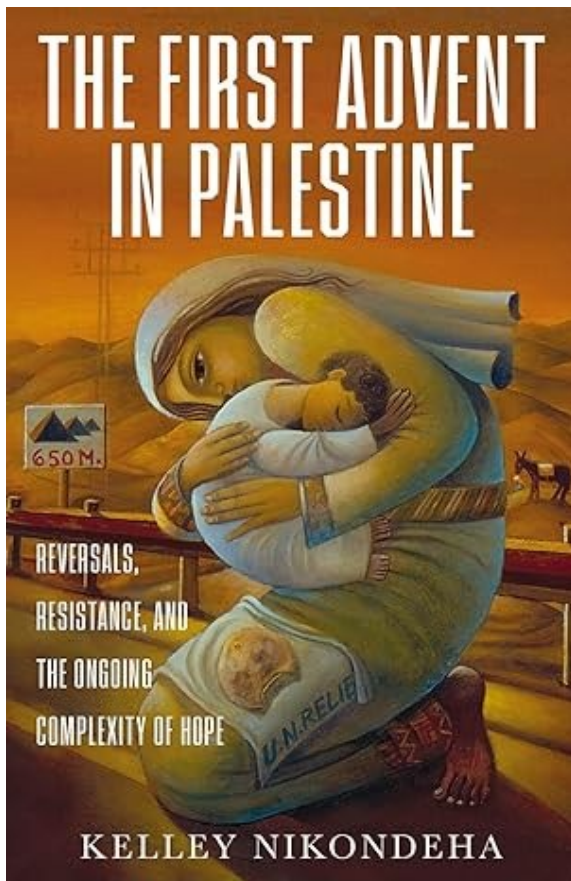
SOUP LUNCH

CARLOPS CHURCH

12:30PM – 2PM

WEDNESDAY 10 DECEMBER 2025





If you are planning to join the Advent Study over Zoom just a reminder that this starts on Wednesday the 26th at 7:00pm.

In week 1 we're going to very lightly touch down in the first couple of chapters but will predominantly focus on chapters 3 and 4.

We will then move on to focus on chapters 5 in week 2, chapter 6 in week 3 and will conclude with chapter 7 in week 4.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83048270273?pwd=onxP9o5NrrilqmMvSwQCHdvPEXP8UD.1>

Meeting ID: 830 4827 0273

Passcode: 855488





# Christmas

**Sunday 14 Dec. 2025**

**4pm**

**New Church Hall  
West Linton**

Messy Church offers a warm, welcoming space to everyone who wants to join in. Join us for an afternoon of fun activities and a meal together.



**For more info contact [howatjean@gmail.com](mailto:howatjean@gmail.com)**



# AN EVENING OF LAUGHTER AND SONG

*In memory of  
Doreen Graham MBE*

Newlands Church  
Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December  
7pm

With Crescendo and The Wednesdays  
Tea, coffee and mince pies • Proceeds to MSF • Tickets £10

**ON BEHALF OF THE SALVATION ARMY & SBC  
SOCIAL SERVICES**

# **COLLECTING GIFTS FOR CHILDREN**



**ACCEPTING  
DONATIONS UNTIL  
14<sup>TH</sup> DEC 2025**

- 📍 St Andrew's Parish Church, West Linton
- 📍 Kirkurd & Newlands Church

Please donate NEW and UNWRAPPED gifts for children of all ages, for distribution across the Scottish Borders.

Donations of wrapping paper are also welcomed.

**Donations can also be made to St Andrews Church on Saturday 13th December between 10am and noon**



# Coffee Club



All Welcome!

Open 10am - 12pm

**FREE** hot drinks and cakes

West Linton Old Church Hall

3rd Tuesday, every month

Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
17th	-	19th	16th	21st	18th	16th

Sponsored by Citizens Advice Bureau, the Coffee Clubs are community cafes.

You can meet your friends or have some company and a good blether.

The Coffee Clubs are for everyone - whether you'd like advice or just a cuppa!





# WANDERINGS

**2.30pm Sat 29<sup>th</sup> November**

**9.30am Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> December**

**2.30pm Sat 27<sup>th</sup> December**

**Broughtonknowe Woods**

Come and Pray with us.

Join us at 9.45 a.m. on the first AND THIRD Monday of each month in Broughton Village Hall – in the wee meeting room



We are just beginning to contemplate some of her writings on the Motherhood of God.

“The all-powerful truth of the Trinity is the Father, who created us and keeps us within him. The deep wisdom of the Trinity is our Mother in whom we are all enfolded.”



# JOIN THE ADVENTURE



**Tuesdays**  
**6:30-7:30pm**  
**New Church Hall**  
**Under 11s**  
**From 16th Sept**



**ANCHORS**

5 – 8 Years

**ပျက်စိတ်**

8 – 11 Years

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT YOUR LOCAL GROUP

**Drop us an email for more information:**  
**[westlintonbb@gmail.com](mailto:westlintonbb@gmail.com)**



**CARLOPS**

**CAFE**

**Every  
Thursday  
2:30-4:30pm  
Carlops Church**

St Andrews  
Old Church Hall  
West Linton

# Sip and Share



Last session on Friday 19 December,  
then will be closed for the Christmas  
break.

Reopening on Friday 9 January.

Open to all  
(under 16s need to be accompanied by an adult)

Dogs (well behaved) welcome

Free

Donations welcome but not expected  
Tea, Coffee, Biscuits and occasionally cake



# Table Tennis

**Fridays 7 - 8.30pm New Church Hall, West Linton**

**All ages & abilities welcome**

## BABY BRUNCH

**Term time  
Fridays 10-11.30am**

Old Church Hall, West Linton





## Got a problem?

Stressed? Anxious? Depressed?  
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.



EMERGENCYFOODBANK@STANDREWS-  
WESTLINTON.ORG

The minister's benevolent fund offers emergency assistance throughout our linkage areas. If you require assistance please contact us by email. All emails will be dealt with in the strictest of confidence. People may need other kinds of support and we are also ready to help with that or direct you to others who can.

## 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 **REV. DR. TONY FOLEY**  
[TFOLEY@CHURCHOFSCOTLAND.ORG.UK](mailto:TFOLEY@CHURCHOFSCOTLAND.ORG.UK)  
OR OUR PASTORAL GROUP LEAD **JEAN HOWAT**  
[HOWATJEAN@GMAIL.COM](mailto:HOWATJEAN@GMAIL.COM)

WE ARE NOT PROFESSIONAL COUNSELLORS BUT  
RATHER SYMPATHETIC LISTENERS.

