

Kirkurd & Newlands Parish Magazine

April 2026



O gift of God! O perfect day:
Whereon shall no man work, but play;
Whereon it is enough for me,
Not to be doing, but to be!

I hear the wind among the trees
Playing celestial symphonies;
I see the branches downward bent,
Like keys of some great instrument.

A Day of Sunshine
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Happy Easter

Sunday Services

All our services are held in church but there is a Zoom link to services in Carlops at 10am and St. Andrews West Linton at 11.30am.



For more information contact Jean Howat. howatjean@gmail.com 01968 660677

West Tweeddale Parishes - April 2026

<i>Date</i>	<i>Carlops 10 am</i>	<i>Kirkurd & Newlands 10 am</i>	<i>West Linton 11.30 am</i>
05 April 2026	Rev Tony Foley	David Henderson-Howat	Rev Tony Foley
12 April 2026	Murray Campbell	Rev Tony Foley*	Murray Campbell
19 April 2026	David H.-Howat	Rev David Bartholomew	David H.-Howat
26 April 2026	Rev Tony Foley	Steven Whalley	Rev Tony Foley
03 May 2026	Colin Herd	Rev Tony Foley**	Colin Herd

Welcome: Jean & David Howat

Church Cleaning: Ilka Roehe & Joan White

<i>Date</i>	<i>Broughton 11 am</i>	<i>Skirling 11.30 am</i>	<i>Tweedsmuir 9.30 am</i>
05 April 2026	_***	_***	Peter Worthington
12 April 2026	Rev Chris Levison	Rev Tony Foley	Rev Chris Levison
19 April 2026	Rev Tony Foley	Rev David Bartholomew	Rev Tony Foley
26 April 2026	Colin Herd	Steven Whalley	Colin Herd
03 May 2026	Café Church	Rev Tony Foley	Fiona Burnett

***Ordination of a new Elder:** We are delighted that Sheila Voas will be ordained as an elder at the church service on Sunday 12 April. It will be wonderful to have her as part of the team on the Kirk Session.

****Communion Service on Sunday 3 May:** We will be celebrating Communion at the church service on Sunday 3 May. All are warmly invited to join us for this celebration.

**** *Upper Tweeddale Easter Service:** Peter Worthington & Fiona Burnett

Stated Annual Meeting Sunday 29th March

This will be held after the service at Newlands Church. There will be reports on the activity of the church over the past year and David Howat will go through the Financial Accounts.

All are welcome to attend.

Holy Week Services

There will be church services around the linkage during Holy Week centred around the Beatitudes and based on the Lent Study programme:

Monday 30 March

7pm – Tweedsmuir Church

Tuesday 31 March

7pm – St Andrews West Linton

Wednesday 1 April

7pm – Broughton Village Hall

Thursday 2 April

7pm – Maundy Thursday Communion Service – Newlands Church

Friday 3 April

7pm - Skirling Church

8pm – Tenebrae Service - Carlops Church

Saturday 4 April

10.30am - An Easter wandering in Glenholm graveyard
followed by refreshments in Glenholm Cottage

Sunday 5 April

10am – Easter Day Service – Newlands Church

11.30am – Easter Day Service – St Andrews West Linton

Busy is a decision

More than we care to admit so much of our unhappiness lies in our refusal to admit that ‘busy is a decision’.

So much of our ‘busyness’ is an attempt to make ourselves bigger, taller, easier to see than those others around us. And yet ironically so much of our ‘busyness’ is a convenient way of distracting us from ourselves. In fact, so much of our ‘busyness’ is our own self-made obstacle to living the life we have been given. Perhaps that is why we find it so much easier to show up for our obligations than we do being present with ourselves and those we love and who love us.

At the start of this New Year, we human beings filled with a new-born New Year’s resolve, will as we do every New Year, promise ourselves that we will better ourselves by eradicating our old unhealthy habits and cultivating healthy new ones. Unsurprisingly most of our New Year’s resolutions tend to be about bodily health. Rarely are they about a deeper kind of health, the health of heart and mind and souls, all of which determine the quality of our physical health. Our most meaningful contributions to the lives of others flow out of our hearts, minds and yes, our souls. To those that matter to us and to whom we matter ‘our presence is infinitely more rewarding than our productivity’.

This New Year as you set out to make new resolutions for yourself why not take the time to think about how healthy you want your heart, mind and soul to be in 2026. As you do, consider St Paul’s advice on how to best care for your heart, mind and soul.

‘Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.’

PHILIPPIANS 4:8

Peace, Tony

Date for your diary - 24th May

There will be an event on Pentecost Sunday in the garden of the Manse.

The aim is to make people aware of the range of activities in the various parishes that make up 'Church'. The hope is that it will lead to spiritual growth in or numeric growth from members of our communities. Leaders of various Church groups will be invited to have a 'stall' to promote their activities.

There will be more details in the near future, but if you have any questions, please contact Julie Gamble, Fiona Burnett, Margreat Habershaw or Steven Whalley.

Bethany Care Van

Earlier in the month the West Linton Boy's Brigade raised over £200 to support the Bethany Care Van. Many of you will know that once a month on a Sunday evening, a team of three, selected from a group of volunteers from the West Linton Churches, take the van out. They distribute food and clothing for homeless people in central Edinburgh, typically helping around 40-50 people each time.

Although there are three serving from the van, there are many more who give their time and talents to make it possible. This includes the people making soup, baking, buying bread rolls, fruit and crisps, and importantly biscuits (chocolate or otherwise).

As well as the food, West Linton also provides clothing which other groups don't. In that regard the money raised by BBs and, as you may remember, the offering you gave at our joint Christmas services, are very welcome. Robert Higgins has always, magically, supplied the clothes.

Our thanks go to Robert who, until recently and after many years, has headed the activity and to Peter Woodfield who has stepped in.

If you want to know more, please speak to Robert, Michael Knott, Kate Whalley or any of the other volunteers.

The Community Council has been consulted over plans for tree felling and re-planting in the woods alongside the Cross Border Drove Road, near Romanno Mains. This will take place in 2026 and 2027, and the intention is to increase species diversity. In response, the Community Council emphasized the importance of ensuring that the operations are planned in ways that take account of the relatively high level of recreational use in this area, and protect private water supplies. The contact for anyone wanting more information is Cat Kent of EJD Forestry (cat.kent@ejdforestry.com).



CHRISTIAN AID

CAR BOOT SALE

Skirling Village Green

SUNDAY 10 May 2026

1.30pm - 4.30pm

Donations to sell needed!

Volunteers needed for:

Helping with the teas

Helping in the kitchen

Serving teas

Baking for the teas

Manning the Christian Aid Stall

General assistance in set up + take down

Contact Isobel Hunter

Carlops Village Talks

Monthly talks and a chance to chat

(Raising funds for Carlops Church, suggested £5 donation per event)

Friday 10th April 2026 – Marianne Hazlewood Local botanical artist Marianne will give a talk on her intricate work, accompanied by some of her pieces.

Friday 15th May 2026 – Alex Gray Alex and helpers will give a talk on the different musical influences in Scottish Country Dancing.

Blister Packs

Many thanks to all who supported this and we're sorry it has stopped, but it was becoming too expensive to get them to the recycling project.

Fay

Newlands Primary School

Easter Service

Thursday 2nd April 2026, 9.30am

Newlands Church

Hope some of the church folks will come along! Fay



newlands kids
early learning and child care

Fundraising Dates

BEETLE DRIVE 20TH MARCH 18:30

WHITMUIR CAFE

£5 PERSON / FAMILY £20

WHIPMAN BOOK STALL 13TH JUNE

WEST LINTON

DUCK RACE 28TH JUNE

BLYTH BRIDGE

£1 A DUCK

SPONSORED WALK TBC

CHARITY NUMBER SC015474

**ALL DONATIONS, HELP OR SUPPORT FOR OUR NURSERY & ASC IS
DEEPLY APPRECIATED**

PLEASE CONTACT NURSERY FOR INFO & TICKETS



**Volunteer board members needed
to help secure the future of our
local nursery & after school club**

**You do not need childcare experience — just a willingness to
support the nursery and work with others.**

**If you, or someone you know, may be interested in learning more,
please get in touch for an informal chat.**



KIRKURD SWI

At the March meeting Kary gave a very interesting talk about her business 'Circa 72 Jewellery'. She showed many examples of her work including rings, necklaces and ear rings and discussed the various types of stones she uses with the silver and gold.

Pat Mahon proposed the vote of thanks.

Competitions: Favourite piece of jewellery: 1st. Sheila Voas, 2nd. Margaret Adamson

Non alcoholic drink: 1st Margaret Adamson, 2nd. Sheila Voas

There was an impressive display of bulbs, plants, handcrafts and baking etc. at the Peeblesshire Federation SWI Spring Show which was held at Newlands Centre. Congratulations to all who took part and especially the prize winners.

Kirkurd won the Col. Robertson Trophy for most points in the bulbs and plants section.

Kirkurd was placed second in the Community Effort.

Next meeting: Tuesday 7th April AGM

The Open Gate

The Open Gate counselling service is still always available for anyone who wants help for any problem. The approach used is Solution Focussed Brief Therapy which is pleasant and effective. All sessions are free and confidential.

Phone **07535 898 244** for an appointment

LAMANCHA HUB COMMUNITY CAFÉ

CAFE

Still going strong on Wednesdays from 10am till 2pm. Come and meet your friends and make new ones here in the warmth. Why not try Potato and Leek or Lentil soup for a change? All home made.

CLASSES

Yoga and Pilates are held here on Thursdays and Fridays. Sewing classes are held on some weekends, too.

For further information contact

info@lamanchahub.org.uk

Cilla Davidson

Pastoral Care 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.

Garden Ramblings

How many of us can remember the words of Wordsworth's poem "Daffodils"? Every March this poem comes to mind from my school days. I think they give such joy from their yellow colouring. They seem to thrive in our area, increasing year on year. The verges and roundabouts are beautiful just now. If you haven't any in your gardens, treat yourselves and buy a few bulbs as they are so easy to grow in sun or shade.

I have been given a Victoria plum tree so will be planting it out in a sheltered spot somewhere. My last one keeled over one windy night a year ago but had lasted ten years so no shame to it. Bonus being you only need one as they are self-pollinating.

Wishing you all a Happy Easter.

Cilla Davidson



NEWLANDS SWI



Thursday 9th April will be our AGM held in the Hub cafe at 7.30pm. We had a very enjoyable last session with a varied amount of topics.

We will be looking for suggestions for our next session starting in September.

We still have a meal out together sometime in May to be arranged as well so put on your thinking caps ladies.

The flower show for the Fed was very well attended as usual and most enjoyable. Well done all.

Cilla Davidson

Minister West Tweeddale

Rev. Dr. Tony Foley

Email: tfoley@churchofscotland.org.uk

Phone: 07793294000

Manse: 01968 660221

Church Administrator

Kate Whalley

West Tweeddale

Church Office: Old Church Hall,
West Linton

Office Hours: Fri, 9.30am - 12.30pm

Email: admin@westtweeddale.org.uk

Phone: 07973 501 665

Session Clerk

Jean Howat

Stoney Knowe, Romanno Bridge

Tel. 01968 660 677

Assistant Session Clerk

Mary Alexander

The Stables, Mountain Cross

07918601113

Church Treasurer

David Henderson-Howat

Stoney Knowe, Romanno Bridge

Tel. 01968 660 677

Adventurers

Mrs Jean Howat and Mrs Ilka Roehe

West Tweeddale Parishes

www.westtweeddale.org.uk

Scottish Charity Number

SCO 18087

Please contact your elder or Ilka Roehe by email if you would like a digital copy or large-print copy of the Parish magazine sent to your email address.

Material for the **May** magazine to roehe.ilka@gmail.com

by 22 April 2026