

Kirkurd & Newlands Parish Magazine
December 2025 - January 2026



Merry Christmas
And
Happy New Year



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 - December 2025

<i>Date</i>	<i>Carlops 10 am</i>	<i>Kirkurd & Newlands 10 am</i>	<i>West Linton 11.30 am</i>
07 December 2025	David Howat	Rev Tony Foley	Steven Whalley
14 December 2025	Patsy Campbell	Isobel Hunter	David Howat
21 December 2025	Rev Tony Foley	Steven Whalley	Rev Tony Foley
28 December 2025	Rev Chris Levison	Rev Tony Foley	Rev Chris Levison
04 January 2025	Colin Herd	Rev David Bartholomew	Colin Herd

Welcome: Mary Alexander & Stuart Rose

Church Cleaning: Jean & David Howat

<i>Date</i>	<i>Broughton 11 am</i>	<i>Skirling 11.30 am</i>	<i>Tweedsmuir 9.30 am</i>
07 December 2025	Fiona Burnett*	-*	-*
14 December 2025	Rev Tony Foley	Isobel Hunter	Rev Tony Foley
21 December 2025	Peter Worthington	Steven Whalley	Peter Worthington
28 December 2025	Murray Campbell	Rev Tony Foley	Murray Campbell
04 January 2025	Café Church	Rev David Bartholomew	Rev Tony Foley

* Advent Christingle Service for Upper Tweeddale in Broughton Hall

Blue Christmas Service - Monday, 8 December 2025

St Mungo's Church West Linton, 7.30pm

“Light in the Darkness”

Open to all - from any/all/no denomination

Christmas Gift Service in Carlops, Newlands, West Linton and Skirling,

Sunday 14 December

Gifts for children from newborns to 18 year olds will be distributed in the Borders via the Salvation Army. New gifts should be brought to the service unwrapped (wrapping paper is appreciated).

24 December

6.30pm Candlelight Service with carols - Tweedsmuir

7.00 pm Carols at Carlops

11.30pm Watchnight Services at Newlands and West Linton

25 December

11.30am Christmas Day service at West Linton

West Tweeddale Parishes - January 2026

<i>Date</i>	<i>Carlops 10 am</i>	<i>Kirkurd & Newlands 10 am</i>	<i>West Linton 11.30 am</i>
04 January 2025	Colin Herd	Rev David Bartholomew	Colin Herd
11 January 2025	Rev Tony Foley	Peter Worthington	Rev Tony Foley
18 January 2025	Peter Worthington	Rev Tony Foley	Peter Worthington
25 January 2025	Steven Whalley	Rev Chris Levison	Steven Whalley
01 February 2025	Rev Tony Foley	Julian Birchall	Rev Tony Foley

Welcome: Fiona Dunkley & Alistair Hammond-Chambers

Church Cleaning: Annette Hammond-Chambers

<i>Date</i>	<i>Broughton 11 am</i>	<i>Skirling 11.30 am</i>	<i>Tweedsmuir 9.30 am</i>
04 January 2025	Café Church	Rev David Bartholomew	Rev Tony Foley
11 January 2025	Isobel Hunter	Peter Worthington	Isobel Hunter
18 January 2025	Rev David Bartholomew	Rev Tony Foley	Rev David Bartholomew
25 January 2025	Rev Tony Foley	Rev Chris Levison	Rev Tony Foley
01 February 2025	Café Church	Julian Birchall	Fiona Burnett

Emmanuel – the oft forgotten and unwrapped gift

It is sometimes hard to remember, and very easy to forget, amongst all the shopping lists, the present wrapping, the food preparation and the over-eating, what a monumental event Christmas actually is. Christmas is '*Emmanuel - God with us*'. When we forget that well Christmas just becomes an odd, overpriced and weirdly displaced reason to indulge in maudlin sentimentality. (Has anyone ever watched the Christmas channel?)

But to Christians Christmas is a time when we remember the immensity of God entering into the littleness of human history. And why did God do that not to critique us, not to audit our moral accounts, but to simply be *with us*! And God did this in such a counter intuitive way. In other words, he didn't do it like a god, at least not the way we think gods should act when we think of gods. The Son of God was born into a little town, among a little people, in a little nation that was of little importance especially by comparison with the great powers of the day. Now *why* did he do that?

Some people think that when God '*became a human being and lived amongst us*' JOHN 1:14 it was simply part of an emergency plan to tidy up and forgive our sins. But the Christmas gospel tells us that God did all this to be *with us*. Even more than that, he did it to release us all into becoming what we all were always made to be. Left to ourselves we humans so easily fall into the habit of living small, shrunken, short-term lives. But the "*repair*", (or salvation to give its theological name), involved God coming in human flesh to live among us and to repair not just our relation to him but also our relation to ourselves. Jesus described his mission among us this way. '*I have come that you might have life and have in abundance*'. JOHN 10

The gift of God to us at Christmas is not more stuff (or stuffing) but a gift that would allow you and I to have '*life and life more abundant*'. And this gift is wrapped up in a baby, born of Mary, whose name was *Emmanuel*, which means *God with us*!

I do hope you all have a wonderful time this Christmas unwrapping that gift.

Peace, **Tony**



AN EVENING OF LAUGHTER AND SONG

*In memory of
Doreen Graham MBE*

Newlands Church
Saturday 13th December
7pm

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

Tickets £10 in aid of **Médecins sans Frontières** are available from
Jean Howat or West Linton Pharmacy.



The theme for this winter is Meeting Jesus

Dates for your diary:

Sunday 14 December

Sunday 11 January

Sunday 8 February

Sunday 8 March

Our next Messy Church Session is on **Sunday 14 December.**

The topic is **Messy Christmas!**

The session starts at 4pm prompt in the New Church Hall at West Linton and finishes at 6pm.

All children from babies to P7 are most welcome to come and join in the fun!

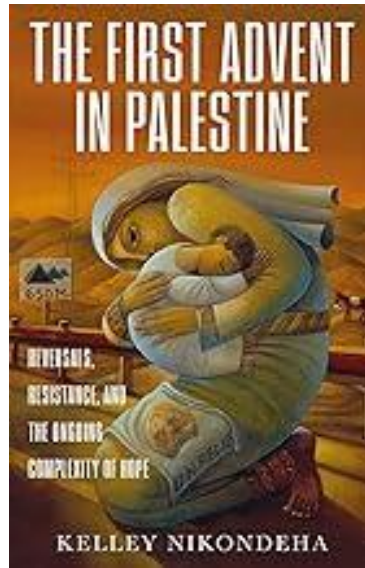
We will start with a Bible Story and a song and then the children will do a range of craft activities. We will say a prayer and finish off with a meal together. All children **MUST** be accompanied by an adult.

Please do consider joining us for an afternoon of fun activities and a family meal together. For more information contact Jean Howat howatjean@gmail.com



Advent Study Series

The proposed study book for our Advent Studies is



Studies will be held on

Tuesday mornings in the Laurel Bank Tearoom in Broughton, 10.00am,

Wednesday evenings at 7.00 pm by Zoom

and on **Thursday mornings** at Colin's home, Carradale,
Deanfoot Road, West Linton at 10.00 am. (Coffee and cake)

All studies will commence w/c 24th November.

Traditionally, when we think of that first Advent, we see that Christmas card picture of Mary and Joseph huddled by a manger in a stable, the Angel Gabriel, Wise Men, and shepherds tending their flocks, and a shining star against a night sky. But our study this year draws us into the sharp reality of life in Palestine at that time and the real darkness that had to be navigated to reach the hope that shining star announced.

We'll take a fresh look at the Advent narratives of Luke and Matthew, to see the true story of resistance, abusive rulers and oppression, and the real economic hardship of the time. And throughout all this the author also weaves in her personal stories of her relationships with those living in Israel-Palestine. She contrasts the hope and joy of Jesus' coming with the very real struggles of the marginalised and oppressed.

SSE Clyde Borders – windfarm fund – October 2025

Instinctively Wild (Pete Carthy) has been successful in gaining funding from SSE Clyde Borders Windfarm fund (October 2025), to run three nature journaling programmes in Tweedsmuir, Skirling and Broughton in 2026.

Now taking bookings.

These hands-on courses guide you through the basics of watercolour and develop your skills week by week as we explore the beautiful landscapes of Upper Tweeddale together.

Each programme combines indoor learning with gentle outdoor walks to gather inspiration, take photographs, and sketch from nature. All materials are provided!

Course Locations & Dates (Choose any one)

Course 1 – Skirling Village Hall

7 Feb – 28 Mar 2026

Wee local walks to Broughtonknowe Community Woodland.

(11 places left – as of 20th November).

Course 2 – Tweedsmuir Village Hall

25 Apr – 13 Jun 2026

Exploring Fruid & Talla Reservoirs and the source of the Tweed.

(9 places left – as of 20th November).

Course 3 – Broughton Village Hall

3 Oct – 14 Nov 2026

Walks to Broughtonknowe Community Woodland.

All sessions run 10am – 1:30pm.

(12 places left – as of 20th November).

Who can join?

- Adults 18+
- Must live in the Upper Tweeddale area (funding requirement)
- Must be able to manage short walks (Weeks 3–8)
- Preference given to those who can commit to the full 8 weeks – the programme is progressive, with each week building on the last.

You can attend any of the three courses – you don't need to choose the one nearest your village, as long as you live within the eligible area.

Places limited to 12 participants per programme.

What to expect:

- Weeks 1–2: Foundations of watercolour
- Weeks 3–8: Guided nature walks + developing your journaling practice
- Small group learning
- All resources supplied
- Taught by Pete Carthy – nature journalist and tutor, previously leading the Destination Tweed programme.

Please email pcarthy@instinctivelywild.co.uk or text/phone **07555445605** for a booking form. If you have any questions – please email/text.



FREE - NATURE JOURNALING ART COURSE

Do you live in Skirling, Tweedsmuir or Broughton areas?

Interested in learning how to paint in watercolour and connect with local nature?

Instinctively Wild CIC has secured funding from SSE Clyde Borders Wind Farms, to be able to offer free courses for adults (18+) in nature journaling to local residents.

Scan the QR code to find out more and to book a place or phone/text Pete Carthy - 07555445605..

Funded by
 


SATURDAY'S 10AM - 1:30 PM

Course Locations & Dates (Choose any one)



Course 1 – Skirling Village Hall
7 Feb – 28 Mar 2026
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Course 3 – Broughton Village Hall
3 Oct – 14 Nov 2026
Wee local walks around Broughtonknowe Community Woodland.



Scan the QR code for more info, to see a bookings update and to book a place.


Company No. 514321

07555445605
pcarthy@instinctivelywild.co.uk
www.instinctivelywild.co.uk


Newlands Kids Nursery – Enrolling for January 2026! ☀️

Looking for a nurturing, fun, and inspiring environment for your little ones?

At Newlands Kids Nursery, we welcome children aged 2 to pre-school with:


 Outdoor learning & free-flow play between indoors and outdoors


 Healthy meals cooked on-site

 Excellent integration with the primary school next door


 Open 8:30am – 3pm, with extended hours until 6pm (subject to availability)

 Rural location – a safe, natural space for exploration and fun

 Age range: NOTE, We only have space for over 3's in 2025/2026

 Available days: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

Spaces are limited, so secure your child's spot for January 2026 and give them a wonderful start in a nurturing, playful environment!

 Contact us today to find out more! **01968 458 222**

Kirsten Warden

Secretary

Newlands Kids Nursery and After School Club

Newlands Kids Newlands Centre Romannobridge EH46 7BZ 01968 458 222

Scottish Charity Register No: SC015474 SCSWIS Service No: CS2003009381

At the November meeting Dr. Iain Coates from Peebles provided us with an excellent audio-visual presentation about the work of the Tweed Valley Osprey Project. With wonderful images of eggs hatching, young being fed, then preparing for their first flights, before setting off in the autumn for their mammoth journey to Spain and North Africa.

Sharon Cowle proposed the vote of thanks.

Competitions: 2 x Toffee Apples - 1st. Margaret Adamson 2nd. Lesley Johnstone

Photograph: bird / birds 1st. Lesley Johnstone 2nd. Sheila Voas.

Tuesday 2nd December Damn Delicious Butchers, Thankerton, with
Michael Shannon

Competitions: Home Made Christmas Card, Scottish Tea Towel.

Tuesday 6th January Agroforestry Andrew Adamson, Netherurd

Competitions: Item in wood, 2 x chocolate chip cookies.

Tuesday 3rd February Quercus Plants, Rona Dodds, Whitmuir

Competitions: 1 pot bulbs, Homemade coaster.

With very best wishes to everyone for a very happy Christmas and a quiet and peaceful New Year,
From all at Kirkurd SWI

SAVE THE DATE - SAVE THE DATE - SAVE THE DATE

PUDDING NIGHT AT NEWLANDS CHURCH

6TH FEBRUARY 2026

IN AID OF A FAMINE RELIEF CHARITY

SAVE THE DATE - SAVE THE DATE - SAVE THE DATE

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

Open Wednesdays from 10am til 2pm. A great place to meet friends and make new ones. Enjoy a coffee, tea, and home made scones, cakes, and John's famous bacon rolls. Three choices of soup available too.

Christmas holiday dates are - Wednesdays open up to and including December 17th and closed until we open again on 14th January.

We would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a Guid New Year.

For further information email 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

Wasn't last week's snow and ice a real shock to the system? I was so proud of my purchase from Pentland Plants of 3 lovely white Hellebores thinking they would be ideal for the front door pot. Due to the frost they were dead or so I thought, but suddenly after a few days they have recovered! Yippee!

The hollies and conifers are doing well and so are the wee violas so we can only hope that every day will bring some sunshine to us.

Take care all you fellow gardeners.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Cilla Davidson



NEWLANDS SWI



Kayleigh Maclean from "Dogs Trust" came with her very sociable wee dog to show slides and give us a very enjoyable evening indeed. Many thanks to Nancy D and Lily for the teas, truffles and lemon cake. Mary gave a well deserved vote of thanks to Kayleigh who travelled from Hamilton in bad weather.

Our next meeting is on 11th December when Alex will give us a demo on an air fryer. The competition will be a family piece of jewellery.

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

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West Linton

Office Hours: Fri, 9.30am - 12.30pm

Email: kate@westlinton.com

Phone: 07973 501 665

Session Clerk

Jean Howat

Stoney Knowe, Romanno Bridge

Tel. 01968 660 677

Church Treasurer

David 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 **February** magazine to roehe.ilka@gmail.com

by 25th January 2025