

Kirkcud & Newlands Parish Magazine

July - August 2026



HAPPY SUMMER

The kiss of the sun for pardon,

The song of the bird for mirth,

One is nearer God's heart in a garden

Than anywhere else on earth.

Dorothy Frances Blomfield Gurney

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 - July 2026

<i>Date</i>	<i>Carlops 10 am</i>	<i>Kirkurd & Newlands 10 am</i>	<i>West Linton 11.30 am</i>
05 July 2026	Colin Herd	Isobel Hunter	Colin Herd
12 July 2026	Patsy Campbell	Fiona Burnett	Patsy Campbell
19 July 2026	Fiona Burnett	Steven Whalley	Fiona Burnett
26 July 2026	Peter Worthington	Rev David Bartholomew	Peter Worthington
02 August 2026	TBA	Peter Worthington	TBA

Welcome: Mary Alexander & Alistair Hammond-Chambers / Joan White

Church Cleaning: Rosie Sim



<i>Date</i>	<i>Broughton 11 am</i>	<i>Skirling 11.30 am</i>	<i>Tweedsmuir 9.30 am</i>
05 July 2026	Café Church	Isobel Hunter	Fiona Burnett
12 July 2026	Rev D. Bartholomew	Fiona Burnett	Rev D. Bartholomew
19 July 2026	Murray Campbell	Steven Whalley	Murray Campbell
26 July 2026	Isobel Hunter	Rev David Bartholomew	Isobel Hunter
02 August 2026	Café Church	Peter Worthington	Fiona Burnett

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<i>Date</i>	<i>Carlops 10 am</i>	<i>Kirkurd & Newlands 10 am</i>	<i>West Linton 11.30 am</i>
02 August 2026	TBA	Peter Worthington	TBA
09 August 2026	D. Henderson-Howat	Isobel Hunter	D. Henderson-Howat
16 August 2026	Murray Campbell	David Henderson-Howat	Murray Campbell
23 August 2026	Rev Chris Levison	Steven Whalley	Colin Herd
30 August 2026	Peter Worthington	Fiona Burnett	Peter Worthington
06 September 2026	D. Henderson-Howat	Isobel Hunter	D. Henderson-Howat

Welcome: Fay Young & Stuart Rose

Church Cleaning: Fiona Dunkley



<i>Date</i>	<i>Broughton 11 am</i>	<i>Skirling 11.30 am</i>	<i>Tweedsmuir 9.30 am</i>
02 August 2026	Café Church	Peter Worthington	Fiona Burnett
09 August 2026	<i>Joint Upper Tweeddale</i>	<i>Service in Skirling Church</i>	<i>At 11.30 am - I. Hunter</i>
16 August 2026	Steven Whalley	David Henderson-Howat	Steven Whalley
23 August 2026	Peter Worthington	Steven Whalley	Peter Worthington
30 August 2026	Isobel Hunter	Fiona Burnett	Isobel Hunter
06 September 2026	Café Church	Isobel Hunter	No Service*

*No service in Tweedsmuir due to cycle race.

How do you write a letter?

Dear Friends

I can well remember at school being taught how to write a letter and how to differentiate between a formal letter and an informal one: do we use “Dear Sir/Madam” or simply “Dear John”, and knowing when to use “Yours faithfully” or “Yours sincerely”. I suppose I have got sloppy and now just sign off my emails “Colin”. Social media has changed how we communicate.

The Apostle Paul knew a thing or two about writing letters – he wrote many letters to the churches he had planted, and I am sure that he would have been all over social media if it had been available to him.

Nevertheless, he made good use of what was available. His letters which we still have are instructive and enlightening. What comes over to us is his prayer for the churches. Take, for example, his letter to the Philippians where after the initial salutation his first thought is to give thanks to God every time he remembers them. When we write to our friends do we think in this way? As we think of our sister churches in our Linkage do we give thanks for their faithfulness, or, as Paul puts it, their partnership in the gospel.

We face testing times as we continue in vacancy but we should take note of how Paul continues to the Philippians:

“And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ - to the glory and praise of God.”

As we navigate through the process of vacancy, we need to be aware of the disparate nature of any grouping of people and be prepared to show love and respect in all our discussions and negotiations.

So, as you sign off your next letter or email, think about the person or persons you are writing to: give thanks for them, pray for them, that we all might be filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ.

Yours sincerely

Colin

Newlands Open-Air Communion Service and Picnic

Sunday 9 August at 3pm

There will be an open-air Communion service followed by a picnic for the whole West Tweeddale linkage at the site of the old Newlands church on Sunday 9th August at 3pm.

Parking will be in the car park opposite the current Newlands Church.

Everyone should bring their own picnic and folding chairs or a rug to sit on.

In the event of the weather not co-operating, we will take refuge for the service and the picnic in the current church. Everyone is welcome.

For more information contact Jean Howat: howatjean@gmail.com

Annual Christian Aid Car Boot Sale

Sunday May 10th was the date for the **Annual Christian Aid Car Boot Sale** on Skirling Green. The weather was kind to us no rain and no gales which is all we ask. The Green was busy with loads of choice for spending your money. There were stalls and cars with a mixture of books, and toys and bric-a-brac, and ice cream, and as every year a great selection of plants. Inside the village hall volunteers were extremely busy serving a constant stream of people with tea and scone and cakes. The home baking appears like manna from heaven every year without fail. All those wonderful volunteers, baking cakes, serving teas, manning the stalls, scooping the ice cream, between them raised £1,300 for Christian Aid. Help for drought stricken families in Africa and for emergency relief when earthquakes hit. This annual event has been running for well over 30 years and still manages to garner great support from the local area, and it's fun.

Isobel Hunter

Lamancha Newlands and Kirkurd
Community Council



Chair's Report 2025/2026

In my first year as chair, I've a lot to reflect on, it has been enlightening experience and has been greatly enriched by the ongoing support and expertise of our office bearers, regular attendees, and members of the community both in LNK CC and beyond who have facilitated our endeavours.

In broad brushstrokes, some areas continue as expected, with the Community Council having continuity of presence and ensuring there are opportunities for our residents to have a voice on local matters and discuss these with our elected representatives; others have been marked by significant change or losses; and others with strides into new initiatives and approaches.

On the first point, I would like to extend our thanks to our elected local councillors for their continued dedication and support to local issues and being a collective and unified voice for the area across the political divides – In an era of increasing division, polemicism and tribalism it's truly heartening to see people working together for the common good. As the 2027 local elections loom, some of you may or may not be standing but in either case we look forward to your continued support until then and wish you the best for whatever future choices you make and whatever the polls decide. It has been a pleasure to have councillors so dedicated to the area.

Continuing that note, the warmest thanks must be given to those who have served in LNK CC offices this year and indeed who may have been doing so in different guises for quite some time now. Not least Jayne Adamson, who has spent 7 years on the council, 3 as chair!

Local communities truly live and die by the kind-hearted spirit of those who believe in their area and the future for those within it, without your ongoing dedication, contributions and patience I'm certain that the path ahead of us and the legacy we continue to build would look very different.

On the second theme, it's been a year of change, my first as chair and relative offcumden (A Yorkshire term – although I am a Fifer) to the area. As well as long-time member Jayne stepping down, we also experienced the sad loss of Doreen Graham after a brief battle with cancer, and so soon after the passing of her husband Archie. Doreen was a whirlwind of positivity and kind soul, with a

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Community Council



Chair's Report 2025/2026 - cont.

passion for public service and making a difference to those around her and those less fortunate – I for one, would be content and fulfilled if, at reaching her age, I'd achieved even close to half of what she had in her life.

These events remind us that change is always present, and areas must welcome in the new and the different alongside the old and our traditions, and with that in mind, I hope that our initiatives into Placemaking, reaffirming relationships with other local organisations, groups and trusts, and supporting work across several Community Councils in Tweeddale West (e.g. Road Safety and the Cloich Wind Farm) – form the basis of greater engagement with our residents. If the future of the CC is to be sustained, we need the support of all of you; willing and capable volunteers, each bringing a unique skillset and experience.

Once again, my deepest gratitude goes to the whole community for being so welcoming to me and a growing family - I hope to pay back your collective generosity in kind over the years. Our door is always open (metaphorically, after our break-in attempt a few years ago) and the kettle will be on if you want a chat. The same goes for the community council, we always welcome new faces and would be delighted to see you all when meetings resume after the summer break in September.

Warmest Regards,

Chris Wood

LNK CC Chair

Some highlights of 2025/2026!

We have a renewed link to the Newlands School and Parents council, and Headteacher Carn Peaston is hoping to join future meetings. Thank you, Lizzie Reed for your networking here. We've resumed the donation of the "autograph book" for P7 Leavers and are now supporting the kids in growing plants for our village planters! More on that later.

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Community Council



Some highlights of 2025/2026!

A great turn out for the Remembrance Day services and events following a smaller attendance for the D-Day 80th. Thanks to Michael Tweedie and his son, who along with me turned up, brushes and shovels in hand, at the war memorial only to find the council had weeded, repainted and fixed the steps!

Pop-up Bob! A welcome, but brief return by everyone's favourite 2-dimensional law enforcement officer, a notable difference in speeding, but short lived after several of them were purloined... suspect(s) remain at large. We hope to have a representative next session to continue the work of the Tweeddale West working group on road safety.

The continued and dedicated presence of our 3-dimensional and very real Community Police Officer PC Gary Beaumont, who has attended many meetings to provide updates and is always available for council or public queries and support. Gary has launched several local initiatives including local CCTV databases and requesting the increased presence of traffic police in the area.

Discussed the idea of priorities for the area – the 3Ps – People, Place, Planet! These are simply to assist in framing the strategic intent and interests of the community and our activities as well as capturing the ambitions of the placemaking exercise and its outcomes. They may also assist in continuity of approach and thinking in future years.

Live Borders – like so many things, an issue with a broad reach and impact – when a significant service offering changes, usually due to budget constraints, the impact is felt across many communities. Our voice was one of a great many questioning the rationale and outcomes of the report, the true impact will remain to be seen in the fulness of time.

Paths maintenance – funding is available, we just need the organisations and people to support the activity and graft needed to keep a key natural asset open and accessible. Perhaps this could be tackled more broadly with support of many CC's in Tweeddale West as the core paths network, Drove road, and well known paths cut across large swathes of land.

Cloich Wind Farm – thanks to Gilbert Cameron for taking this on and supporting the WLCDDT working group on Community Shared Ownership.

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The timescales for this are largely in the hands of EDF and the Consents Unit at the time of writing, but it is so crucial to be prepared to seize the opportunity when it arises as this has the potential to be truly transformational for the whole area! Two local town-hall events were held in West Linton and Eddleston explaining the prospect.

Placemaking – thanks to Simon Hodge of West Linton for his hard-fought experience and relaying the challenges and approaches to take such that we can deliver placemaking in our area. Thanks to Lizzie and family for work so far on the posters, social media and questionnaire work. As we've noted in previous meetings this has been on the table for a few years, but now is the time as SBC move toward compiling their Local Authority-wide place plan and setting out what they believe represents what Borderer's want for the future, how our area looks, and how our tax money is spent.

Speeding and Road safety – this continues to be a serious concern that is consistently raised time and time again by residents in our CC and beyond. School bus pickup/dropoff points safety, speeding in settlements, driver behaviour and aggression all are often noted. Traffic calming, road design, enforcement and education are seemingly falling short of our collective expectations and as many before me have said 'it's only a matter of time before a child is seriously injured or killed on our roads and in our villages'.

PC Beaumont has noted initiatives around Junior Road Safety Officers, speed-gun training and youth courts as potential options for the future. With greater community engagement and membership of the CC I hope the work with West Linton, Eddleston, Black Mount, Skirling and Upper Tweed can continue and start to make change happen and move sentiment to action.

Community Resilience planning is underway – thanks to Michael Tweedie for reviewing, with a little refinement and signing-up of volunteers in the major settlements and remote reached we can demonstrate due diligence to supporting the resilience of the area, particularly for vulnerable residents or those with additional needs who are most affected by adverse events such as extreme weather, flooding, power outages and so on. This will be available on SBC website in due course.

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Planters – with the news of both potential restrictions on the spending of support grant and the ever-ballooning cost of maintaining 22 planters (20 following an unplanned cross-country vehicular excursion by a passer through at Lamancha) and with pressures to fund placemaking activity, we agreed to explore how to approach maintaining the planters beyond acts of good will by individuals. These include sponsorship and links with the Newlands school, potential competitions in future years. But for this year we are extremely grateful to the Cottage Gardener's committee for compost, plants and more. See the previous open letter. Thanks to Michael and Gilbert for their work.

Forestry – a year of forestry consultations and changes – several applications responded to for felling, planting, restocking, access roads. David Henderson-Howat has been invaluable in representing the area in drafting several responses and liaising directly with residents in the area also. Forestry forms a significant portion of the economy and land-use of the area, your thoughts on this directly or via the Placemaking survey soon are always welcome.

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 Jean Howat howatjean@gmail.com.

We are not professional counsellors but rather sympathetic listeners.

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

Pilates and Yoga classes plus sewing classes are held here. Room bookings are £10 per hour. We also have a desk rental which has become available.

For more info email info@lamanchahub.org.uk

CAFÉ is open on Wednesdays from 10am till 2pm. Home made soups and home baking plus carry outs. If the sun is shining, the outdoor area is nice for sitting out with lovely views of the Pentlands.

All our staff are volunteers and they wish you all a good summer and thank you for supporting the cafe.

Cilla Davidson

Forthcoming Wanderings

Saturday 25th July 2.30pm

Thursday 13th August 10.30am

Saturday 29th August 2.30pm

Meet at carpark at Broughtonknowe Woods



For more info #Wanderings-Scotland



KIRKURD SWI

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our sales table and manned the stall on the last evening of the Whipman.

£193 was raised for the Biggar Men's Shed which is held at Walston School.

At the time of writing, some members are looking forward to a visit to Tillyochie Farm at Kinross where they grow peonies for the cut flower market.

At the end of July we have another outing to Standhill Farm near Hawick. This is a dairy farm and they also produce tomatoes on a very large commercial basis.

If anyone would like to join us, contact Margaret for further details. Tel: 01721 752242.

Monday 27th July: Closing date for entries for the Homecraft Section at Peeblesshire Agricultural Show.

Online to www.peebles-show.co.uk

OR telephone show secretary: 07837 373790

Saturday 15th August: Peeblesshire Agricultural Show, Nether Horsburgh, Cardrona.

The community effort for the 2027 Spring Show is 'Myths & Legends'.

Tuesday 6th October: First meeting of the winter programme.

Have a good summer.

Peeblesshire Federation SWI - Spring Show 13 March 2027

Class

- 1 - 3 white Hyacinths; 2 - 3 blue Hyacinths; 3 - 3 pink Hyacinths
- 4 - 1 bowl grape Hyacinths
- 5 - 10 miniature Daffodils
- 6 - 5 single Tulips
- 7 - bowl of mixed Hyacinths (any number)
- 8 - 1 Amaryllis
- 9 - 1 pot plant – foliage
- 10 - 1 flowering plant in a pot
- 11 - Spring pot – not exceeding 12in inside diameter and grown by exhibitor
- 12 - Miniature garden in a seed tray
- 13 - Small floral exhibit incorporating a 'Fairy Door' (space allowed 12inx12in; natural plant materials)
- 14 - Large floral exhibit – 'Myths & Legends' (space allowed 24inx24in, height unlimited; natural plant materials)
- 15 - Jug of Spring flowers

Community Effort:

Theme – 'Myths & Legends'

2x Homeskills, 2x Handcraft, 1x Floral exhibit

Winters Work – 3 per Institute

Individual competition:

- 1. 3 Parkins
- 2. 3 Fruit scones
- 3. Individual Border Tart
- 4. Jar of citrus curd
- 5. Knitted toy
- 6. Article in wool crochet
- 7. Sewn shopping bag
- 8. Decorated photo frame
- 9. Pressed flower picture

Garden Ramblings

My favourite flower for June must be the old fashioned Lupin which seems to be making a comeback. Up until two years ago, I had one huge blue plant that appeared in all its glory every summer and two years ago I decided to try and grow them from seed and to my delight they were so easy to grow. I used Sutton seed in a mix of colours and had 30 plants to sell for the community garden funds plus about five plants for my own garden. They have been a joy to behold. I am going to try some seed from a pretty two tone pale pink one so watch this space.

A close runner up to my Lupins has to be the Rose. Bonica and Celsiana are two just coming into flower now and what is not to love about the white Jacobite rose which shoots up and is repeat flowering and never needs any special attention apart from a snip with shears after flowering. That is the rose the supporters of Bonnie Prince Charlie wore on their bonnets and is known as the "white cockade."

Happy gardening everyone hoping you have a lovely summer and see you back in September.

Cilla Davidson



Newlands SWI



Just to say a big thankyou to all supporters of our Tombola stall at the Whipman.

We did well.

Our meetings will commence in September, so in the meantime have a lovely summer.

Cilla Davidson

Interim Moderator

West Tweeddale

Rev. Graham Astles

Email: GAstles@churchofscotland.org.uk

Church Administrator

West Tweeddale

Kate Whalley

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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 **September** magazine to roehe.ilka@gmail.com

by 25 August 2026