

Kirkcud & Newlands Parish Magazine



June 2025



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

<i>Date</i>	<i>Carlops 10 am</i>	<i>Kirkurd & Newlands 10 am</i>	<i>West Linton 11.30 am</i>
08 June 2025	Murray Campbell	Isobel Hunter	Rev Nick Bowry
15 June 2025	Rev Tony Foley	Fiona Burnett	Rev Tony Foley
22 June 2025	Fiona Burnett	Rev Tony Foley	Fiona Burnett
29 June 2025	Peter Worthington	Julian Birchall	Peter Worthington
06 July 2025	Rev Tony Foley	David Henderson-Howat	Rev Tony Foley

Welcome: Fiona Dunkley & Joan White

Church Cleaning: Jo Ranson

<i>Date</i>	<i>Broughton 11 am</i>	<i>Skirling 11.30 am</i>	<i>Tweedsmuir 9.30 am</i>
08 June 2025	Joint Service in Skirling	Isobel Hunter	Joint Service in Skirling
15 June 2025	Steven Whalley	Fiona Burnett	Steven Whalley
22 June 2025	Peter Worthington	Rev Tony Foley	Peter Worthington
29 June 2025	Rev Tony Foley	Julian Birchall	Rev Tony Foley
06 July 2025	Steven Whalley	David Henderson-Howat	Steven Whalley

‘Focus on the GOOD and the GOOD will come into focus.’

Evil by its very nature is narcissistic. What evil hates is to be ignored. That is why it demands, yea craves our constant attention. It wants us to keep watching. It wants us to believe that *‘it’* is the only thing worth watching. It constantly seeks to dupe us into believing that *‘its’* story is the only story worth listening to. It will seek to entertain or intimidate us just so long as it gets our attention. And once it has that attention it wants us to never look away, to surrender completely to its false narrative, to the lie. To completely forget to look at or to think about what is truly good. In the creation story in the book of *Genesis* we are told, *‘God saw all that he had made, and it was very good’*. The message of hope contained there is that creation was birthed not in chaos but in goodness.

This is why St Paul urges us in his letter to the *Philippians* [4:8] to be careful to maintain a focus on what is good. He encourages us to do this not as a mindful exercise to help allay our personal anxieties but for our moral well-being. When we deprive narcissistic evil the oxygen of our attention its power to deceive and control is depleted. So much of contemporary culture is marked by an obsessive addiction to virulent forms of narcissism cloaked as entertainment. It has contaminated our personal, social and collective political life. A narcissism that constantly urges ‘click bait’ that rots the soul of the individual and society. It has produced a society so preoccupied with looking at itself it fails to notice the slow rot of its moral conscience. Sadly, all this is nurtured and propagated by the efforts of some of our best and most creative minds.

Our attention like our mind is ours until we surrender them to someone else. If we are to survive the onslaught of the social and spiritual toxins of the obsessive ‘self-observed observing mind’ culture that is being nurtured and nourished by a voracious social media industry we have to take St Paul’s advice to heart and train our

minds, imaginations and creativity to *'focus on the good'*. I leave you with some wise counsel from the novelist John Steinbeck

"What is important to keep in mind about evil is that ultimately it never wins — it never does, it never will. But the awful thing about evil is that it doesn't die easily. It often simply lies in wait for the new opportunities that the human heart will invariably provide. And so, we must always be on our guard against the human tendency to let evil in."

Peace,
Tony



Newlands Open-Air Communion Service and picnic- Sunday 29 June 3pm

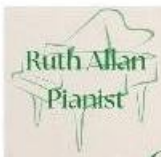
There will be an open-air Communion service followed by a picnic for the whole West Tweeddale linkage at the site of the old Newlands church on Sunday 29th June at 3pm. Parking will be in the car park opposite the current Newlands Church.

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


There will be transport from the church car park across the field to the graveyard for those who need it.

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




Ruth Allan
Pianist



Tom Celekette
Conductor

Community Sister Choirs
with International Soloists



Crescendo

Wednesdays

Serendipity

Saturday 21st June
2025
7.30pm

Tickets £15
Supper included

Newlands Centre
Romano Bridge
EH 46 7BZ

Our Village Talks

Monthly talks and a
chance to chat



Upcoming talks

Friday 20th June, 7.30pm Injury Prevention – is it for me? Thoughts and Tips from an NHS Physiotherapist

Juliet Gold, Physiotherapist, Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, will provide her thoughts and tips for staying injury free.

Friday 11th July, 7.30 pm Garden Design in the Pentlands

Gill Gold will give a short talk on garden design considerations when establishing a garden at about 1,000ft. in the Scottish Borders.

The evening will include a garden visit and refreshments.

Please note: the venue for this talk will be Birchbrae, Macbiehill, EH46 7AZ

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/imtTK6kVjMciwkj49>

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Raising funds for Malawi (suggested £5 donation per event).

2024 Broughtonknowe Woodland Review:

What a significant year this has been in determining the future of the woodland. 2023 ended with the woodland on the market and the 'Friends of Broughtonknowe' deliberating on a way forward and contemplating, with Christopher's approval a community buyout. The proposal was endorsed by a well-attended community meeting in Broughton Village Hall at the beginning of January and followed by a media launch in the woodland. A headline emerged that 'dog walkers were contemplating a £900,000 woodland purchase' - although rather a demeaning tag it attracted a lot of further media attention, including a live interview with Nick Robinson on the BBC Radio 4 'Today' programme. Plenty of offers of support ensued, including financial donations to our rapidly established 'crowdfunder'!

A lot of hard work would be required if we were going to be able to apply for assistance with funding. The Scottish Land Fund (SLF) specialises in assisting community purchase projects, but they require significant criteria to be met. We had to become a limited company with a board of directors, a dedicated bank account, charitable status would enable us to obtain maximum benefit from potential supporters. We would also need viable management and business plans. Our objective was to continue Christopher's irregular forestry regime that had produced the aesthetic we all wanted to sustain. Extra community involvement would be required. The SLF granted us stage 1 funding that enabled us to appoint a development group to help with the management and business planning.

Meanwhile 'Friends of Broughtonknowe' continued to maintain the upgraded amenity with grass cutting, path maintenance work and protecting the regenerating 'native woodland' amongst the thinned Larch (the irregular forestry regime is working in slowly producing a biodiverse mixed woodland from a commercial forestry monoculture). Peter Young continues to run a series of Green Ash Chair making courses from the quarry throughout the spring and summer. A number of community events were also trialed working from the Green Ash Chair's yurt: an open afternoon / wildlife walk / pond dipping,

Spring and Autumn foraging workshops and 'yoga in the yurt' - all great events and raising some money for the buyout funds.

BROUGHTONKNOWE WOOD

'FORAGING'

FIND OUT WHAT BROUGHTONKNOWE HAS TO OFFER

SUN 29/6 2:00pm at the QUARRY

WALK + YURT BASED ACTIVITIES

Recipes for cordials, jams & liquors - make hand cream



ALL WELCOME



BROUGHTONKNOWE WOODLAND

Free event for local community
Green Ash Chairs & Friends of Broughtonknowe



SAT. 17th
Aug.



2:00pm. THE QUARRY.

* ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY
Peter will demonstrate how he has achieved electricity and water supplies.

* GUIDED WOODLAND WALK
Nature walk - wildflowers & butterflies.
Bring your camera /phone.

* TEA & REFRESHMENTS

BROUGHTONKNOWE WOODLAND

Free event for local community
Green Ash Chairs & Friends of Broughtonknowe



Present

Yoga
in the
YURT



Easy YOGA with NORMA in a lovely setting - come along and try.
Places may be limited so book and get directions through:

PAM HART
07748 008607

pamhart49@btinternet.com

SAT. 31st Aug.
10:00am. THE QUARRY
REFRESHMENTS

A glorious day for yoga! - another lovely event in the yurt.



Wildlife monitoring continued throughout the year as a key indicator of hopefully increasing biodiversity. Bumblebee and butterfly records being submitted to national data bases. The scarce Blaeberry Bumblebee was recorded again and a full habitat survey was carried out for the locally distributed Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary butterfly. The ponds remain an amphibian Mecca in the spring with hundreds of frogs and toads gathering to spawn. The ensuing tadpoles in turn forming spectacular moving swarms throughout the early summer until they disperse as tiny frog and toadlets. A pair of Goosander were present for several days in the spring as was a visiting Little Grebe - unfortunately it did not stay to breed this year.



It is great to see Biggar Cubs and Biggar Kirk Youth Group continuing to use the fire pit and dragon area for ongoing activities - shelter making, sausage sizzles, etc. Nicola Campbell has been leading mindfulness walks - 'Wanderings'.

Sausages and woodsmoke with Biggar Cubs.



We really appreciate being able to use the woods and the fire pit for our church youth group.



WANDERINGS

gathering to connect life and faith

As we approached the end of the year, we got the great news that we had all been hoping for that the SLF had awarded us a significant percentage of the woodland's purchase cost! Still some fundraising to do but now the whole project seems doable - we aim to complete the purchase early in the New Year.

After the SLF's announcement we held our own 'event' at the fire-pit / dragon in the woodland. The local media were invited - again we featured on BBC Scotland Breakfast Radio and ITV Borders Evening News - we drank Prosecco!



For more information and events, please see broughtonknowe-wood.co.uk

Lamancha, Newlands
and Kirkurd Community Council



**The AGM and next meeting will be at
7.30pm on *Tuesday 17 June
at the Lamancha Hub**

***Please note the day change to a Tuesday**

Community Councils give people a voice concerning where they live.
Come along and make sure your voice is heard and find out what is
happening in your area.

All welcome

We have a Facebook page which will keep you up to date on meeting
dates and local issues. Please email lnkccchair@gmail.com with any
comments or questions.

Information regarding flooding: The Scottish Flood Forum website is a good
source of information. [The Scottish Flood Forum - Supporting Flood Risk
Communities](#). The Forum works to support communities and individual property
owners with any source of flooding issue whether it's out of sewer, pluvial or
fluvial flooding . It should also be able to give advice on any insurance issues
faced by customers.

Small grants up to £50 can be awarded by the Community Council to
Community Groups. To apply or for more information, email
lnkccchair@gmail.com .

WANTED - BLYTH BRIDGE

Volunteer/s for approximately 3 hours

The Community Council pays for the plants for all the planters situated in Lamancha, Romanno Bridge and Blyth Bridge.

Currently, we need a volunteer or volunteers to plant out the four planters at the entrance to Blyth Bridge.

The plants are due for delivery very soon.

If you are available to do this for the village, please contact **lnkccchair@gmail.com**



Christian Aid Car Boot Sale in Skirling



Many thanks for all the donations and a

BIG THANK YOU to all the volunteers!

The fantastic sum of £ 1,620 was raised.

KIRKURD SWI

Sunday 18th. May, 9 members of Kirkurd SWI joined with members of the Peeblesshire Federation for afternoon tea at Peebles Hydro, to celebrate the 100th. birthday of the federation.

This was a very enjoyable occasion, lots of laughter, memories, good food and good music.



Saturday 14th. June: Sales table at the Whipman, West Linton

Items for the sales table can be handed into Margaret on Friday 13th. or brought to West Linton on the Saturday at 5:30pm.

This year the proceeds from the sales table will be donated to Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance.

The Community Effort for the 2026 Spring Show is: 'Summer Holiday'.

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 will be open all summer on Wednesdays from 10 am till 2pm so come and sit in the garden and chat with friends in the lovely sunshine while it lasts! We are also looking for volunteers to do a small amount of weeding. Just pop in any time as the garden is open 24/7. Thanks in advance.

Hire of hall is still only £10 per hour and a one -off £10 for hire of the kitchen in conjunction with hall.

Pilates and Yoga plus sewing classes are on so if you want further info just 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

Aren't the plant stands tempting when you go to your local supermarket these days? I can't resist busy lizzies! At least they don't take up much space! This month past has been different due to the lovely sunny weather and because of not doing any watering of the shrubs I'm amazed how well they have done. Only a couple have suffered a bit with leaf curl and they are my hedgehog holly and my hypericum plants. Shrubs that have done well are spirea, kerria, and a tree lupin which has been especially lovely this year but flowers only last a fortnight if that..

My gooseberries look good and likewise the black and redcurrants. I haven't tried the rhubarb yet but it looks red enough to give it a go. I gave up on strawberries as the blackbirds found them irresistible.

Remember to sit in your gardens this year and enjoy the sunshine. I know some of us jump up to pull a weed or two! We will never win over them!

Cilla Davidson

NEWLANDS SWI



We are now on our summer break but just to remind members that we have booked a table at the Whipman in West Linton on the 14th June to man a Tombola stand. If members would be kind enough to donate for same that would be good. Please could items be left with Yvonne Ashforth or Nancy Porteous. (Many thanks Ladies.)

We had a successful AGM with new committee members voted on for the new session starting in September.

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: 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 **July/August** magazine to roehe.ilka@gmail.com

by 20th June 2025