

Kirkurd & Newlands Parish Magazine

March 2026



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 - March 2026

<i>Date</i>	<i>Carlops 10 am</i>	<i>Kirkurd & Newlands 10 am</i>	<i>West Linton 11.30 am</i>
01 March 2026	Steven Whalley	Rev Tony Foley	Steven Whalley
08 March 2026	Patsy Campbell	Isobel Hunter	Patsy Campbell
15 March 2026	Rev Tony Foley	Rev Chris Levison	Rev Tony Foley
22 March 2026	Isobel Hunter	Fiona Burnett	Isobel Hunter
29 March 2026	Patsy Campbell	Rev Tony Foley	Patsy Campbell
05 April 2026	Rev Tony Foley	David Henderson-Howat	Rev Tony Foley

Welcome: Sarah Magee & Ilka Roehe

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>
01 March 2026	Café Church	Rev Tony Foley	Fiona Burnett
08 March 2026	Rev Tony Foley	Isobel Hunter	Rev Tony Foley
15 March 2026	Murray Campbell	Rev Chris Levison	Murray Campbell
22 March 2026	David Henderson-Howat	Fiona Burnett	David Henderson-Howat
29 March 2026	Fiona Burnett	Rev Tony Foley	Fiona Burnett
05 April 2026	-*	Peter Worthington*	-*

* Upper Tweeddale Easter Service: Peter Worthington & Fiona Burnett

Dear Church Family,

It is with deep and sad emotions that I share the news that I will be leaving my position as Minister for the Parishes of West Tweeddale. My last Sunday as your minister will be on the 31/05/2026.

Serving this community of churches has been one of the richest and most profound blessing in my life and ministry. I am and will remain so very grateful for the opportunity you all gave me to be part of your lives as church communities. You are easy people to be with, easy people to minister among, and even easier people to love. I have learned a great deal from you all during my time with you and have really enjoyed the blessing and support of sharing the responsibilities of ministry with all the members of the various Kirk Sessions and of course the members of the Worship Leadership Team. I will take those lessons together with a great many happy memories with me.

I really wanted to say all of this to you in person but because of the logistics of our family of churches, the timing of our services etc that was not possible. It has to be done this way so that everyone gets to hear the news at the same time. There will of course be opportunities in the coming weeks to talk with you in person but for now this is the best I can do.

While I am now moving on to what I hope will be a new chapter in life and ministry I will always cherish my time West Tweeddale and will continue to hold you all in my prayers. During the coming weeks I will of course remain fully committed to ministry here and will do all I can to make this period of transition as smooth as possible.

With gratitude and blessing,

Rev Dr. Tony Foley

‘A lunchtime interrogation’

It was lunchtime. I decided to sit on one of the benches near the village green in West Linton with my Co-op meal deal. There were young families playing on the green that day. A young girl approached and sat on the same bench. Turning to look at me she said, *“I have been talking to my Granny about things and Mummy says I should ask you.”* ‘Ask me?’ I replied. “Yes”, she said, *“the man with the collar might know.”* ‘What is it you want to ask me?’ I replied. *“I want to know how big a soul is?”*

‘A soul.’ I said. *“Yes, are they all the same size, like really small, like small enough to fit inside my baby sister?”*

‘Well,’ I said. But the little one just carried on gesticulating, *“I mean can they grow? Can some be bigger than others? Like, is my Daddy’s bigger than my Mummy’s?”*

‘What great questions,’ I said. The stream continued unabated, *“And can they be broken, you know like the way your arm or leg can sometimes get broken? If they can, where do people go to get their souls fixed? What do you do with a hurt soul? Granny says there are lost souls. How do you do that?”* “Do what?” I asked. *“Lose your soul, I mean can it fall out of your body, and if it does, how do you get it back in? Is there a place for lost souls? You know, like the lost property room at school? Granny says that your soul is what keeps you alive, but if you lose it how do you stay alive while you are looking for it?”*

Just then the family got up to leave, and the little girl’s mother called for her. She looked up at me smiling and said, *“I have to go now, thank you for listening to my questions.”* And with a hop, skip and jump she was gone.

What do you think of the little girl’s questions? How would you answer them?

Peace,

Tony

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

Sunday 5 April

10am – Easter Day Service – Newlands Church

11.30am – Easter Day Service – St Andrews West Linton



The theme for this winter is Meeting Jesus



Our next Messy Church Session is on

Sunday 08 March 2026, 4pm.

The topic is Mary and Martha meet Jesus

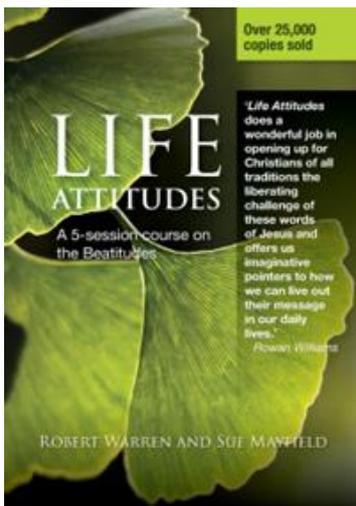
The session starts at 4pm prompt in the New Church Hall at West Linton and finishes at 6pm.

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

Lent Study 2026 - Life Attitudes



For Lent this year we will be discussing the beatitudes using **Robert Warren and Sue Mayfield's** book **Life Attitudes**.

There will be two identical five-week programmes lasting six weeks. One will be online using **Zoom** and the other in person in the **Laurelbank Cafe in Broughton**.

The **Zoom** sessions will be led by Steven Whalley and Colin Herd.

For more information, please see the church website: www.westweeddale.org.uk

The Zoom link is available from the church office:

admin@westweeddale.org.uk

Carlops Village Talks

Monthly talks and a chance to chat

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

Friday 13th March 2026 – Juliet Gold – Orthopaedics in Northern Malawi - Physiotherapist Juliet delivered a talk last year about her work in the NHS. Since then, her work has taken her back to Malawi for a spell and we will hear about her experiences there.

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.



Pudding Night

We held a very successful Pudding Night in early February with friends from all over the linkage and a wonderful selection of puddings! We also raised £500 for Oxfam.

Many thanks to everyone who supported this in any way.

CHRISTIAN AID ANNUAL REVIEW 2024-25

“Our Year of Impact”

You can read the full report on the CA website but here are the edited highlights:

Last year, as CA marked its 80th year, it's time to reflect on what truly sustains our life-changing and life-saving work to end poverty. It was a turbulent year, marked by the scale and intensity of emergencies around the world, and dramatic cuts in official aid funding.

The answer is simple – DONORS, like YOU! This partnership between you, CA and the communities they serve is what keeps hope alive. Please don't underestimate the phenomenal difference your donations make. Time and again, CA hears from communities that it's not only the practical help they value. What they treasure most is knowing they aren't forgotten – that you love them, pray for them and speak up for them. That knowledge gives them real HOPE because it shows that compassion travels across borders.

Every page of the review celebrates the power of ordinary people – supporters like you who believe that change is possible, even in the hardest times.

CA's work has always been powered by FAITH – a shared belief that every family deserves to live in hope and dignity. Whether you give, act or pray, you are part of a movement changing lives for good and helping to end the injustice of extreme poverty.

Statistics – number crunching

Total income raised was £71.1m, of which £52.2m came from supporters in the UK. CA Week alone generated £5.2m.

£77m was spent:

£32.9m was used for humanitarian emergencies which met the immediate needs of 8 million people.

4.1m people were directly engaged, 57% of whom were women and girls. A further 12.4m were reached indirectly. 6486 churches supported CA (Scotland 766, England 5126 and Wales 594).

CHRISTIAN AID ANNUAL REVIEW 2024-25

463 projects were funded in 28 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean.

70 groups of UK CA supporters spoke face to face with their MPs about global policy.

CA website can be found at: www.christianaid.org.uk

NOTE FOR YOUR DIARY

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 10-16 May 2026

Robert Higgins, CA chair

KIRKURD SWI



At the February meeting, with the aid of slides, Rona Dodds gave a fascinating talk about the development of her business at Quercus Plants.

Elma Noble proposed the vote of thanks.

Arrangements for the Spring show were discussed.

Competitions: Homemade coaster 1st. Christine Summers, 2nd. Elma Noble

Pot of Bulbs: 1st. Margaret Adamson.

Next meeting: Tuesday 3rd. March

‘Circa 72 Jewellery’ with Kary from West Linton.

Competitions: Favourite piece of jewellery, Non alcoholic drink.

Saturday 14th. March Peeblesshire Federation SWI Spring Show, Newlands Centre.

Members can place their entries in the hall 8:30 – 9:30am ready for judging at 9:45.

Doors open 1:00 – 4:00pm. Admission £5 includes tea/coffee and home baking.

Tuesday 7th. April. Annual Business Meeting.

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 Wednesdays from 10am till 2pm in March so come along and meet up with some old and new friends. Filled rolls and delicious scones and cakes are available.

CLASSES We have Yoga, Pilates and sewing classes available so if you are interested just email info@lamanchahub.org.uk

HIRE OF ROOMS We charge £10 per hour for events, parties, etc.

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

February has been a bit dismal to say the least but the days are getting longer and we haven't really done too badly with snow and icy roads.

Snowdrops have still been the winners this past month. They have been a joy to behold, springing up all over. There is one variety that stands out in my own garden being taller than the others and that is *Leucojum*, the "Spring Snowflake" with green tipped edges. You can order bulbs online and I would recommend you have a look.

Daffodils are appearing now so looking forward to that. There are so many different varieties to choose from.

No sign of life from the fruit bushes yet. Will probably buy a few more ever-green shrubs for the front garden as there are some gaps.

Just noticed the grass is starting to grow in the lawn so not long now till we hear the sound of lawn mowers again.....

Enjoy the snowdrops while they last.

Cilla Davidson



NEWLANDS SWI



Our next meeting will be in Lamancha Hub cafe at 7.30pm on 12th March where we will discuss final arrangements for the community effort which is at Newlands Hall on 14th March.

Teas are by Lottie and Marion.

Cilla Davidson

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

by 17th March 2026