

Kirkurd & Newlands Parish Magazine
May 2026



A Celebration of Pentecost
Sunday 24th May 2026 - Manse Garden
West Linton

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 - May 2026

<i>Date</i>	<i>Carlops 10 am</i>	<i>Kirkurd & Newlands 10 am</i>	<i>West Linton 11.30 am</i>
03 May 2026	Colin Herd	Rev Tony Foley	Colin Herd
10 May 2026	Peter Worthington	Fiona Burnett	Peter Worthington
17 May 2026	Rev Tony Foley	David Henderson-Howat	Rev Tony Foley
24 May 2026	Steven Whalley	Rev Tony Foley	Steven Whalley
31 May 2026	Patsy Campbell	David Henderson-Howat	Rev Tony Foley*
07 June 2026	Colin Herd	Julian Birchall	Colin Herd

Welcome: Jim Brown, David Habeshaw, Janette Raeburn

Church Cleaning: Jo Ranson

<i>Date</i>	<i>Broughton 11 am</i>	<i>Skirling 11.30 am</i>	<i>Tweedsmuir 9.30 am</i>
03 May 2026	Café Church	Rev Tony Foley	Fiona Burnett
10 May 2026	Rev Tony Foley	Fiona Burnett	Rev Tony Foley
17 May 2026	Peter Worthington	David Henderson-Howat	Peter Worthington
24 May 2026	Linda Hill	Rev Tony Foley	Anne Dawson
31 May 2026	*	*	*
07 June 2026	Café Church	Julian Birchall	Fiona Burnett

*** Joint Service of Farewell to Rev Dr. Tony Foley**

Conscience, how far can yours be bent?

The best poems ask the most important questions of us, sometimes aslant sometimes directly. Wendell Berry's poem below is almost brutal in its directness. Yet it asks questions that for the good for our hearts and minds and souls are worth considering. Because they ask us to think about when in pursuit of national and personal objectives, how morally 'flexible' our conscience might be. Our conscience, like all the 'muscles' we are born with, needs to be developed, and our innate sense of fairness honed often by questions prompted by circumstance or conversation.

Berry's poem reminds me of the prophet Micah's statement - 'He shown us all what is good and what does the Lord require of us...' MICHA 6:8. That statement is made in a socio-political context of moral and spiritual confusion. A context where the cloak of religious/political nationalism, sadly not for the first nor last time, is used to cover a multitude of moral failings. Read the poem and let the words and the questions do their work.

THE QUESTIONNAIRE by Wendell Berry

How much poison are you willing
to eat for the success of the free market
and global trade? Please,
name your preferred poisons.

For the sake of goodness, how much
evil are you willing to do?
Fill in the following blanks
with the names of your favourite
evils and acts of hatred.

What sacrifices are you prepared
to make for culture and civilization?

Please list the monuments, shrines,
and works of art you would
most willingly destroy.

In the name of patriotism and
the flag, how much of our beloved
land are you willing to desecrate?

List in the following spaces
the mountains, rivers, towns, farms
you could most readily do without.

State briefly the ideas, ideals, or hopes,
the energy sources, the kinds of security,
for which you would kill a child.

Name, please, the children whom
you would be willing to kill.

Peace, Tony

Joint Service of Farewell to Rev Dr Tony Foley
Sunday 31 May at St Andrews West Linton

There will be a linkage service to say good bye to Tony on 31 May at St Andrews West Linton at 11.30.

We will still have our 10am service as usual at Newlands but there will be time to get to West Linton for this service.

Jean Howat

A Celebration of Pentecost

Sunday 24th May 2026 - Manse Garden, West Linton

The festival of Pentecost, or Whitsun as it is sometimes called, happens 50 days after Easter and celebrates the beginnings of the Christian Church. It's the church's birthday if you like and unlike Christmas and Easter, is not really celebrated outside the church. This year though, West Tweeddale Parishes want to change all this around and invite you to an afternoon of fun, activities and entertainment to celebrate Pentecost.

We are inviting all the organisations throughout the parishes which have a link with the church, big or small to set up a stall or activity promoting their organisation. This will include, amongst other things, games, activities, storytelling, music etc. It's a way of highlighting how the Church and organisations work together to make our community thrive. It's also giving an opportunity for these organisations to advertise what they are doing and attract more people to join them. There will be refreshments on sale, birthday cake to hand out, (after all it is the birthday of the church!), and there might be a treasure hunt or two to take part in. We'd like to end the afternoon in praise of God for the joy of Pentecost, so we'll have an open-air Songs of Praise.

Look out for posters, save the date and come along on Sunday afternoon, 24th May to the manse garden in West Linton (across the road from St. Andrew's Church) for a fun packed afternoon.

And if you are interested in having a stall or helping on the day, please contact Fiona Burnett (fiona@glenholm.co.uk, Tel 07944 196234) for more details.

1. Showcase event – A celebration of Pentecost - There have been reports of real growth in numbers embracing Christianity and attending ‘Church’ in all its forms. Sometimes all that is needed for people is to be invited. On 24th May there is a chance to do just that. Organisations throughout the Parish have been invited to set up a stall or an activity in the Manse gardens to promote their organisation and attract new members. There will also be a range of fun activities and refreshments. We hope it may give a chance for people to think about what the Church means for them. Sometimes an invite is all that’s needs. Try - “I’m going to the church celebration. It will be good. Why don’t you come too.”

2. It’s good to talk - Linked to the Pentecost event where people might want to know

more about being a Christian, it would be good to know if you are happy to share your faith with the curious. It may be as simple as how you became a Christian or why you are a Christian. If you are happy to talk about your faith to someone who wants to know more please let Steven Whalley know.

Here are some options for joining us in May
suitable for all ages and abilities

Wednesday 6th May 10am, meet at Glenholm

Accessible Wandering followed by bite and blether in Broughton

Fri 15th May 10.30am - Welly Wanders

For pre-schoolers and carers, followed by lunch at St. Mary’s Hall

Saturday 30th May 2.30pm

Wandering Broughtonknowe Woods, followed by a cuppa and snack in the woods.

<http://mailchi.mp/.../wanderings-gathering-to-connect...>



Christian Aid Week 10-16 May 2026

Christian Aid Week will soon be upon us!

Christian Aid Week in Scotland raised over £780,000 last year.

Its theme is “Where Hardship means Hunger...urban farmers can grow hope”. This year, we’re raising funds for our global work by sharing stories about Kenya. A debt crisis is trapping people in poverty. Kenya spends more paying back debt than it does on public services such as healthcare and education.

CA’s partner, Beacon of Hope, is encouraging rural Kenyans who have had to move to the cities because of drought and crop failures to use much smaller urban spaces in their neighbourhoods to grow their own food to feed their families. Hardship often leads to hunger but for farmers like Fridah, gardens grow hope! For more details, explore the CA website at caweek.org.

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

** CA service at St. Andrew’s church will be on Sunday 10th May.

** The popular CA Scotland cryptic Quiz will be back with its theme of “Sport or Game”. Hard copy and digital formats will be available in due course (but not the answers yet!). Optional discretionary donation welcome.

** CA Car Boot Sale, Skirling Village Green, Sunday 10th May, 1.30pm – 4.30pm

**Book Sale, Holy Corner, Morningside United church, Saturday 9th to Monday 11th May.

All proceeds are donated to CA.

How to Donate

Ideally donate online at www.christianaid.org.uk

All your money goes directly to CA with no hidden deductions reducing its value.

If you still prefer to use the traditional CA envelope, these will be available to pick up from the church at Sunday services during May.

Robert Higgins, CA Chair





Our Village Talks

Monthly with tea and chat hosted by Carlops Church

Friday 15th May 2026 7.30pm – Alex Gray

Alex is recognised internationally as dancer, tutor, adjudicator and deviser of new dances.

Music and the Dance:

Influences on Scottish dance

Friday 12th June 7.30pm - Chris Levison

minister and health care chaplain

“But I don’t believe that either!”

Must we accept strange or supernatural beliefs to be at home in the church?

Do you feel guilty about not really believing them?

What is “Progressive Christianity” and how does it approach such dilemmas?

No ticket or reservation required, but donations are invited



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

KIRKURD SWI

The annual business meeting was held on Tuesday 7th April.

The secretary's report gave a very full summary of the meetings over the past year. We have had excellent speakers ranging from crook making, ospreys, butcher, gardening and many more. The competitions were well supported, and winners were announced at the end of the meeting.

In her president's report, Sheila Voas also highlighted some of our meetings and thanked everyone for their continued help and support over the past year. Congratulations to all who participated at the Spring Show where Kirkurd was placed second in the Community Effort and won the Col Robertson Trophy for most points in the bulbs and plants section.

The treasurer's report was given by Sharon Cowle and the accounts show a very healthy balance.

Office Bearers 2026 – 2027

President: Sheila Voas, Secretary: Margaret Adamson, Treasurer: Sharon Cowle.

Points Prizes: 1st Sheila Voas, 2nd Margaret Adamson, 3rd Lesley Johnstone.

Suggestions for the 2026 2027 syllabus were discussed.

Some Diary Dates:

Wednesday 6th May: Visit to Pentlands SWI, Penicuik. 7:00pm

Sunday 24th May: Danish Knitters are hosting an evening at the Park Hotel, Peebles. 7:30pm

Saturday 13th June: Sales Table at the Whipman

This year the proceeds from the sales table will be donated to the Waltson Men's Shed.

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

The cafe continues to be well supported and has a choice of soups and filled rolls, not to mention home baking and lovely scones. Open on Wednesdays only from 10am till 2pm.

CLASSES

Linda has Yoga on Thursday mornings.

Kirsten has Pilates classes on Friday mornings.

Alex holds sewing classes on some Saturdays.

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

Woke up this morning at the end of April to a beautiful blue sky and the sun peeping over the hill at Lamancha. The weather seems to have agreed with the daffodils as they have had a long flowering season this year. We haven't had much rain recently but be careful what you wish for!

The cherry trees are so pretty peeping out from various gardens and there is a pretty yellow flowering shrub in a hidden part of my own garden that deserves a mention, namely *Kerria Japonica*. This shrub was given to me by a neighbour when we moved here 49 years ago. Seems to like this area. Just google and have a look.

I haven't been so lucky with other shrubs though, especially Forsythias but I have now discovered that *Pieris* can hold their own here.

Bedding plants are now appearing in the shops so must purchase a few for the tubs. Special mention for the *Violas* as they are still flowering their socks off all winter!

Happy times ahead for all us gardeners!

Cilla Davidson



Minister West Tweeddale

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

by 22 May 2026