

Kirkurd & Newlands Parish Magazine
November 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>
02 November 2025	Patsy Campbell	Rev Chris Levison	Patsy Campbell
09 November 2025 <i>Remembrance</i>	Rev Tony Foley 9.30 am	David Henderson-Howat 10.00 am	Rev Tony Foley 10.45 am
16 November 2025	Fiona Burnett	Rev Tony Foley	Fiona Burnett
23 November 2025	Sheena Livingstone	Fiona Burnett	Kevin Scott
30 November 2025	Rev Tony Foley	Murray Campbell	Rev Tony Foley
07 December 2025	David Howat	Rev Tony Foley	Steven Whalley

Welcome: Janette Raeburn & David Habeshaw

Church Cleaning: Sheila Chapman



<i>Date</i>	<i>Broughton 11 am</i>	<i>Skirling 11.30 am</i>	<i>Tweedsmuir 9.30 am</i>
02 November 2025	Fiona Burnett	Rev Chris Levison	Fiona Burnett
09 November 2025 <i>Remembrance</i>	Rev C. MacDougall 11 am	Peter Worthington 11.00 am	Peter Worthington 9.30 am
16 November 2025	Steven Whalley	Rev Tony Foley	Steven Whalley
23 November 2025	Rev Tony Foley	Fiona Burnett	Rev Tony Foley
30 November 2025	David Howat	Murray Campbell	David Howat
07 December 2025	Fiona Burnett	-*	-*

* Advent Christingle Service for Upper Tweeddale in Broughton Hall

The Morality of obedience

*‘Alas for you Pharisees, for you pay out your tithe of mint and rue
and every little herb,
while ignoring the justice and love of God.’*

LUKE 11:42

A major bone of contention between Jesus and his opponents centered around the morality of obedience. Our world’s recent and not-so-distant history is full of examples of how that issue is still very much with us today. Of how, often in the pursuit of State defined goodness, people can unconsciously find themselves adapting to the normalisation of cruelty towards others under the guise of ‘Law’.

When the language of morality is manipulated and used to lead people to away from the ‘*weightier matters of the Law*’ it invariably becomes a means of leading a populace to commit previously inconceivable actions in the cause of the ‘national good’. This happens when the self-serving morality of a ruling party usurps the role of public and personal conscience. The subsequent ‘politically responsible’ moral code then becomes a means of ensnaring the populace into an unquestioning mindset. Christians living through such eras are often faced the question: ‘*How does a Christian live in a society that preaches goodness but worships power and lauds compliance?*’ How does one live in a society that conflates being a good person with being an obedient citizen, who is passively compliant to the new political and cultural norms?

Aldous Huxley’s novel, *Brave New World* tells of a world where pleasure has replaced purpose, and an addictive desire for comfort displaces the growth pains associated with developing critical faculties. A world where life is lived out under the *dictatorship of entertainment, of endless distractions that bring momentary pleasures. A world where the thoughts of its citizens are regulated by dopamine fixes wrapped up in entertainment all designed to pacify the populace and incapacitate their critical thinking faculties.*

We presently live in the age of the ‘*Selfie*’. An image-driven era where virtue has become a performance art led by a celebrity priesthood. A time where appearance is lauded and substance ignored. A culture where overt political deceptions are justified in the service of ‘lesser evils’. Where appearing good is praise-worthy but doing good can be considered subversive activity. In such a culture how do we determine whether we are actually being good or simply being compliant?

How can Christians think about the morality of obedience? We could start by being determined to never to lose sight of the ‘*weightier matters of the Law*’, like compassion and justice. We could start by insisting on standards of truth telling in public life that serve the public good and not simply the policy aims of a political party. We could start by being leery of people who ask us to give uncritical compliance to their opinions.

“Do not conform to the standards of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is...” ROMANS 12:2

Peace,

Tony

“There is a battle in my head,
a war behind my eyes.
On one side there is truth and love,
and on the other hate and lies.
It’s for me, the one who sees,
to decide what is right
and what is wrong.
For when it comes to sight
things aren’t always
what I’m told I see.”

Remembrance Service – Sunday 9th November

This service will be held at 10.00 am and will be led by David Henderson-Howat. Immediately following the service wreaths will be laid first at the Newlands war memorial and after that – between 10.45 and 11.00 - at the memorial at Blyth Bridge. Guides, Brownies, Cubs and Scouts are invited to attend in uniform.

Communion Service – Sunday 16 November

We will celebrate Communion at the church service on Sunday 16 November. Everyone is warmly invited to attend.

Peeblesshire Youth Trust & Peebles Foodbank

Christmas Hampers

Once again PYT and Peebles Foodbank will be assembling Christmas hampers to be delivered to families who are struggling in the Tweeddale Area. We have been asked to donate luxury biscuit boxes, crisps for sharing and hot chocolate. They can be brought to the church at a Sunday service.

Harvest Thanksgiving Donations

A total of £245 was raised at the Harvest Supper. It has gone to Bethany Christian Trust. We also had a wonderful evening with fantastic food and lots of good chat!

The collection of food donations was taken to Peebles Food Bank where it was also gratefully received.

Thank-you to all who contributed so generously.

Christmas Gift Service. 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).



The theme for this winter is Meeting Jesus

Dates for your diary:

Sunday 9 November

Sunday 14 December

Sunday 11 January

Sunday 8 February

Sunday 8 March

Our first Messy Church Session is on Sunday 9 November.

The topic is The Wedding at Cana when Jesus turns the water into wine.

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



Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

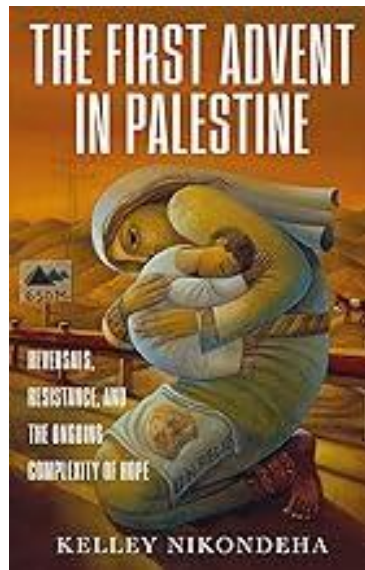
Just to say very many thanks for your generous support - we took a fantastic 22 Boxes from the School, and 33 Boxes & 2 large bags of 'Extras!' from the Church!!

The Blythswood driver was most appreciative and thanks you very much for your support.

Our boxes this year, along with many others are going to Ukraine!! Thank you again.
Fay

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 — the Zoom link will be available
nearer the time,

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.


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

Broughtonknowe Community Woodland - 2025 Review

John Hart

2025 has been a very eventful year in the ongoing, now safely secured, life of our woodland. After all the stresses of fundraising we finally gained community ownership in March. We had a formal celebratory event and 'opening' on May Day at the Green Ash Chairs yurt in the old quarry above the car park.



Our attention has now had to turn to the day to day running of our wonderful asset - what a responsibility! An essential part of this commitment is the maintenance of our visitor experience. Prior to purchase Friends of Broughtonknowe had just completed a significant programme of infrastructure improvements - more paths, boardwalks, benches; two new ponds; installation of nest boxes and a wildlife watching hide. We also planted a lot of native wildflowers and shrubs to improve habitat diversity. All this requires ongoing attention if the woodland is to continue to provide the visitor experience our community expressed their desire to maintain/develop. To this end we are indebted to the generous donors of a ride on mower and the ongoing volunteer input of Ross Robison. Since March Ross has added a new bench at the 'Scrape' pond and installed a donated memorial bench looking onto the Southern Uplands. Both are well used! Presently we are looking to install a covered seating area in the 'Pine Gully' picnic area in the middle of the woodland. Karl Napier is a 'new recruit' to our maintenance volunteers, contributing his strimming and digging skills as well as his practical knowledge of landscape management.

Stan Wilson, who was brought up at Rachan and has a great attachment to the area and our project, donated a stunning organic sculpture he had carved from Portland stone. It is fittingly installed by the reeds at the edge of the main pond. Stan has since donated and installed two more of his sculptural works. Two figures in white Portland stone and black Kilkenny marble entitled 'One Nation' symbolise unity and our extended welcome to all who visit. An iron facsimile of a helmeted head looks onto our adjacent Iron Age hill fort, the intention being to draw attention to our associated archaeological past. We are not the only people to have appreciated this wonderful landscape.

John Hart's Full 2025 Review will be sent out with the parish magazine.

Lamancha, Newlands
and Kirkurd Community
Council



**Join the discussion, shape the
future of your local area, and get
involved in your community!**

Community Councils give people a
voice concerning where they live.

**Wednesday 19th November
Newlands Centre,
Romanno Bridge
19:30**

Please email lnkccchair@gmail.com
if you have any comments or questions.



LNK Community Council

At the first meeting of the winter programme on 7th. October David Gilchrist and Ian Alexander gave an excellent talk / demonstration about making shepherd's crooks. They showed how the sticks are straightened and explained the many processes of preparing, shaping and polishing the rams' horns. They also had a wonderful display of many of their finished sticks.

Sandra Bracken gave a very well-deserved vote of thanks.

Competitions: Item incorporating horn: 1st. Sheila Voas, 2nd. Margaret Yeaman

2 x pieces carrot cake: 1st. Lesley Lohnstone 2nd. Sheila Voas

Tuesday 4th. November OPEN NIGHT Tweed Valley Osprey Project

This meeting is open to all. Visitors £5 includes tea/coffee and home baking

7:15pm Newlands Centre

Competitions: Photograph of bird / birds, 2 x toffee apples

Tuesday 2nd. December Damn Delicious, butchers from Thankerton.

Competitions: Home-made Christmas Card, Scottish Tea Towel

Friday 5th. December Christmas Lunch, West Linton Golf Club

12:00 for 12:30

Carlops Village Talks

Friday 14th November, 7.30pm

The Life & Works of John Buchan

Raising funds for Malawi and Carlops Church

Please see www.carlopschurch.org for more details.

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

Going from strength to strength. Just had 27 cyclists. They pre-booked so was a welcome boost for the Hub. Wednesday mornings at 10 am until 2pm. Selection of 3 soups plus fresh made scones, cakes and filled rolls plus coffee and tea. All welcome.

Our charges are £10 per hour for the big room. Classes available just now are for Yoga on Thursdays and Pilates on Fridays. Some Saturdays there are sewing classes.

For further information email info@lamanchahub.org.uk

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

My calendar is telling me that it is the last week in October so how come my two Christmas cactus plants are flowering their socks off in a prizewinning way? Never mind, I'm sure that the local garden centres and shops will have plenty to choose from nearer the time!

Most of the leaves have now drifted down to crunch underfoot until the rains come to make a soggy mess. Just read recently that it is lucky if you catch a falling leaf. Never knew that!

There is not much colour in my garden now but Bonica, the pink rose still has a few blooms and there are still hardy geraniums dotted about. One in particular came from John Buchan's old garden in Broughton forty seven years ago. I, in my turn have passed on numerous cuttings to friends.

Happy gardening everyone.

Cilla Davidson

NEWLANDS SWI



On 9th October we had 18 members enjoying a demo on planting a tub for winter interest by local plantswoman Joanne Thomson. Thanks to Nancy P and Fay for Teas and home baking.

We are looking forward to the next meeting on the 13th November when Kayleigh MacLean is coming from the Dogs Trust which should be an interesting talk as they are well renowned in helping so many dogs.

Competition is for a favourite mug and teas are by Nancy D and Lyn L. We should have a good turn out as we all love our dogs.

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 **December/January** magazine to roehe.ilka@gmail.com

by 25th November 2025