

# *West Linton St Andrew's Parish Church*

**February 2024**

Scottish Charity No SC003938

**Minister: Rev Dr Tony Foley**

## **What business are we in?**

Let me ask you a question, "*What as a church have we not noticed lately?*" I know that this is really an odd question, how can you notice what you haven't yet noticed. Let me illustrate what I mean.

It is the year 1910. This is the age of the big transatlantic steamer. The seas were full of big beautiful ships carrying the thousands of people to and fro across the Atlantic. The dominant companies in this business are Cunard and White Star. If you ask the people who ran Cunard and White Star what business they were in, they would of inevitably responded: "*The transatlantic shipping business*".

Sadly it was that kind of self-definition that sealed their demise. Locked into a worldview that the future was about bigger, faster ships, companies like Cunard and White Star were busy trying to create ships with bigger engines, more funnels, and iceberg-proof hulls. Yet, only a few years later a disruptive technology came along and sunk the transatlantic shipping business and the White Stars and Cunards of the world. That piece of technology was of course, the airplane.

If White Star and Cunard had seen their business from a different perspective in other words not as a transatlantic shipping business, but rather as a transatlantic *people moving business* things might be very different today. Instead of flying in *Virgin* and *BA* and *easyJet* planes we might all be flying in Cunard and White Star planes.

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How often as churches do we get the question: “*What do you do?*” All too often we respond to questions like this with the ‘*what,*’ and forget to mention the ‘*why*’ we do what we do. We invariably answer the question on autopilot and talk about parishes and worship services, social activities etc. In other words we talk in terms of the logistics of church and the location of church buildings.

When Jesus was asked a similar question in Luke’s Gospel (ch15), instead explaining what he was doing he told 3 stories that helped his listeners ‘see’ why he was doing what he was doing. From beginning to end every thing Jesus did was *people focused* – not property or procedure focused. It is good to be able to explain *what* we do but let’s never forget the *why*. Why not take some time this week to read and reflect on how Jesus answered those who questioned him about his activities. Like its Saviour, the Church is called to be first and foremost a people-centred enterprise. If we forget to notice that we may like Cunard and White Star find ourselves replaced.

Peace,

**Tony**

## **Peebles Youth Trust Hampers Thank You**

Hayley and Emma, PYT Hamper Coordinators wrote: “ We are writing to say a huge thank you for your support with the 2023 Peebles Youth Trust Christmas Hampers. 120 families in the Peeblesshire area received hampers full of essential food, fruit and vegetables, sweet treats and toiletries with a value of up to £100.

We are hugely reliant on the support from the local community to provide donations for the hampers.

Your support is essential.

We look forward to working with you for Christmas 2024.”



**Messy Church will be meeting again this winter on the following Sundays:**

**Sunday 18 February – Joseph**

**Sunday 10 March – Moses and the Burning Bush**

**Sessions start at 4pm prompt in the New Church Hall at West Linton and finish 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 then the children will do a range of craft activities, followed by a song and 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 (01968 660677)  
[howatjean@gmail.com](mailto:howatjean@gmail.com)



### ***Watchnight and Christmas Day Offerings***

The donations at the Watchnight and Christmas Day services amounted to £393.62. As a result we were able to send £196.81 to each of our nominated charities - Bethany Christian Trust (for its Winter Appeal) and Crossreach. Many thanks to all who contributed.

More information on the important work that these charities do in the local area can be found at [www.bethanychristiantrust.com](http://www.bethanychristiantrust.com) and [www.crossreach.org.uk](http://www.crossreach.org.uk)

## LINTON LIFTS [Proposed]

Slow but sure progress is being made towards the formation of a voluntary drivers scheme to take residents of West Linton and surrounding area, to and from health-related appointments.

Journeys by public transport are challenging when it comes to getting to BGH and other places patients of the West Linton Health Centre are referred to. The Red Cross did a grand job ferrying people back and forth, using volunteer drivers, but that organisation no longer runs the service, and Linton Lifts hopes to fill the gap. However, as with most not-for-profit organisations, a Steering Group needs to be recruited before we can attract volunteer drivers. To that end, I am looking for the following:

**Co-ordinator/s** to deal with client bookings and communications with drivers, using designated email and mobile phone - these people need to be available during the day. A **Treasurer** to receive monies from clients, make payments to drivers, and manage funds - using electronic banking with the Bank of Scotland (once an account is set up) and manage insurance. A **Secretary** to arrange and minute meetings, and keep secure records. **Committee members** - two or three, to help with publicity, social media, press, training etc.

**Volunteering** can be very satisfying, and I would love to hear from anyone reading this who feels they may be able to help fill any of these roles, or indeed may know of someone who perhaps is looking to fill a gap in their lives following retirement or change of lifestyle.

I know that some will be wondering about driving – rest assured, I will put the call out for more drivers when we have a steering group formed! As for clients – there will be no shortage!

Thank you for taking the time to read this – my email address is [margarettorance6@icloud.com](mailto:margarettorance6@icloud.com) and if you would like to talk to me about any of the above my landline is **01968 660678**.

After thought – maybe I should suggest that you get in touch with me in the next fortnight?

## ***Guid Blethers***

**February 14th**

***War Graves with Fiona Dunlop***

**February 28th**

***Vietnam with Archie Hunter***

***Helen Dry 660506***

## **Baby Brunch**

**every Friday during term-time**

**10.00 to 11.30am In the Old Church Hall**

**For parents, grandparents and carers with  
young children**

## ***Community Cosy Coffee Afternoon***

Our hours are 2pm to 4pm on Fridays, at the Old Church Hall. Come along for a chat, cuppa, company and cake! Everyone very welcome, (including dogs on a lead) although under 16s need to be accompanied by an adult. Free of charge although donations welcome but not expected. More information from **Kate Whalley**.

## ***West Tweeddale Guild***

Wednesday February 21st in Newlands Church at 2.30 pm

The speaker will be Rev Pamela Kennedy who is Assistant Minister at Innerleithen, Traquair and Walkerburn, and is also undertaking Pioneer Ministry at Cardrona. She will be talking about her recent experiences as a young and recently- ordained minister in our Presbytery.

## ***Church Flowers***

As the days start to get longer don't forget to look out for signs of the shoots of spring flowers starting to pop through everywhere. It always amazes me how those delicate, beautiful but hardy daffodils which line the main Carlops to Biggar road manage to reappear every year.

Thanks to all who continue to donate to the Flower Fund which allows our beautiful church to be adorned with colour and fragrance; and for flowers to be distributed within our community to give comfort, peace and joy to those who need our support in this way.

I would very much like to take this opportunity to express thanks to the Flower Team. To Jill Green who arranged the flowers in church at the beginning of December and to the Christmas Flower Team; Helen Bruce, Kate Dykes, Fiona Hessey, Nancy Porteous and Sheila Forsyth whose time and talents did not go unnoticed over the Christmas period. It was lovely to hear so many people comment on how beautiful the church looked and to hear such a lovely tribute from the pulpit on Christmas morning. Thanks also to our flower arranger in January, Lillian Slater.

Our flower arrangers in February, March and April will be Ann Lyon, Nancy Porteous and Sheila Forsyth.

Ann

## **2024 Linkage Directory**

The Linkage Directory updated for 2024 is now available as a PDF document to download to your computer, tablet or phone. To receive a copy please send an email to: [newsletter@standrews-westlinton.org](mailto:newsletter@standrews-westlinton.org).

***Colin***

## Scripture or Bible Cake

1. Butter 8oz Judges 5:25. She brought forth butter in a lordly dish.
2. Sugar 8oz Jeremiah 6:20. To what purpose cometh there to me incense from Sheba and sweet cane from a far country.
3. Honey 1 tblsp 1 Samuel 14,:25. And all they of the land came to a wood: and there was honey on the ground.
4. Eggs x 3 Jeremiah 17:11. As the partridge sitteth on eggs.
5. Raisins 8oz 1 Samuel 30,:12. And they gave him a piece of a cake with two clusters of raisins.
6. Dried figs 8oz Nahum 3:12. All thy strongholds shall be like fig trees with the first ripe figs.
7. Almonds 2oz Numbers 17:8. Behold the rod of Aaron bloomed blossoms and yields almonds.
8. SR Flour 1lb 1 Kings 4:22. Solomon's provision for one day is 30 measures of fine flour.
9. Season to your taste with spices. 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 9,:9.-neither was there any such spice as the queen of Sheba gave king Solomon.
10. Add a pinch of salt. Leviticus 2:13-with all thine offerings thou shalt offer salt.
11. Baking powder 1 level teaspoon. Amos 4:5. Offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving with leaven bread.
12. Milk 3 tablespoons. Judges 4:19. She opened a skin of milk and gave Him a drink.

### **Method**

Cream 1,2 and 3.

Beat 4 and add gradually.

Mix in 5, 6 and 7.

Mix 8,9,10 and 11 together then add.

Finally add 12 and mix well.

**Bake in the oven at 160 for 1 ½ -2 hours.**

Contributed by one of our readers. The Editor, who loves cakes, has tried it (half quantities) and baked it in a loaf tin. The results from the tasting panel were all positive. He substituted dates for the figs (2 Samuel 6:19) and used ginger and mixed spice for seasoning.

## Contacts

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**Cosy Café: Kate Whalley** Telephone: 07973 501665

**Guid Blethers: Helen Dry** Telephone: 01968 660506

**Baby Brunch: Mary Turnbull** Telephone 01968 661737

## Sunday Club

**On the first Sunday of each month  
for children in P1 to P5**

**Contact Kate Whalley or Ann Lyon  
07973 501665 or 07973 501665**

Thanks to everyone for helping to make our first Sunday Club Nativity Service on 27<sup>th</sup> December such an enjoyable occasion. It was a very happy occasion and we are hugely encouraged by the positive feedback from everyone.

In the afternoon of the same day the Sunday Club children had their Christmas party and were encouraged to bring a friend. Another exiting first.

## Services February

	West Linton 11.30 am	Carlops 10.00 am	Newlands 10.00 am
4th	Patsy Campbell	Patsy Campbell	Mary McElroy
11th	Rev Dr Tony Foley	Rev Dr Tony Foley Communion	Isobel Hunter
18th	Peter Worthington	Peter Worthington	Rev Dr Tony Foley
25th	Fiona Burnett	Fiona Burnett	Peter Worthington
3/3	Rev Dr Tony Foley	Rev Dr Tony Foley	David Henderson- Howat

### Door Duties

#### February

Kate Dykes	Choir
Neil Calvert £	Main
Mary Turnbull	Gallery

#### March

Ann Lyon	Choir
Steven Whalley	Main
Marion Moore	Gallery

#### Readers

<b>Feb</b>	4th	Elain Robinson
	11th	Daryll Green
	18th	Daryll Green
	25th	Christine Leith

#### Readers

<b>Mar</b>	3rd	Christine Leith
	10th	Jean Macnab
	17th	Jean Macnab
	24th	Kevin Scott
	31st	Kevin Scott

**Material for the March Newsletter should be submitted to the editor by Sunday 18th February 2024. Please include 'Newsletter' in the subject of your email.**

**The March 2024 issue will be available by 25th February 2024.**