

West Linton St Andrew's Parish Church

July/August 2026

Scottish Charity No SCO03938

Interim Moderator: Rev Graham Astles

From the Editor

How do you write a letter?

Dear Friends

I can well remember at school being taught how to write a letter and how to differentiate between a formal letter and an informal one: do we use “Dear Sir/Madam” or simply “Dear John”, and knowing when to use “Yours faithfully” or “Yours sincerely”. I suppose I have got sloppy and now just sign off my emails “Colin”. Social media has changed how we communicate.

The Apostle Paul knew a thing or two about writing letters – he wrote many letters to the churches he had planted, and I am sure that he would have been all over social media if it had been available to him.

Nevertheless, he made good use of what was available. His letters which we still have are instructive and enlightening. What comes over to us is his prayer for the churches. Take, for example, his letter to the Philippians where after the initial salutation his first thought is to give thanks to God every time he remembers them. When we write to our friends do we think in this way? As we think of our sister churches in our Linkage do we give thanks for their faithfulness, or, as Paul puts it, their partnership in the gospel.

We face testing times as we continue in vacancy but we should take note of how Paul continues to the Philippians:

“And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ - to the glory and praise of God”

As we navigate through the process of vacancy we need to be aware of the disparate nature of any grouping of people and be prepared to show love and respect in all our discussions and negotiations.

So as you sign off your next letter or email, think about the person or persons you are writing to: give thanks for them, pray for them, that we all might be filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ.

Yours sincerely

Colin

Eagle eyed readers may notice a slight change in the presentation of the Newsletter this month. Unfortunately, for me at least, Microsoft are discontinuing MS Publisher so I have had to reformat, as best as I can, in MS Word. If anyone knows of an alternative software similar to Publisher, please let me know. I do not find MS Word as flexible as MS Publisher for moving text and graphics around.

Colin

Sunday Club

Our annual Prize Giving Services which took place this year at the morning services in both St Andrew's and Carlops on Sunday 3rd May, were very well attended. This proved to be an excellent arrangement and allowed the children who attend both churches the opportunity to have their gifts presented within their own church.

How lovely it was to see our Sunday Club families joining us for the Pentecost event in the manse garden on Sunday 24th May, we even managed to get a lovely photo of our stall into the June Newsletter! In beautiful sunshine and amazing safe surroundings, the children played games, did some crafting and ate Ice creams. Their parents (and some grandparents) joined in with everything, especially with the singing and the games! It was a joy to observe the families enjoying the company of others over a cup of tea and cake in the marquee. This event provided us with an opportunity to be able to showcase the beautiful artwork the children have created at Sunday Club over the past year or so too. Please look out for our bunting and artwork in the church and in Carlops Church over the summer!

As we move into the holiday period, there are plans to have two 'Child Friendly' events during the summer prior to Sunday Club resuming on Sunday 6th September.

Pop these dates in your diaries:

Friday 10th July - An evening of singing Children's Hymns and Children's Praise Songs in Carlops Church between 6:30pm and 7:30pm

Sunday 23rd August – A Summer Family Service in St Andrew's at 11:30am

Have a lovely summer everyone and thanks to you all for your continued support of Sunday Club and in welcoming the children and their families.

Best wishes

Ann and Kate

Church Flowers

As we approach the summer holidays, I would like to express thanks to all who continue to donate to the Flower Fund which provides the beautiful flowers both in church and for distribution to people in our community. The recipients of church flowers continue to express sincere appreciation.

This month I would like to say thanks to our amazing team of flower arrangers who work tirelessly to ensure our beautiful church is adorned with colour and fragrance every single day of the year. In August we welcome Margie Stevenson to our group, thanks for joining us Margie.

If you happen to know of anyone who would benefit from our flower distribution outreach, please don't hesitate to let me know by email to annlyon@live.co.uk or calling or texting me on 07702 984185.

The flower arrangers for July, August and September are Fiona Hessey, Margie Stevenson/Ann Lyon and Cathy Hoskins.

Have a lovely summer from everyone in the Flower Team.

Thank you

Ann



Boys Brigade

We've just finished another brilliant year at Boys Brigade! Our sessions have been varied and fun; we've continued to try out activities from all of the themes across the Boys Brigade programme to suit our mix of boys across Anchors and Juniors. We've particularly enjoyed the Superpower activities, exploring kindness, patience, love and joy.

We were delighted to be involved in the local Remembrance Service in November, with four boys doing readings. We loved our visit from Callum at Cool Creatures, and the little friendly animals he brought along for us to meet! We also took time to help our community, with food bank donations to our church Harvest service and fundraising to help West Linton churches in their volunteering with the Bethany Trust care van. We finished off the year with a Coffee and Cake evening with parents, friends and elders from St Andrews Church. All of the boys were delighted with their newly earned badges and certificates, and each went away with a book to enjoy over the summer holidays.

Gillian, one of our leaders, has decided to take a step back from helping. We're grateful for her help and commitment over the past few years. Without Gillian and Jo, we wouldn't have been able to relaunch Boys Brigade two years ago. Huge thanks for both for their support!

We're having a short break now for summer but will resume in September. We meet on Tuesdays 6:30-7:30pm in the New Church Hall, where we offer a mixed programme of activities for under 11s, suitable for both Anchor and Junior sections. We're keen to welcome new boys to the group, so if you know of any under 11s who would be interested in joining us, drop the team an email for more information: westlintonbb@gmail.com

Emma, Jo and Gillian

West Linton Boys Boys Brigade Leadership Team

Newlands Open-Air Communion Service and Picnic

Sunday 9 August at 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 9th August 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.

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



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July/August 2026			
	West Linton	Carlops	Newlands
5 th	Colin Herd	Colin Herd	Isobel Hunter
12 th	Patsy Campbell	Patsy Campbell	Fiona Burnett
19 th	Fiona Burnett	Fiona Burnett	Steven Whalley
26 th	Peter Worthington	Peter Worthington	Rev David Bartholomew
2/8	TBA	TBA	Peter Worthington
9/8	David Henderson-Howat	David Henderson-Howat	Isobel Hunter
16/8	Murray Campbell	Murray Campbell	David Henderson-Howat
23/8	Colin Herd Family Service	Rev Chris Levison	Steven Whalley
30/8	Peter Worthington	Peter Worthington	Fiona Burnett

Door Duties		Read and Welcome	
July		July	
Kate Dykes	Choir	5 th	Neil Calvert
Christine Leith	Main	12 th	Lisa Towers
Michael Knott	Gallery	19 th	Lisa Towers
		26 th	Tony Hoskins
August		August	
Daryll Green	Choir	2 nd	Tony Hoskins
Neil Calvert	Main	9 th	Colin Herd
Callum Greenhowe	Gallery	16 th	Colin Herd
		23 rd	David Drummond
		30 th	David Drummond

Material for the September Newsletter should be submitted to the Editor by Saturday 15th August. Please include 'Newsletter' in the subject of your email. All submissions should be in MS Word or equivalent. Please do not simply send an email.

The September 2026 issue will be available by 19th August 2026