

West Linton St Andrew's Parish Church

June 2025

Scottish Charity No SC003938

Minister: Rev Dr Tony Foley

'Focus on the GOOD and the GOOD will come into focus.'

Evil by its very nature is narcissistic. What evil hates is to be ignored. That is why it demands, yea craves is our constant attention. It wants us to keep watching. It wants us to believe that *'it'* is the only thing worth watching. It constantly seeks to dupe us into believing that *'its'* story is the only story worth listening to. It will seek to entertain or intimidate us just so long as it gets our attention And once it has that attention it wants us to never look away, to surrender completely to its false narrative, to the lie. To completely forget to look at or to think about what is truly good. In the creation story in the book of *Genesis* we are told, *'God saw all that he had made, and it was very good'*. The message of hope contained there is that creation was birthed not in chaos but in goodness.

That is why St Paul urges us in his letter to the *Philippians* ^[4:8] to be careful to maintain a focus on what is good. He encourages us to do this not as a mindful exercise to help allay our personal anxieties but for our moral well-being. When we deprive narcissistic evil the oxygen of our attention its power to deceive and control is depleted. So much of contemporary culture is marked by an obsessive addiction to virulent forms of narcissism cloaked as entertainment. It has contaminated our personal, social and collective political life. A narcissism that constantly urges *'click bait'* that rots the soul of the individual and society. It has

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produced a society so preoccupied with looking at itself it fails to notice the slow rot of its moral conscience. Sadly, all this is nurtured and propagated by the efforts of some of our best and most creative minds. Our attention like our mind is ours until we surrender them to someone else. If we are to survive the onslaught of the social and spiritual toxins of the obsessive ‘self-observed observing mind’ culture that is being nurtured and nourished by a voracious social media industry we have to take St Paul’s advice to heart and train our minds, imaginations and creativity to ‘focus on the good’. I leave you with some wise counsel from the novelist John Steinbeck

“What is important to keep in mind about evil is that ultimately it never wins — it never does, it never will. But the awful thing about evil is that it doesn’t die easily. It often simply lies in wait for the new opportunities that the human heart will invariably provide. And so, we must always be on our guard against the human tendency to let evil in.”

Peace,

Tony

Guid Blethers

Our picnic at Baddingsgill to enjoy the Bluebell Walk was the last meeting of the 2024-2025 Session. It is always a popular event. Since September 2024 we have had a variety of interesting talks, musical entertainment and a visit from P1 pupils from West Linton Primary School. We meet again on 10th September 2026 in the Old Church Hall. I hope everyone will enjoy the summer break and come back refreshed for the new session.

Helen Dry

Sunday Club

Traditionally the Sunday School in St Andrew's held an annual Prize Giving for the children in June each year. We resurrected this tradition by holding our first 'Sunday Club Prize Giving' last year. This was successful and enjoyed by all, so we have decided to do it again this year and will provide all the Sunday Club children on our list with the gift of a small book, to mark the end of the academic year. This will take place during the morning service on Sunday 1st June before we leave for Sunday Club.

There will be no Sunday Club in July and August as it's the school summer holidays, Sunday Club will resume on Sunday 1st September.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to you all for your continued support of us, in what we are doing with the children and for welcoming them and their families.

Best wishes

Ann and Kate

Need some emergency help?

These organisations are nearby: Penicuik Food, Facts & Friends

42 John St Penicuik EH26 8AB www.foodfactsfriends.org.uk

Peeblesshire Foodbank 1 Silverbirch Studios, Cavalry Park, Peebles
EH45 9BU 07413 484174 www.peeblesshire.foodbank.org.uk

Crisis Assistance from the Minister's Barnabas Fund 07943 509906
emergencyfoodbank@standrewswestlinton.org.uk

For further information about West Tweeddale Winter Warmers
please contact the church office on 01968 733112

Church Flowers

Our sunny spring has given so much joy to us all, whoever would have thought we would be watering our gardens in April and early May!

Thank you for your continued support of the Church Flower Fund. All contributions are very much appreciated and allow the church to be adorned with colour and fragrance for all.

The Flower Team who are always very busy arranging and delivering flowers, enjoyed a lovely catch-up at Broomlee Centre on 28th March, thanks to Helen for hosting us. This social event was not only an opportunity for us to get together but also allowed us time to thank Helen and Ruth for their years of arranging flowers. Unfortunately, Ruth was unable to join us but, like Helen, we wanted to express our appreciation and I know you will agree that we owe them both a huge debt of gratitude for all they have done in the flower team.

More news, we are delighted to welcome Cathy Hoskins to the team of flower arrangers; and Mary Turnbull and Myra Pollock to the flower distributors team.

The Easter flowers were beautiful and much admired, our sincere thanks to Sheila, Nancy and Kate and the flower arrangers for June, July and August will be Kate Dykes, Fiona Hessey and Jill Green respectively.

Have a lovely summer everyone and enjoy the beautiful flowers you see on your travels.

Ann

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, although under 16s need to be accompanied by an adult. Free of charge although donations welcome but not expected. More information from **Kate Whalley**.

Newlands Open-Air Communion Service and Picnic

Sunday 29 June 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 29th June 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.

There will be transport from the church car park across the field to the graveyard for those who need it.

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

Boys Brigade

We've had a great first year being back together at West Linton Boys Brigade. Our sessions have been varied and fun; we've tried out activities from all of the themes across the Boys Brigade programme. This included Getting Active with our healthy heart activities, Getting Involved as we learned about and donated to the Peebles Foodbank, and Getting into the Bible as we discovered God in our everyday lives. We were delighted to be invited to take part in the Remembrance Service in November, especially the opportunity to be involved in the service through bible readings and prayer requests. In spring, we Got Creative and became gladiators and Got Learning about how to look after our teeth. Summer term brought Whipman Week and the crafting creation of a window display entry to the "fancy dress" along with an exciting visit from the Whipman and Lass elect.

Thanks to our helpers for their time and commitment, and to the parents for their support.

We'd also like to thank the Elders and Congregation of St Andrews for their ongoing encouragement as we grow as a Company.

Contacts

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(Most of the time Kate will be working from home therefore use the contact details immediately above)

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

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

Boys Brigade: **Emma Lyon** Telephone
Email: westlintonbb@gmail.com

Services June

	West Linton 11.30 am	Carlops 10.00 am	Newlands 10.00 am
1st	Rev Chris Levison Sunday Club Prize Giving	Rev Chris Levison	Rev Dr Tony Foley
8th	Rev Nick Bowry Whipman Service In the Marquee at 11.00am	Murray Campbell	Isobel Hunter
15th	Rev Dr Tony Foley Communion	Rev Dr Tony Foley Communion	Fiona Burnett
22nd	Fiona Burnett	Fiona Burnett	Rev Dr Tony Foley
29th	Peter Worthington	Peter Worthington	Julian Birchall

Door Duties

June

D Green	Choir
H Bruce	Main
M Moore	Gallery

July

T Hoskins	Choir
S Whalley	Main
P Graham	Gallery

Readers

June 1st Pat Graham
8th Pat Graham
15th Calum Greenhowe
22nd Calum Greenhowe
29th Neil Calvert

July 6th Neil Calvert
13th David Campbell
20th David Campbell
27th Lisa Towers

Material for the July/August Newsletter should be submitted to the editor by Monday 23rd June 2025. Please include 'Newsletter' in the subject of your email. All submissions should be in MS Word or equivalent. Please do not embed in an email. The July 2025 issue will be available by 29th June 2025.



Community Sister Choirs
with International Soloists

Crescendo

Wednesdays

Serendipity

Saturday 21st June

2025

7.30pm

Tickets £15

Supper included

Newlands Centre

Romano Bridge

EH-46 7BZ

Join us and help create
a film set in the
Scottish Borders



Tom Celeketic
Writer



Lucy Inglis
Director



Lukas Svoboda
Director
of Photography

*Your support
matters*

Check out
our campaign





Jekyll & HYDE

The Musical

Come and join us!
No auditions, all welcome.

Rehearsals on Tuesdays
7.30pm-9pm
at Newlands Centre,
Romano Bridge.

For more information call/whatsApp

Tom 07726180600

Or

Lucy 07768288072