

West Linton St Andrew's Parish Church

March 2025

Scottish Charity No SC003938

Minister: Rev Dr Tony Foley

Survivour *By Thomas Hardy*

"Cogitavi vias meas"

A cry from the green-grained sticks of the fire
Made me gaze where it seemed to be:
'Twas my own voice talking therefrom to me.
Of how I had walked when my sun was higher -
My heart in its arrogancy.

"You held not to whatsoever was true,"
Said my own voice talking to me:
"Whatsoever was just you were slack to see;
Kept not things lovely and pure in view,"
Said my own voice talking to me.

"You slighted her that endureth all,"
Said my own voice talking to me;
"Vaunteth not, trusteth hopefully;
That suffereth long and is kind withal,"
Said my own voice talking to me.

"

(Continued on page 2)

You taught not that which you set about,"
Said my own voice talking to me;
"That the greatest of things is Charity. . . "
- And the sticks burnt low, and the fire went out,
And my voice ceased talking to me.

It is not the most cheerful of poems, But then the season of Lent is now upon us. A period of time in the Church's calendar that calls us to stop and reflect, to as it were, take our spiritual pulse. To pay heed to the voice of our individual and collective conscience. To reflect on what kind of person and people we have become and how we came to be that person and people, and whether we wish to remain so. In Hardy's poem the voice of conscience is repetitively relentless in its 'talking', until that last unsettling line when it goes silent. The warning is obvious. The voice of conscience if ignored too often eventually it goes silent. What then? What kind of person and people will we become with a deadened conscience? Not a bad question to start Lent with.

Peace,

Tony

Dates for the Diary

13th March	West Linton Kirk Session In the New Church Hall at 7.30 pm
23rd March	Sacrament of the Lord's Supper during morning service
23 rd March	Stated Annual Meeting of the Congregation immediately following morning service

Guid Blethers

March 12th

Scots Songs with Charlie and George

March 26th

***Costumes for Shakespeare at Traquair
with Sally Wild***

Meetings are normally held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month from **2.00 pm to 3.30 pm** In the Old Church Hall.

Following a talk on an interesting subject or an activity (non strenuous!) we enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and some wonderful tasty nibbles

Further information from Helen Dry 660506

Sunday Club 2nd March

**On the first Sunday of each month during School Term Time
for children in P1 to P7**

And pre-school children by arrangement

Contact Kate Whalley or Ann Lyon

07973 501665 or 07702 984185

The Open Gate

Just a reminder that The Open Gate is still available to offer an appointment to anyone of any age who could do with a little bit of counselling. This uses a Brief Solution Focussed Therapy (BFST) approach which is pleasant and helpful for all sorts of problems- often after only 1 session.

Phone 07535 898 244 to ask for an appointment in Newlands Centre on Friday afternoons 2-5pm. This is confidential and free.



The next Messy Church session is on

Sunday 18th March - Joseph

The session starts at 4pm in the New Church Hall at West Linton.

Please come and join us for our next Messy Church session on Sunday 18th March at 4pm at the New Church Hall, West Linton. The theme is Joseph. All children from babies to P7 are welcome to come and join in the fun. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information contact Jean Howat: howatjean@gmail.com

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**.

Pastoral 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.

CARLOPS MAN SOUP LUNCH

Wednesday 12th March 2025

The next soup lunch in Carlops Church will be the annual “Man Soup”. Put the date and time in your diary and come along to join in the fun: Wednesday 12 March 2025, 12noon to 1.30pm.



Guests will be invited to choose from a selection of home-made soups, sprung from the creativity and culinary skills of the Carlops' Man Soup team. Second helpings are permissible and indeed, encouraged! For afters, there will be a range of sweet bites (to take away the taste?!), coffee and tea. In addition, expect to be serenaded by the soup-chefs, who will present the renowned Carlops Soup Song and perhaps, the world première of a new composition.

There is no charge for lunch or for entertainment, but charitable donations will be invited.

We look forward to greeting you, feeding you, and entertaining you!

Rennie McElroy

For the Carlops Man Soup team, 2025

CHRISTIAN AID'S 80th ANNIVERSARY

Our journey together began in 1945 when Christian Aid was founded at the end of the Second World War. For 8 decades, we have been united in the fight against poverty and injustice – and with your continued support, we won't stop. 2025 will be a year to reaffirm our resolve, to remember the work we've done together, and to reflect on how we should respond to the challenges we're still facing as a global family. We've always shared a gospel call to champion dignity, equality, justice and love. Together we've grown and evolved, living these values – even when the going got tough. We've never been more committed to our calling and hope we can count on you to stay the course with us.

There will be a service of thanksgiving on Saturday 17th May at St.Giles Cathedral – all are welcome to attend.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 11-17th MAY 2025

Last year, a fantastic total of £730,000 was raised due to the generosity and creativity of churches and supporters in Scotland. CA Week is one of the biggest acts of Christian witness in our country.

For CA Week 2025, we will be sharing stories from our work in Guatemala, where farmers like Aurelia are pushing back against poverty and the effects of the climate crisis. Guatemala faces immense challenges:

*more than half the population work in agriculture, yet Guatemala is a hunger hotspot

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

*Guatemala has one of the highest rates globally of stunted development in children

*Guatemala is one of the 10 countries in the world rated most vulnerable to climate emergencies

Aurelia is an inspirational farmer of the Q'eqchi community. She has 8 children and many grandchildren. She moved to the region when she was 2 years old. Things were very different then: “there was an abundance of trees, plants and wild animals. There was lots of water close to the community and it wasn't that hot.”

The water sources that were near Aurelia's home have been drained by heatwaves and industrial plantations that monopolise the water supply and deforest the land. Now collecting water for her crops is laborious and time consuming.

It's testimony to Aurelia's endurance and hope that she proactively set out to find solutions. She discovered the work of our partner Congcoop, putting herself forward to attend the specialist training on offer. She has learned to adapt to the changing climate. She now grows climate resilient crops, produces fertilizer and builds rainwater collection systems. She's leading her community by sharing the skills and knowledge she has gained. It's vital that this programme continues.

For more information, go to the website caweeek.org

Robert Higgins, CA Chair

Contacts

Minister: Rev Dr Tony Foley

Telephone: 01968 660221 email: tfoley@churchofscotland.org.uk

Mobile: 07793 294000

Linkage Administrator: Kate Whalley

Office: 01968 733112 email: cos1560.tweed@outlook.com

Telephone: 07973 501665 email: kate@westlinton.com

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

Joint Session Clerk: Kevin Scott

Telephone: 01968 661744 email: kevin.scott@energrow.co.uk

Joint Session Clerk: Steven Whalley

Telephone: 07525 378187 email: stevenwhalley.westlinton@gmail.com

Treasurer: Michael Knott

Telephone: 01968 660977 email: michael.knott@talk21.com

Property Convener: Steven Whalley

Telephone: 07525 378187 email: stevenwhalley.westlinton@gmail.com

Weekly Linkage News: Christine Leith

Telephone: 01968 660800 email: intimations@standrews-westlinton.org

Newsletter Editor: Colin Herd

Telephone: 07792 815953 email: newsletter@standrews-westlinton.org

Sunday Club: Kate Whalley, Ann Lyon

Telephone: 07973 501665 01968 661347

Flowers: Ann Lyon

Telephone: 07702 984185 email: annlyon@live.co.uk

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

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

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

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

Services March

	West Linton 11.30 am	Carlops 10.00 am	Newlands 10.00 am
2nd	Rev Dr Tony Foley	Rev Dr Tony Foley	Rev Chris Levison
9th	Dav id Henderson- Howat	Dav id Henderson- Howat	Rev Dr Tony Foley
16th	Steven Whalley	Steven Whalley	Murray Campbell
23rd	Rev Dr Tony Foley Communion	Rev Dr Tony Foley Communion	Rev Calum MacDougall
30th	Patsy Campbell	Patsy Campbell	Rev Dr Tony Foley

Door Duties

March

T Hoskins (£)	Choir
P Graham	Main
M Turnbull	Gallery

April

K Dykes	Choir
N Calvert (£)	Main
M Turnbull	Gallaery

Readers

Mar	2nd	Christine Leith
	9th	Jean Macnab
	16th	Jean Macnab
	23rd	Kevin Scott
	30th	Kevin Scott
Apr	6th	Steven Whalley
	13th	Steven Whalley
	20th	Morag Kerr
	27th	Morag Kerr

Material for the April Newsletter should be submitted to the editor by Monday 24th March 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 April 2025 issue will be available by 30th March 2025.