

West Linton St Andrew's Parish Church

March 2026

Scottish Charity No SC003938

Minister: Rev Dr Tony Foley

'A lunchtime interrogation'

It was lunchtime. I decided to sit on one of the benches near the village green in West Linton with my Co-op meal deal. There were young families playing on the green that day. A young girl approached and sat on the same bench. Turning to look at me she said, *"I have been talking to my Granny about things and Mummy says I should ask you."* 'Ask me?' I replied. *"Yes, she said the man with the collar might know."* 'What is it you want to ask me?' I replied. *"I want to know how big a soul is?"* 'A soul.' I said. *"Yes, are they all the same size, like really small, like small enough to fit inside my baby sister?"*

'Well,' I said. But the little one just carried on gesticulating, *"I mean can they grow? Can some be bigger than others? Like, is my Daddy's bigger than my Mummy's?"* 'What great questions,' I said. The stream continued unabated, *"And can they be broken, you know like the way your arm or leg can sometimes get broken? If they can, where do people go to get their souls fixed? What do you do with a hurt soul? Granny says there are lost souls. How do you do that?"* Do what?' I asked. *"Lose your soul, I mean can it fall out of*

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your body, and if it does, how do you get it back in? Is there a place for lost souls? You know, like the lost property room at school? Granny says that your soul is what keeps you alive, but if you lose it how do you stay alive while you are looking for it?" Just then the family got up to leave, and the little girl's mother called for her. She looked up at me smiling and said, *"I have to go now, thank you for listening to my questions."* And with a hop, skip and jump she was gone.

What do you think of the little girl's questions? How would you answer them?

Peace,

Tony

Letter from our Minister

Dear Church Family,

It is with deep and sad emotions that I share the news that I will be leaving my position as Minister for the Parishes of West Tweeddale. My last Sunday as your minister will be on the 31/05/2026.

Serving this community of churches has been one of the richest and most profound blessing in my life and ministry. I am and will remain so very grateful for the opportunity you all gave me to be part of your lives as church communities. You are easy people to be with, easy people to minister among, and even easier people to love. I have learned a great deal from you all during my time with you and have really enjoyed the blessing and support of sharing the responsibilities of ministry with all the members of the various Kirk Sessions and of course the members of the Worship Leadership Team. I will take those lessons together with a great many happy memories with me.

I really wanted to say all of this to you in person but because of the logistics of our family of churches, the timing of our services etc that was not possible. It has to be done this way so that everyone gets to hear the news at the same time. There will of course be opportunities in the coming weeks to talk with you in person but for now this is the best I can do.

While I am now moving on to what I hope will be a new chapter in life and ministry I will always cherish my time West Tweeddale and will continue to hold you all in my prayers. During the coming weeks I will of course remain fully committed to ministry here and will do all I can to make this period of transition as smooth as possible.

With gratitude and blessing,

Rev Dr Tony Foley

Lent Study

Our group studies for Lent this Year will be based on the book Life Attitudes. This is a 5-session course on the Beatitudes by Robert Warren and Sue Mayfield.

The studies started week commencing 23rd February. There is a morning group meeting in the Laurel Bank café in Broughton at 10:00am and an evening group on Zoom. Zoom details in the weekly news.

Sunday Club

Sunday Club dates are as follows

Sunday 1st March

On Sunday 5th April there will be no Sunday Club because of school holidays, however as it happens to be Easter Sunday that day all our families will be invited to the Easter Service and our Easter Egg Hunt in church that morning.

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

Church Flowers

As I write this, we have had a week of snow and low temperatures however, it's lovely to see the delicate little hardy snowdrops around the village. Spring is around the corner and the signs of the daffodils and crocuses starting to pop through everywhere brings joy to us all.

Thanks for all the generous donations in support of our Church Flower Fund with is very much appreciated. If you would like to donate to the Flower Fund you can use the (orange) FWO envelopes if you have them, or you can put 'Flower Fund' on any plain envelope. Envelopes can be put into the offering on a Sunday or passed on to any of the Elders on duty. Our Church treasurer, Michael Knott has made arrangements to make it possible to pay directly into the Flower Fund using the details below:

Account Name: St Andrews Kirk Session

Sort Code: 80-09-39

Account number: 00817827

If you are a taxpayer please consider to 'Gift Aid' your donation. If you have any questions, or would like further information, please email treasurer@standrews-westlinton.org or call 660977 or write to 9 Tarfhaugh Brae, West Linton EH46 7DP.

Thanks to our flower arrangers, Nancy Porteous, in March, and Sheila Forsyth and Chris Whittemore in April. As always, the wider team will be involved in preparing the Easter floral displays in church.

Thanks also to the amazing team who distribute flowers to people in our community. To Mary Turnbull, Margie Stevenson and Myra Pollock for the time they spend undertaking this worthwhile and very much appreciated outreach.

Ann

Christian Aid Annual Review 2024-25

“Our Year of Impact”

You can read the full report on the CA website but here are the edited highlights:

Last year, as CA marked its 80th year, it’s time to reflect on what truly sustains our life-changing and life-saving work to end poverty. It was a turbulent year, marked by the scale and intensity of emergencies around the world, and dramatic cuts in official aid funding.

The answer is simple – DONORS, like YOU! This partnership between you, CA and the communities they serve is what keeps hope alive. Please don’t underestimate the phenomenal difference your donations make. Time and again, CA hears from communities that it’s not only the practical help they value. What they treasure most is knowing they aren’t forgotten – that you love them, pray for them and speak up for them. That knowledge gives them real HOPE because it shows that compassion travels across borders.

Every page of the review celebrates the power of ordinary people – supporters like you who believe that change is possible, even in the hardest times.

CA’s work has always been powered by FAITH – a shared belief that every family deserves to live in hope and dignity. Whether you give, act or pray, you are part of a movement changing lives for good and helping to end the injustice of extreme poverty.

Statistics – number crunching

Total income raised was £71.1m, of which £52.2m came from supporters in the UK. CA Week alone generated £5.2m.

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£77m was spent:

£32.9m was used for humanitarian emergencies which met the immediate needs of 8 million people.

4.1m people were directly engaged, 57% of whom were women and girls. A further 12.4m were reached indirectly.

6486 churches supported CA (Scotland 766, England 5126 and Wales 594).

463 projects were funded in 28 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean.

70 groups of UK CA supporters spoke face to face with their MPs about global policy.

CA website can be found at: www.christianaid.org.uk

Note for your diary: **Christian Aid Week 10-16 May 2026**

Robert Higgins, CA chair

Guid Blethers

11th March

Primary 6 and Dyslexia

25th March

Sir William Ferguson

Peter Raine

In the Old Church Hall from 2.00pm to 4.00pm

Followed by Tea, Coffee and Cake

Suggested weekly donation £1.00

All welcome

For further information contact **Helen Dry**

The next Messy Church session is on

Sunday 8th March

Mary and Martha meet Jesus



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

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; then the children will do a range of craft activities, followed by a prayer and finish off with a meal together. All children **MUST** be accompanied by an adult.

For more information contact Jean Howat - howatjean@gmail.com
07544 785159

Sip and Share — Fridays 2pm to 4pm

Cosy Coffee has restarted under a new name. It will now be known as Sip and Share (slightly less posh than Cake and conversation) but the idea is the same.

Entry is completely free, open to everyone (though under 16s must be accompanied by an adult), dogs welcome if well behaved.

Entry is free although donations are welcome.

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.

Got a problem?

Parenting difficulties? Relationship issues? Work problems? Trouble at school/ college? Etc. Whatever the problem - large or small, recent or long-standing - Solution Focussed Brief Therapy can help.

Ask for an appointment at

THE OPEN GATE

Fridays 2pm to 5pm.

Anyone who wants help for their problem is welcome, and will be seen locally and in confidence by arrangement.

PHONE OR TEXT 07535 898 244

The Open Gate uses a counselling approach which is brief, effective and future-orientated, building on your own solutions. All sessions are free and confidential, with no long waiting-list.

Linton Lifts

It can be difficult to travel to your health-related appointment without access to a car, or when you aren't well enough to drive.

Linton Lifts is a local not for profit group providing affordable transport for residents living in the West Linton and Carlops areas.

Clients (who should be able to access a car unaided) are asked to make a donation based on the mileage travelled to the destination.

To reserve a lift please text or phone

Linton Lifts on 07493 728313

or email: **lintonlifts2025@gmail.com**

Volunteer Drivers Welcome!

Getting to medical appointments from the West Linton area is not easy. Linton Lifts offers a friendly, affordable, door-to-door service, and for volunteer drivers it offers a great way to get to know more members of the community.

Please consider giving a few hours to make a big difference. Drives are allocated on an availability basis, so no need to commit to specific days. Drivers are reimbursed at the statutory mileage rate.

To find out more please email the coordinator at

lintonlifts2025@gmail.com

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

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Property Convener: Steven Whalley

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Flowers: Ann Lyon

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

Sip and Share: 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

March

	West Linton 11.30 am	Carlops 10.00 am	Newlands 10.00 am
1st	Steven Whalley	Steven Whalley	Rev Dr Tony Foley
8th	Patsy Campbell	Patsy Campbell	Isobel Hunter
15th	Rev Dr Tony Foley	Rev Dr Tony Foley	Rev Chris Levison
22nd	Isobel Hunter	Isobel Hunter	Fiona Burnett
29th	Patsy Campbell	Patsy Campbell	Rev Dr Tony Foley
5/4	Rev Dr Tony Foley	Rev Dr Tony Foley	David Henderson-Howat

Door Duties

March

Ann Lyon	Choir
Kevin Scott	Main
Calum Greenhow	Gallery

April

Christine Leith	Choir
Neil Calvert	Main
Mary Turnbull	Gallery

Readers

March

1st Christine Leith
 8th Jean Macnab
 15th Jean MacNab
 22nd Kevin Scott
 29th Kevin Scott

April

5th Steven Whalley
 12th Steven Whalley
 19th Moray Kerr
 26th Moray Kerr

Material for the April Newsletter should be submitted to the editor by Monday 23rd March 2026. 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 2026 issue will be available by 29th March 2026.