

West Linton St Andrew's Parish Church

May 2025

Scottish Charity No SC003938

Minister: Rev Dr Tony Foley

The healing in post-resurrection pain

‘Why do we sometimes act as if God is made of porcelain?’

We profess faith in an almighty God, yet we often act as though we secretly fear for His ego. *‘Will it shatter if our spiritual lives get too complicated?’ ‘Will we break God if we honestly confess to an ongoing sense of rage, or a free-floating doubt, or a nagging sense of despair?’*

The human cost of tiptoeing around God is staggering. I’ve watched so many people I love do this. Who don’t dare for just a moment to name an honest feeling to God *about* God. Feelings like *“I’m so furious at you God right now,”* or *“God, my faith is doing nothing for me in the midst of this pain.”* Who is this god we are trying to protect? Is he really so dependent on our shiny pretence?

What helps me here is Jesus. The tears he shed for Lazarus. The anger he expresses in the temple. The fear-filled sense of despair he expresses in Gethsemane. But most of all the wounds he carries with him out of the grave. Jesus’ resurrected body doesn’t carry faded scars. These are fresh wounds, raw enough to allow a doubting disciple to put his fingers into them.

I find it easy to imagine Jesus wincing when Thomas touched him. I imagine it was a pain that to Thomas signalled real presence. A pain that spoke to what Thomas truly longed for: *‘I am here. I don’t float*

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in an artificial, antiseptic reality; I dwell in the heart of things. Exactly where you live'.

All around us, people are packaging and pummelling themselves into all forms of piety. A piety they can't sustain because it is not real. Not real like Jesus' honest expressions of grief, anger, and fear.

At the apex of his resurrection, Jesus won a doubter over with His open wounds. More often that we realise our Christian faith holds its greatest appeal when it demonstrates courage and steadfastness in the face of those pains that scare us and hurt us and ravage us. Our wounds don't tell the whole story. But like those of Jesus the stories they do tell are holy and worth sharing.

Peace,

Tony

Guid Blethers

May 14th

Dresden with Will Scott

May 28th

***Picnic at Baddinsgill
to see the bluebells***

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

DONATIONS TO SELL NEEDED

CHRISTIAN AID CAR BOOT SALE

**SKIRLING
VILLAGE
GREEN**

**SUNDAY
18 MAY
2025**

**1:30 -
4:30 PM
VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**



**HELP WITH THE TEAS, HELPING IN THE KITCHEN,
SERVING TEAS , BAKING FOR THE TEAS**

MANNING THE CHRISTIAN AID STALL

GENERAL ASSISTANCE IN SET UP & TAKE DOWN

SKIRLING
VILLAGE GREEN

christian
aid

CAR BOOT SALE

TEAS
IN THE
HALL
£3

NO NEED
TO BOOK
£8
PER CAR

SUNDAY
18 MAY 2025
2PM



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 11th – 17th MAY 2025

Donations

Ideally, donate online at www.christianaid.org.uk Your money goes directly to CA with no hidden deductions reducing its value.

If you still prefer to use the traditional CA envelope, these will be available to pick up from the church at Sunday services in May – return either to Robert Higgins or place in a plain envelope labelled “FREEPOST Christian Aid” and post.

CA Service St Andrew’s Church Sunday 11th May at 11:30am conducted by Kevin Scott.

CA Cryptic Quiz

The theme this year is “things that can be worn”, 30 teasing questions. Printed quiz sheets can be picked up from the church (optional voluntary donation). Alternatively, an electronic version is available from Robert Higgins at higfam72@gmail.com

Answers by request (but not yet) if you get stuck.

CA Car Boot Sale at Skirling Village Green Sunday 18th May from 2pm. £8 per car, no need to pre-book. Teas served in the hall.

Isobel Hunter would appreciate help from volunteers to set up and take down stalls, help in the kitchen and serve teas. Home baking always welcome. Items to sell on the CA stall also needed.

Christian Aid 80th Anniversary at St. Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh on Saturday 17th May from at 7pm. Guests will be warmly welcomed - No RSVP required. Keynote speech by the First Minister of Scotland John Swinney. Worship will be led by the Wild Goose Resource Group and Siskin Green. Other speakers include Temwa Kasakula, CA’s Global Advisor for Sexual Reproductive Health and Gender and Patrick Watt, Christian Aid CEO.

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The unstoppable power of hope is what keeps driving us to work for a world where all can live with dignity, equality and justice. Because we still believe in Life before Death.

Christian Aid Book Sale, New Town Church, 13 George Street, Edinburgh. Opens Saturday 10th May, Sunday closed, then Monday 12TH to Friday 16TH May 10am-330pm, late night Thursday 7pm. Not just books – music, stamps, postcards, CDs and records, jigsaws, toys, games and ephemera. Further details by email at ca@edinburghnewtownchurch.org.uk

CARLOPS church CA fund raising events

Soup lunch Wednesday 14th May 1230-2pm

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.

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

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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 May			
	West Linton 11.30 am	Carlops 10.00 am	Newlands 10.00 am
4th	Rev Dr Tony Foley	Rev Dr Tony Foley	David Henderson-Howat
11th	Kevin Scott	Isobel Hunter	Rev Dr Tony Foley Communion
18th	Peter Worthington	Peter Worthington	Steven Whalley
25th	Rev Dr Tony Foley	Rev Dr Tony Foley	David Henderson-Howat
1/6	Rev Chris Levison	Rev Chris Levison	Rev Dr Tony Foley

Door Duties		Readers	
May		May	4th Robert Higgins
A Lyon	Choir		11th Robert Higgins
Christine Leith	Main		18th Tony Hoskins
Michael Knott	Gallery		25th Tony Hoskins
June		June	1st Pat Graham
D Green	Choir		8th Pat Graham
H Bruce	Main		15th Calum Greenhowe
M Moore	Gallery		22nd Calum Greenhowe
			29th Neil Calvert

Material for the June Newsletter should be submitted to the editor by Monday 26th May 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 June 2025 issue will be available by 1st June 2025.