

West Linton St Andrew's Parish Church

October 2025

Scottish Charity No SC003938

Minister: Rev Dr Tony Foley

The Mockingbird by Mary Oliver

*All summer the Mockingbird
in his pearl-gray coat
and his white-windowed wings flies
from the hedge to the top of the pine
and begins to sing.*

*But it's neither lilting nor lovely,
for he is the thief of other sounds –
whistles and truck brakes and dry hinges
plus all the songs
of other birds in his neighbourhood.
Mimicking and elaborating,
he sings with humour and bravado*

*So, I have to wait a long time
for the softer voice of his own life
to come through. He begins
by giving up all his usual flutter
and setting down on the pine's forelock
then looking around
as though to make sure he's alone.*

*Then he slaps each wing against his breast,
where his heart is,
and, copying nothing, begins
easing into it
as though it was not half so easy
and rollicking,
as though his subject now
was his true self,
which of course was as dark and secret,
as anyone else's
and it was too hard—
perhaps you understand—
to speak or to sing it
to anything or anyone
but the sky.*

In the poem above Mary speaks of how tempting and easy it often is to be simply an echo of other people's opinions. Of how often like the Mockingbird we simply amplify and repeat what we have heard others say, never taking the time to think, '*What do I really think...*' Taking the time to hear your own voice can be a bit scary. But ask yourself, '*Do I really want to be simply a human Mockingbird, a mere echo someone else's opinion?*'

Peace,

Tony

Help Shape the Future of Our Church Music

Our church organ has served us faithfully for nearly three decades, but it is now nearing the end of its life. Over the past months, we have already made good progress in researching possible replacements, with a preference for a contemporary instrument that will continue to support and enrich our worship for many years to come.

As we take this work forward, we are mindful of the need to balance musical quality with wise stewardship of church resources.

The Kirk Session has asked us to form a small group, including our lovely organists and others who care about music in worship, to help bring this work to a conclusion and present a final proposal.

If you would like to be part of this group, please contact Tony Hoskins, Music Convenor at ajohoskins@btconnect.com by Sunday, 13th October.

Your interest and insights will be most welcome as we take these next steps together.

Tony Hoskins

Are you a Volunteer?

We are always on the lookout for volunteers to support the various activities of the congregation. At the present time there is a request for more volunteers to help with the teas and coffees after church. If you feel you could help please put your name against a date on the sheet in the church. Speak to Kate Dykes or any of the other volunteers for guidance on what is required.

Harvest Thanksgiving

Our Harvest thanksgiving Service will be on Sunday 12th October and will be led by Fiona Burnett.

As in previous years we will be collecting non-perishable foods which will be shared between the Peebles and Penicuik Food Banks.

Always missing are:

- Cold meats in tins (stews, ham, curries etc)

- Long life milk

- Chocolate

- Rice pudding (tinned)

- Other puddings – eg syrup in plastic pots

- Custard

- Stock cubes

At present they do not require soups or beans, but other items used are pasta, tinned vegetables, instant potato and sweets.

Please remember if buying that bulk buys are not as useful as smaller items – they need a mix of small variety packs, large bulk tins/boxes and smaller items. This enables folk to receive a variety of foods, and also allows food to go out quickly to applicants. Bulk quantities are very handy but only for the larger families, who are thankfully less frequent users than singles and couples.

Other items that are helpful are toothbrushes, personal hygiene items (shampoo, conditioner, shaving gel, razors, and loo rolls. Pet foods are good too – again small bags and tins, rather than huge bags.

Newlands Church Harvest Supper

We will be holding our **Harvest Supper** at Newlands church on Saturday 4th October at 6.30pm. It will be a pot luck supper, where everyone brings food to share and there will be a collection in aid of Bethany Christian Trust.

Everyone is warmly invited and if you would like a ticket, contact Jean Howat – [**howatjean@gmail.com**](mailto:howatjean@gmail.com) or 01968 660677

Can you also indicate if you will be bringing a savoury or a sweet dish.

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

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.

Guid Blethers

In the Old Church Hall at 2.00 pm

The programme for October is as follows:

Wednesday 8th - Morag Kerr—Holiday in Alaska

Wednesday 22nd - Quizzes—bring your thinking cap!

Always followed by Tea, Coffee and Cake

Suggested weekly donation £1.00

For further information contact **Helen Dry**

Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal 2025

Lat year 85 000 boxes were sent to Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Romania and Serbia. Boxes were also delivered to people in Ukraine who are affected by war.

Schools, hospitals, orphanages and care homes as well as households in low income areas receive boxes.

Checklists are now available and we are asked to use boxes not bags. Partly filled boxes are welcome. All boxes are checked and topped up where needed. It is now possible to Sponsor a Shoebox.

For details contact Blythswood - [Sponsor a Shoebox | Blythswood](#)

www.blythswood.org/sponsor-a-shoebox/

Any spare boxes can be left in church for anyone who doesn't have a box.

**Filled boxes should be in church no later than
Sunday 19 October.**

Pat Graham

West Tweeddale Guild

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday 15 October at 2.00 pm in Broughton Village Hall, when we will be hearing about the current new project by the Scottish Bible Society. This is 'Bibles for Bairns' which aims to provide an age-appropriate Bible to every new child born in Scotland.

All will be made very welcome.

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.

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.

Advent Study Series—Advance Notice

The proposed study book for our Advent Studies is:

'First Advent in Palestine' by Kelley Nikondeha.

The book is available in paperback from Amazon at £12.65 or in Kindle Edition at £10.50.

Details of the study dates will be intimated in the November Newsletter and in the weekly news from Christine.

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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Weekly Linkage News: Christine Leith

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Sunday Club: Kate Whalley, Ann Lyon

Telephone: 07973 501665 01968 661347

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

October			
	West Linton 11.30 am	Carlops 10.00 am	Newlands 10.00 am
5th	Peter Worthington	Peter Worthington	Rev Dr Tony Foley
12th	Fiona Burnett	Fiona Burnett	Rev Chris Levison
19th	Rev Dr Tony Foley Communion	Rev Dr Tony Foley Communion	Isobel Hunter
26th	Murray Campbell	Murray Campbell	Rev Dr Tony Foley
2/11	Patsy Campbell	Patsy Campbell	Rev Chris Levison
9/11	Rev Dr Tony Foley Service starts at 10.45 am	Rev Dr Tony Foley Service starts at 9.30 am	David Henderson-Howat

Door Duties	
October	
A Lyon	Choir
S Whalley £	Main
K Dykes	Gallery
November	
T Hoskins	Choir
M Knott £	Main
M Moore	Gallery

Readers	
Oct	5th Steven Whalley
	12th Steven Whalley
	19th Pat Graham
	26th David Drummond
Nov	2nd Kirsty Crick
	9th Kirsty Crick
	16th Fiona Hessey
	23rd Fiona Hessey
	30th Pat Graham

Material for the October Newsletter should be submitted to the editor by Monday 20th October 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 October 2025 issue will be available by 26th October 2025.